



## Occupied Palestine: Long Live the Heroic Defenders of Jenin!

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# English-Language Journal of the Revolutionary Communist International Tendency (RCIT), No. 148, August 2023

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Picture on the cover: Palestinian demonstrators in Jenin, 26.01.2023 (Source: Wikimedia, By IDF Spokesperson's Unit, CC BY-SA 3.0, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=128248526>)

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

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# NATO-Russia Cold War: Sabre-Rattling at the Polish-Belarusian Border

*Statement of the RCIT, jointly issued by the International Bureau and Socialist Tendency (Russia), 22 July 2023*

1. Military tensions between Russia and NATO are rising at the Polish-Belarusian border. Mercenaries from the Russian Wagner group are holding training sessions for Belarusian troops in western Belarus, about 10km from the border with Poland. Likewise, the Polish ministry of national defence decided earlier this month that it would send up to 1,000 troops to defend the eastern borders of the country. In addition, Russia has recently deployed nuclear missiles to Belarus and Poland has asked the U.S. to host nuclear missiles as part of NATO's Nuclear Sharing programme.

2. Polish officials denounced the activities of Wagner troops close to the border as a "provocation." In turn, Russia's President Putin said at a meeting with permanent members of the Security Council on 21 July that "Belarus is part of the Union State, and launching an aggression against Belarus would mean launching an aggression against the Russian Federation. We will respond to that with all the resources available to us."

3. Such sabre-rattling is taking place against the background of the escalating tensions between NATO and Russia as well as the ongoing Ukraine War. The Putin regime faces a massive domestic crisis after Prigozhin's failed coup and growing tensions within its army. The Kremlin currently tries to consolidate its domination by striking a deal with the Wagner boss, repressing ultra-chauvinist forces (arrests of Igor Strelkov and Pavel Gubarev) and purging supposedly disloyal commanders of the security forces (e.g. General Surovikin, General Popov). At the same time, it tries to wipe-up militarist chauvinism by escalating its bombardment of Odessa or by issuing threats against Poland (and NATO).

4. Likewise, NATO is balancing between looking for

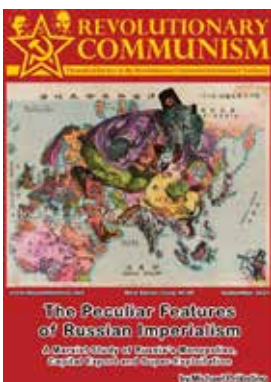
pacification of the Ukraine War (via secret negotiations with Moscow) and boasting its supposedly unwavering hardline policy of sanctions and threats against Russia. At the same time, Western governments face increasing political and economic difficulties as a result of their aggressive foreign policy against Russia.

5. For now, neither NATO nor Russia are seriously interested in starting a war against each other. But since both sides face domestic difficulties as well as criticism from sectors of public opinion, they are under pressure not to appear as weak against "the enemy". Hence, the Cold War between NATO and Russia could escalate and result in an armed conflict.

6. The *Revolutionary Communist International Tendency* (RCIT) and *Socialist Tendency* (RCIT Section in Russia) denounce the reactionary sabre-rattling between NATO and Russia. Both sides are imperialist Great Powers. Hence, socialists can support neither one nor the other. In any armed conflict, we advocate revolutionary defeatist opposition against both imperialist camps. At the same time, we reiterate our support for the Ukraine which is a semi-colonial country facing invasion by Russian imperialism. We say: *For a Popular War to defend the Ukraine against Putin's invasion! No subordination of Ukraine to NATO and EU! Against Russian and against NATO imperialism!*

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We refer readers to a special page on our website where the RCIT's 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/>.



## *Publications of the RCIT*

# The Peculiar Features of Russian Imperialism

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

*By Michael Pröbsting, August 2021*

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

*A RCIT Pamphlet, 20 pages, A4 Format*

# Western Powers and the Prigozhin Coup in Russia

## On the consequences of the attempted coup for U.S. and European imperialism and the Ukraine War

By Michael Pröbsting, Revolutionary Communist International Tendency (RCIT), 26 June 2023

The attempted coup d'état by Wagner boss Yevgeny Prigozhin on 24 June has been a historic event since it has major national and global consequences. It probably marks the beginning of the end of Putin regime. And as it is affecting the stability of the political superstructure of Russian imperialism, it will also influence the Kremlin's war against the Ukraine as well as its relations with Western powers. At this place we shall focus on the latter of these questions.

If one looks at the reactions of American and Western European government to the stunning events of last Saturday, one could be baffled by a peculiar contradiction. On one hand, nearly every government was sparing with words and limited its comment to a few sentences. Basically, they all just said: *"This is an internal affair of Russia."*

A superficial observer could think that this reflected a lack of interest of Western governments in the Prigozhin's attempted coup. In fact, nothing could be further from truth. In nearly all capitals of North America and Europe – including the village state called Austria –, governments respectively their leading military or foreign policy bodies held emergency meetings.

The reason for such a huge gap between the governments' official commentary on the events of 24 June and their real state of alarm is not difficult to discern. They are obviously deeply worried about the possibility of a power vacuum in Russia or even a civil war and collapse of the state. This is all the more the case as Russia has – apart from the U.S. – the largest nuclear arsenal in the world.

At the same time, the Western governments wanted to wait until the fog had been lifted so that it would become clear who is the master of the Kremlin. In other words, they didn't want to alienate a possible successor of Putin.

### Western imperialist strategists warn

Sir Mark Lyall, a former British ambassador to the UN, revealed such an approach in an interview with Sky News on 25 June. *"What the West doesn't want is complete chaos and a breakdown of law and order or civil war in Russia because that has all sorts of potential, damaging consequences given the country is still the largest nuclear weapons holder in the world."*<sup>1</sup>

It is not difficult to imagine the state of fear in Western capitals about a President Prigozhin – a Russian Trump with brain – with his hand on the red button!

However, American and European imperialists are not only worried that nuclear warheads could get in wrong hands. While there exist a rather small trend of hardcore aggressive imperialists among the ruling class of the U.S. and Europe which want to see Russia collapse and split in several smaller states, the overwhelming majority of those with power and brain does not wish so.

Why? Because they are aware that the Kremlin holds a large empire together with a rod of iron and, in addition, it guarantees relative stability in the Caucasus and – jointly with China – in Central Asia. In other words, a collapse of

the Putin regime could provoke civil wars and national insurrections not only in Russia but also in Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia.

A few weeks ago, we pointed to such an approach of leading circles of Western imperialism.<sup>2</sup> We quoted from a recent interview with Henry Kissinger – an "wise old man" of U.S. imperialism in which he said: *"Reintroducing Russia to Europe [is important]. If Russia isn't in Central Asia as an operating great power, it will become open to a Syrian-type civil war; all these many conflicts that are now in part restrained because they're inconvenient to Russia would then be open to some extent to Turkey, to Iran, certainly to China with great ambivalence on the part of India about all of this."*<sup>3</sup>

Hence, despite their rivalry and the undisputed desire of Washington and Brussels to weaken the Kremlin, they also share a common interest in subjugating the peoples of the so-called Global South, i.e. the capitalist semi-colonial countries which are super-exploited and oppressed by the imperialist monopolies.<sup>4</sup>

For all these reasons, Western powers fear a collapse of their Russian rival – they want to undermine but not to destroy the Kremlin (at least for now).

### Consequences for the Western approach to the Ukraine War

What will be the consequences of the Prigozhin coup for the Western approach to the Ukraine War? Surely, on one hand, Washington and Brussels (correctly) view the Putin regime now as much weaker than before. They could feel encouraged to double their military support for the Ukraine in order to make a stronger, final push against the defence lines of the Russian army in Zaporizhia and Donbass.

On the other hand, it seems to us that the Western imperialists worry now even more than before about an ongoing war in the Ukraine because this could result in the destabilization of Russia with all the possible consequences for a collapse of the regime. They ask themselves – not without reason from their class point of view – what would the U.S. and the EU win if Putin is replaced by Prigozhin, Strelkov or a similar figure?

Hence, we think that the developments of 24 June could result in the acceleration of already existing tendencies in the approach of Western powers to the war – a trend to which we did point somewhere else.<sup>5</sup> They want to see the Ukraine making a final counteroffensive which leaves the Russian army weakened so that Putin agrees to negotiations and to make substantial concessions.

However, it seems to us that Washington and Brussels will rather look to find a "solution" on the negotiation table which will not result in the downfall of the regime. Hence, they would not want Russia being forced to make "too many concessions". For Washington and Brussels, it is a much more important priority to keep a relative stable regime in Russia (with Putin or a successor at the top) than to liberate the Ukraine.



### Socialist perspectives

The interests of socialists are contrary to those of the imperialists – Western as well as Russian. While the Kremlin wants to expand Russia's global position as an imperialist power, we want to destroy it. While Putin and Prigozhin want to subjugate the Ukraine, we want to see it as an independent nation. While Western powers worry about instability and civil war in the regions of the former USSR, we welcome such developments since the weakness of the ruling class always increases the chances of the working class and the oppressed nations to advance their liberation struggles.

Such an approach informs the tactics of the RCIT. We therefore opposed both Putin and Prigozhin during the events on 24 June as we explained in a joint statement with our Russian comrades, published in the morning of that day. We characterised the attempted coup as a “*reactionary rebellion against a reactionary regime*” and as a “*quarrel between thieves*.”<sup>6</sup>

In the Ukraine War, we support Ukraine's just war of national defence against Putin's invasion. At the same time, we oppose both imperialist camps – NATO as well as Russia. We say: *For a Popular War to defend the Ukraine against Putin's invasion! No subordination of Ukraine to NATO and EU! Against Russian and against NATO imperialism!*<sup>7</sup>

Socialists need to be clear that the new period which opened in Russia – the death agony of the Putin regime – will have massive consequences not only for the liberation struggle in the country itself but also for the Ukraine War and the world political situation.

#### Footnotes

1 Sky News: The West ‘does not want’ civil war in a nuclear power, 2023-06-25, <https://news.sky.com/story/ukraine-russia-war-latest-putin-wagner-prigozhin-rostov-on-don-live-updates-12541713> (accessed on 25 June 2023)

2 See Michael Pröbsting: Kissinger on Great Power Rivalry and Ukraine War. Notes on a remarkable interview with a “wise old man” of U.S. imperialism, 22 May 2023, <https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/global/kissinger-on-great-power-rivalry-and-ukraine-war/>

3 The Economist: A conversation with Henry Kissinger. The transcript of his meeting with our journalists, May 17th 2023, <https://www.economist.com/kissinger-transcript>.

4 The main works in which we deal with the theory of imperialism and its relevance for the analysis of capitalism in the 21<sup>st</sup> century are two books 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/>; *Anti-Imperialism in the Age of Great Power Rivalry. The Factors behind the Accelerating Rivalry between the U.S., China, Russia, EU and Japan. A Critique of the Left's Analysis and an Outline of the Marxist Perspective*, RCIT Books, Vienna 2019, <https://www.thecommunists.net/theory/anti-imperialism-in-the-age-of-great-power-rivalry/>

5 RCIT: NATO Integration: An Imperialist Trap for the Ukrainian People! For a Popular War to defend the Ukraine against Putin's invasion! No subordination of Ukraine to NATO and EU! Against Russian and against NATO imperialism! 19 June 2023, <https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/global/nato-integration-is-imperialist-trap-for-ukraine/>; see also: *Towards a Turning Point in the Ukraine War? The tasks of socialists in the light of possible lines of development of the war of national defence in combination with the inter-imperialist Great Power rivalry*, 11 March 2023, <https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/global/towards-a-turning-point-in-the-ukraine-war/>; Michael Pröbsting: *Is Ukraine About to Become NATO's "Israel" in Eastern Europe? The "Wall Street Journal" reports about plans of Western governments to transform their relationship with the Ukraine at the NATO Summit in July*, 29 May 2023, <https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/global/is-ukraine-about-to-become-nato-s-israel-in-eastern-europe/>

6 RCIT: Prigozhin's Coup Attempt in Russia: A Quarrel between Thieves. Prigozhin, Shoigu and Putin – no support for any of these war criminals! Down with Russian imperialism and the Bonapartist regime! 24 June 2023, <https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/europe/prigozhin-s-coup-attempt-in-russia/>

7 We refer readers to a special page on our website where more than 180 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/>; see also: *Manifesto on the First Anniversary of the Ukraine War. Victory to the heroic Ukrainian people! Defeat Russian imperialism! No support whatsoever for NATO imperialism!* 10 February 2023, <https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/global/manifesto-on-first-anniversary-of-ukraine-war/>; RCIT: *Towards a Turning Point in the Ukraine War? The tasks of socialists in the light of possible lines of development of the war of national defence in combination with the inter-imperialist Great Power rivalry*, 11 March 2023, <https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/global/towards-a-turning-point-in-the-ukraine-war/>



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

## Ukraine War and Inter-Imperialist Rivalry

Check out more than 150 documents of the RCIT in English as well as many other languages on a special sub-page on our website: <https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/global/compilation-of-documents-on-nato-russia-conflict/>

# France: Justice for Nahel! Build Self-Defence against Racist Police!

## Workers and Oppressed: Unite against Police Violence and Racism!

*Statement by the Revolutionary Communist International Tendency (RCIT), 1 July 2023*

1. The cold-blooded murder of 17-year old French-Algerian Nahel M. by police on 27 June has provoked a spontaneous uprising in the country led by migrant youth. The teenager was killed with a bullet in the head from a very close range after he was stopped because of a traffic offence. In fact, this was a kind of execution as the police officer threatened Nahel shortly before that he would get “*a bullet in the head*”. The police killing, which is on video, has provoked such outrage that even French President Emmanuel Macron felt obligated to call the incident “*inexplicable and inexcusable*.”

2. In reaction, thousands take the streets every night and fight with the police in almost all cities. The protests have even reached the French colonies Guiana and Martinique in Latin America as well as neighbouring Belgium! Youth attack police stations, single-brand stores – from Apple to Starbucks – and state institutions. The capitalist state tries to suppress the uprising with brutal force. 45,000 police have been deployed, more than 1,300 people have been arrested until now and one man has died from a stray bullet. Despite the repression, there is no downward trend in protests until now. If the uprising continues it could open a pre-revolutionary situation similar to October-November 2005 when France was shattered by a migrant youth uprising after the death of two migrant boys, Zyed Benna and Bouna Traoré who were chased by police.

3. The intensity and passion of the mass protests is the result of the painful experiences of migrants – and youth in particular – who are harassed by the French police on a daily basis. The police armed to the teeth effectively operate as a foreign occupation force in the *banlieues* – the suburbs of Paris and other cities where mostly migrants from Arab countries and Sub-Sahara Africa are living. All this is combined with bleak prospects given wide-spread unemployment, miserable housing conditions and run-down public services. Furthermore, millions of migrants with Muslim background are faced with massive Islamophobia which has been promoted by the capitalist state and media. Among such discrimination are the headscarf ban for Muslim women in schools, banning of various Muslim organisations, draconic police control of mosques or the notorious racist *Charlie Hebdo* cartoons sponsored by the French state. All these forms of *national and religious oppression* by the ruling class have resulted in the accumulation of deep-rooted hatred among millions of migrant youths which is now exploding in the face of the racist state.

4. The *Revolutionary Communist International Tendency* (RCIT) unreservedly supports the uprising of the migrant youth in France. This is a just struggle against racist discrimination and police violence. This is neither the first of such incidents nor is France an exception. Black people and migrants in the U.S. suffer from police brutality since many decades and so it is in many other imperialist states. Hence, we have seen similar mass protests not only in France but also in the U.S. (the *Black Live Matters* uprising in summer 2020) or in London and other British cities (the

August uprising in 2011).

5. All these demonstrates that the police murder of Nahel is not an isolated incident caused by trigger-happy police. It is rather a result of the characteristic features of all capitalist states, in particular in the imperialist part of the world. The capitalist society is characterised by the exploitation of the working class by the bourgeoisie. Migrants – which usually have their origin in poorer, semi-colonial countries dominated by imperialism – have been brought to rich countries where they face *super-exploitation as cheap labour force*. The ruling class can hold together a society based on such antagonistic relations only by the combination of repression and ideological manipulation. Heavily armed police force regularly show the oppressed “*where their place in society is*” and, at the same time, the ruling class controls and divides the masses by political and ideological means. Hence, racism which humiliates the migrants and tries to incite white sectors of the population is an intrinsic part of the capitalist system. It can be eradicated only by *socialist revolution* of the working class and the oppressed which expropriates the ruling class and smashes the capitalist state machinery.

6. However, this does not mean that workers and oppressed should wait until capitalism’s days are numbered. Quite the opposite, the struggle for justice and against oppression must start now because this system will not fall automatically, and any small reform must be enforced from the ruling class by struggle. Socialists must agitate for the expansion and the deepening of the uprising. For this the struggle must be *transformed from a spontaneous outburst into an organised militant campaign*. It must also try to integrate new sectors outside of the *banlieues*. An important demand of the movement should be the *disarmament of police* so that they can no longer kill people at will.

7. The RCIT calls for organising the masses – in particular militant migrant youth – in *neighbourhood committees* or *popular assemblies*. Such committees should discuss how best to resist police harassment and how to avoid any unnecessary damage to the community in the course of riots. Most importantly, they should build *self-defence units* in order to counter police violence. Furthermore, it is crucial that the struggle is not limited to clashes at night but also takes the form of *mass demonstration and strike actions*.

8. For this, socialists need to demand from the official labour movement – the trade unions, the so-called left-wing parties like Jean-Luc Mélenchon’s *La France Insoumise* (LFI) and the Stalinist PCF, the two NPA’s etc. – that they fully support the mass protests. Socialists should look to collaborate with supporters of these forces while, at the same time, criticising the half-hearted and coward policy of their leaderships. Usually, parties like the LFI or the PCF limit themselves to advocate some small legal reforms or “*better training for police*”.

9. The police murder of Nahel and the brutal repression of the mass protests demonstrate once again the reactionary nonsense advocated by various pseudo-Marxist groups who claim that police would be “*workers in uni-*

form” and who defend the affiliation of police unions with workers trade union federations. No, police are not part of our class, and they must not be part of our fighting organs! 10. In order to provide leadership to mass struggles and to fight for such a program, it is essential to build a new party of socialist revolution on a national as well as international scale! The RCIT calls all activists, who agree with such a perspective, to join forces!

*International Bureau of the RCIT*

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*We refer readers to other statements of the RCIT: France: For an Indefinite General Strike! Escalate the struggle now to stop the pension reform and the Macron government! 21 March 2023, <https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/europe/france-for-an-indefinite-general-strike/>; France: Bring Down Macron and his ‘Police State’ Law! Workers and Oppressed: Unite against Police Violence, Racism and Imperialism! 30.10.2020, <https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/europe/france-bring-down-macron-and-his-police-state-law/>*

## Protesters Torch Swedish Embassy in Baghdad over Quran Burning Down with racist Islamophobia in Europe!

*Statement of the RKOB, Austrian Section of the Revolutionary Communist International Tendency (RCIT), 20 July 2023*

1. Today in the morning, hundreds of Iraqi demonstrators stormed the Swedish embassy in central Baghdad and set fire. They protested against a planned burning of a copy of the Quran which Swedish authorities had given permission. A similar provocative action took place on 28 June during Eid Al-Adha, a holiday celebrated by Muslims around the world, when a copy of the Quran was burned in front of Stockholm’s largest mosque. In response Iraqi protesters stormed Sweden’s embassy in Baghdad the following day. Protests – on the streets as well as by governments – took also place in many other Muslim countries.

2. The Swedish authorities claim that they only defend “freedom of speech”. In fact, this has nothing to do with “freedom of speech”. This is about “freedom” for reactionary provocateurs who want to humiliate 1,5 billion Muslims around the world! There can be no doubt: burning of the Quran – the holy book for Muslims – is a deliberate provocative action of racist and Islamophobic hatemongering.

3. These shameful provocations are not isolated incidents. They are part of a series of Islamophobic actions which have taken place in Europe since several years. The headscarf ban for Muslim women in schools, repression against Muslim migrant organisations, draconic police control of mosques or the notorious racist *Charlie Hebdo* cartoons – all these are examples of imperialist arrogance as well as of national and religious oppression of Muslim migrants in Europe.

4. The RKOB, Austrian Section of the *Revolutionary Communist International Tendency* (RCIT), unreservedly condemns the burning of the Quran and all other types of Islamophobic hatemongering. We consider the actions of the Iraqi people as legitimate protest against the Swedish

state. It is the task of all socialists and democrats, Muslims, Christians, Jews and atheists to oppose such reactionary provocations.

5. It should be noted that such racist actions do not represent the views of the majority of the Swedish people. According to a new survey conducted on behalf of Swedish national television broadcaster SVT, 53% of those questioned said that burning holy scriptures of any religion in public should be prohibited (while 34% answered that it should be allowed and 13% were undecided).

6. We call workers and popular organizations in Europe to demonstrate their solidarity with the Muslim people and to protest against the burning of the Quran.

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*We refer readers also to the following RCIT documents:*

*Boycott Imperialist and Islamophobic France! Solidarity with the Muslim migrants! Drive out the French occupiers from Mali and other countries! 26.10.2020, <https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/europe/boycott-imperialist-and-islamophobic-france/>*

*On Egypt, Zionism & Islamophobia: Interview with Michael Pröbsting on Arab Satellite Channel WATAN TV, 27 July 2022, <https://www.thecommunists.net/rcit/michael-probsting-speaks-on-arab-satellite-channel-watan-tv-about-egypt-zionism-islamophobia/>*

*Yossi Schwartz: Down with the Islamophobia in France: “We Are Not Samuel!” 20 October 2020, <https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/europe/down-with-the-islamophobia-in-france/>*

*Michael Pröbsting: Austria: Scandalous Bann of a Rally against Islamophobe Racism! Minister for Interior suppresses freedom of speech ... in the name of freedom of speech, 9. November 2020, <https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/europe/austria-scandalous-bann-of-a-rally-against-islamophobe-racism/>*

## Comunismo Revolucionario Spanish-language Journal of the RCIT

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

# Britain: Boris Johnson's Resignation from Parliament Shows that Tories are in Crisis

By Laurence Humphries, RCIT Britain, 28 June 2023

On the 9<sup>th</sup> June 2023 Boris Johnson, the former Premier, resigned as an MP. Johnson had been engulfed by the so-called 'Partygate' scandal which saw him and his colleagues during the COVID 19 lockdown breaking all the rules of lockdown. There was no social distancing, no face coverings and instead mixing of people not confined to their own property and accommodation. While other people were forced to remain prisoners in their own homes under the strict lockdown policy, Johnson and his cabinet colleagues broke their own injunctions and rules. An enquiry was set up and investigated which found Johnson guilty. The result of this was that it was proved Johnson had lied and misled Parliament on his activities during the lockdown.

*"Boris Johnson deliberately misled the British parliament in an unprecedented way over rule-breaking parties at his office during COVID-19 lockdowns, a committee said on Thursday in a damning verdict that further tarnished the former prime minister. Almost a year ago, Johnson was talking about remaining prime minister into the 2030s. But the privileges committee - the main disciplinary body for lawmakers - said on Thursday he should now be stripped of having automatic access to parliament. The committee also accused Johnson of being "complicit in a campaign of abuse and attempted intimidation" towards them.*

*In typically combative style Johnson, who in 2019 led the Conservatives to a landslide election victory, dismissed the report as "a lie" and "a charade", and accused committee members of waging a vendetta against him. The stand-off will do little to heal the deep divisions in the Conservatives and can only pile pressure on Prime Minister Rishi Sunak, whose push to try to boost Britain's flagging economy is being overshadowed by the ongoing Johnson drama."* [1]

Before the report was published Johnson denied that he had done anything wrong and issued a statement saying, 'that he had been forced out over Partygate'.

*"Boris Johnson has stepped down as a Tory MP after claiming he was "forced out of Parliament" over Partygate. The ex-PM saw in advance a report by the Commons Privileges Committee investigating if he misled the Commons over Downing Street lockdown parties. In an explosive and lengthy statement, he called the committee a "kangaroo court" whose purpose "has been to find me guilty, regardless of the facts". The committee said it had "followed the procedures and the mandate".*

*The cross-party committee of MPs - the majority of which are Conservative - added it would conclude its inquiry on Monday and "publish its report promptly". Mr Johnson's resignation now triggers a by-election in his marginal constituency of Uxbridge and South Ruislip. Delivering his announcement late on Friday evening, Mr Johnson said the draft report he had seen was "riddled with inaccuracies and reeks of prejudice", adding it was clear the committee was "determined to use the proceedings against me to drive me out of Parliament".*

*"They have still not produced a shred of evidence that I knowingly or recklessly misled the Commons," he said, insisting "I did not lie".* [2]

And furthermore, the bourgeois press reported: "Former British Prime Minister Boris Johnson's departure from par-

*liament over COVID lockdown-breaking parties has sparked fevered speculation about his and the current government's future. Johnson announced that he was quitting as a member of parliament on Friday, claiming he had been forced out in a stitch-up by his political opponents.*

*The 58-year-old populist politician has been under investigation by a cross-party committee about whether he deliberately lied to parliament over parties when he was in office. In evidence earlier this year, he insisted he had not".* [3]

## The Crisis of British Imperialism

In 2019, when Johnson won the British general election, he was riding on the crest of the wave. Johnson had crushed the Jeremy Corbyn led labour party in the elections which was in effect an election focused on Brexit. Johnson had a huge majority and used the famous words 'let Brexit be done'. This maverick politician was then immediately faced with the crisis of the COVID-19 pandemic. He and his cabinet were unprepared to deal with the health crisis and unsurprisingly decided to implement lockdowns. Johnson, the corrupt politician that he is, believed he could ride the storm but was unable and soon fell. His successors have all been in turmoil of crisis after crisis. This is of course because of the backlash numerous bourgeois politicians faced after utilizing bonapartist measures during the pandemic, as the RCIT characterized it, the COVID-Counterrevolution. In addition, the intense inter-imperialist rivalry between western Imperialist nations, primarily the USA, Japan, and Europe (including Britain) against the Eastern imperialists Russia and China increased and accelerated the economic crisis. The RCIT has analysed this development in a number of documents showing that a serious slump and recession throughout the world economy emerged since 2019. This of course had serious repercussions in Britain with runaway inflation. Poverty, homelessness, and mass unemployment beckons for the masses also throughout imperialist nations with Britain being no exception. After all, the tendency of the rate of profit to fall as Karl Marx predicted it, is still very true for today.

## Rishi Sunak's Government is ready to fall

Rishi Sunak, the present Prime Minister was also the Chancellor of the Exchequer in Johnson's government. A former banker, he is very much a lame duck Prime Minister who faces an interminable crisis of capitalism, a system racked with crisis over crisis with the limited understanding of his former profession. This extreme chauvinist government with all of its Bonapartist tendencies, is unable to stem the tide. Interest rates have shot up by 8.7%, one of the highest throughout Europe. Food shortages, inflation and rising prices have forced many workers and their families to turn to food banks and similar agencies. Britain, reputed to be one of the richest nations in Europe, is reeling from crisis to crisis. Brexit, which was the solution of the right-wing of the bourgeoisie has failed to deliver. In



fact, the opposite of what was promised has happened. A strike in multiple sectors of the economy has brought the current government in deeper crisis while it attempts to plug the hole.

The Tory party has split, and Johnson and Sunak are trading insults over who should get a peerage.

*"But it is worth examining the substance of Boris Johnson's claim. It takes us into the weeds of the procedure for being nominated for a seat in the House of Lords, but it matters for his credibility.*

*"To honour these peerages it was not necessary to overrule HOLAC - but simply to ask them to renew their vetting, which was a mere formality," Mr Johnson said. HOLAC is the House of Lords Appointments Commission. But both the Cabinet Office and the former Conservative leader Michael Howard have said publicly this is nonsense. Lord Howard, who once sacked Boris Johnson for lying, said the former prime minister's claim was "simply not true". [4]*

### Bankruptcy of Reformism

The Labour party, currently led by the pro-capitalist Keir Starmer, has refused to fully support the strikes and social disturbances taking place in Britain. Starmer warned his MP's that they face suspension or expulsion, if any of them attempt to appear on a picket line to support workers trying to improve their wages or conditions at work. It is an extraordinary period of massive industrial action in Britain. Many capitalists and sections of the bourgeoisie see a safe pair of hands in Starmer who will not rock the boat or attempt to bring in a watered-down system of what many bourgeois forces believe to be "socialism" but would be more of a new Keynesianism. Like the neo-liberal Blair before him, Starmer has cleared the decks, expelled, or proscribed centrist forces to ensure that he presents a united pro-capitalist party, ready to be in a gov-

ernment. History has taught us that bureaucratically led Labour in Government has always prop up the hated and degenerated capitalist system, not smashed it or even advocate for socialism.

### Centrism and the Covid-Counterrevolution

The SWP, the biggest centrist party in Britain, has made some useful criticisms of Johnson's departure. *"He was implicated in fake statements about the serial carousing at Number 10 while ordinary people were not allowed to meet up, attend funerals or visit their dying relatives. He has not escaped the stench from Downing Street's vomit-stained rooms, or his willingness to "let the bodies pile high" rather than interfere with profit-making. In much less than four years he has gone from a near-landslide election victory to being chased out as an MP. Johnson never departed from his belief that there was one set of laws for "little people" and another code entirely for the elite. Even his final honours list, also released on Friday, featured his Party gate fellows". [5]*

But the fact remains that during the COVID-19 counterrevolution, the SWP and most of the centrists and fake-Trotskyists supported the lockdown and de facto encouraged the state to continue to imprison people in their own homes. They lined up with trade union bureaucracy and reformist forces to support and even demand attacks on democratic rights under the pretext of the health crisis. What they did was in fact not to fight a pandemic but to support the emerging Bonapartism. The capitalist state used the lockdown to master and perfect more elaborate techniques of surveillance like face-recognition A.I.

The RCIT opposed the lockdowns as both inefficient as a healthcare method and even dangerous for the general public health. We characterised the period of attacks against democratic rights as the COVID-Counterrevolution in stark contrast to these centrists and fake-Trotsky-



## Publications of the RCIT

# Ukraine: A Capitalist Semi-Colony

On the exploitation and deformation of Ukraine's economy  
by imperialist monopolies and oligarchs since capitalist restoration in 1991

By Michael Pröbsting, January 2023

**Introduction \* I. The Marxist Theory of Imperialism and the Concept of Semi-Colonies \* II. The Dead-End of Bureaucratic Stalinism \* III. The Devastating Social & Economic Consequences of Capitalist Restoration \* IV. The Semi-Colonial Deformation of Ukrainian Capitalism since 1991 (1. Oligarchs: the creation of a comprador bourgeoisie; 2. A semi-colonial supplier of raw materials for the capitalist world market; 3. Deep in the trap of foreign debt; 4. Foreign investment: the imperialist plunder of the Ukraine; 5. Migration: the Ukraine provides cheap labour force) \* V. Ukraine: A Dependent Country Torn between Great Powers in East & West \* VI. Russia's Push to Colonise the Ukraine since February 2022 and NATO's Efforts to Increase its Influence \* VII. The Way Forward: From National Liberation to Social Revolution \* Footnotes**

A RCIT Pamphlet, 28 pages, A4 Format

ists who completely ignored the true character of the bourgeois policy at that time. With their ignorance, the centrist, together with social-democracy and the trade union bureaucracy have propped up Johnson and his supporters. Black Lives Matter, Extinction Rebellion and a few others ignored the restrictions and continued to demonstrate against the state. As the RCIT stated correctly: *“It is particularly shameful that large sectors of the British left – from the Labour Left, Stalinists like the “Morning Star” to various pseudo-Trotskyists – fully support the Lockdown policy. Several of these organizations even support the so-called “ZeroCOVID” campaign – a ridiculous initiative which criticizes the government for not imposing an even harder lockdown!*

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

*Among the enthusiastic supporters of this reactionary campaign is the largest “Trotskyist” organization in Britain – the “Socialist Workers Party” which stands in the tradition of Tony Cliff. It is left to a tiny minority of Marxists – in Britain as well as in Europe – to oppose the capitalist Lockdown policy. The Revolutionary Communist International Tendency (RCIT) has been one of the very few socialist forces which denounced the reactionary and anti-democratic offensive of the ruling class from the very beginning in February/March 2020. We characterize this policy as the COVID-19 Counterrevolution as its purpose is to atomize and weaken the working class and oppressed. [6]*

### Time to bring down the Sunak Government

The exposure of Johnson as a charlatan has brought the Government of Rishi Sunak in a crisis. The Tories in power are weak, divided, and ready to fall. The RCIT in BRITAIN puts forward the following transitional demands to unite all socialist forces ready to bring down this hatred government:

*\* We call on the TUC to organize for mass strikes up to an indefinite general strike to overthrow the Sunak Government*

*\* Build action committees to organise the struggle! We will need armed defence guards from the workers and oppressed in order to protect communities and workers from the police and fascist provocations!*

*\* Nationalisation of multinational corporations under workers control, especially the energy giants including BP, Shell, and others! End the business secret and open the books! The workers shall see the mega profits that capitalists are making! Fight for high wages, way beyond the inflation rate!*

*\* For international solidarity! No to the present immigration laws! Stop Islamophobia! Fight against the Chauvinism and Bonapartism of the government and its police! Stop all deportations immediately! All refugees should receive full democratic rights and complete access to all social services! All migrants and people of the south should receive the unconditional right to live their culture openly, to wear their own clothes, speak their own language and observe their own customs without restrictions!*

*\* Fight for a Workers Government, based on socialist principles!*

*\* For the right of Northern Ireland to become independent from British rule! For a socialist Federation in the region of Britain, based on the voluntary participation of Scotland, Wales and Ireland and without any privileges for England!*

*Join the RCIT and fight with us for the building of a new, revolutionary world party, the 5<sup>th</sup> Internationale!*

### Footnotes

[1] [Boris Johnson deliberately misled parliament, UK report says | Reuters](#)

[2] [I've been forced out over Partygate report, says Boris Johnson | BBC](#)

[3] [UK politics reels from ex-PM Johnson's shock exit | News | Al Jazeera](#)

[4] [Battle rages between Boris Johnson and Rishi Sunak for credibility and loyalty - BBC News](#)

[5] [Boris Johnson slithers off as an MP amid lies and threats - Socialist Worker](#)

[6] [Britain: Tens of Thousands Protest against the Lockdown Regime - RCIT - Revolutionary Communist International Tendency \(thecommunists.net\)](#)

## 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)



## EU-Tunisia: Down with the Anti-Migration Deal!

### No to imperialist Fortress Europe – open the borders! Down with Tunisia’s dictator Saied!

Statement of the RKOB, Austrian Section of the Revolutionary Communist International Tendency (RCIT), 18 July 2023

1. The EU has signed off on a €1bn deal with Tunisia to help stem so-called “irregular migration”. This was the result of a visit of European delegation – led by Ursula von der Leyen, the European Commission president, Giorgia Meloni, the far-right prime minister of Italy and Mark Rutte, her Dutch colleague – in Tunis on 16 July. Meloni hailed the deal as a model for new relations with North African countries, adding that she said this with “*a level of pride but a level of gratitude*”.

2. Essentially, this is blood money by European imperialism for the Tunisian dictatorship of Kais Saied who took power via a coup in July 2021. Since then, Saied has dissolved the parliament and arrested leading figure of opposition parties. EU state leaders appreciate him for his brutal repression against migrants. Recently, Tunisian authorities deported hundreds of migrants to desert areas on the Libya and Algeria borders. Libyan border guards have rescued many but at least 30 migrants died. In February this year, Saied wiped up racist hatred by claiming that “*hordes*” of migrants from sub-Saharan African countries would stage a “*plot*” to change the country’s demographic makeup.

3. Likewise, European governments have collaborated closely with the Egyptian dictatorship of General Sisi since many years. In October 2022, the EU Commissioner for Neighbourhood and Enlargement signed a similar agreement with Cairo “*to enhance EU-Egypt cooperation in migration management*.” Sisi has been the “*role model*” for Saied as he took power via a military coup on 3 July 2013. 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!

4. Europe’s politicians and its bourgeois media like to praise the continent as a haven of freedom and human rights. Last year, the EU’s seniormost diplomat Josep Borrell claimed that “*Europe is a garden*” but “*most of the rest of the world is a jungle, and the jungle could invade the garden*”. This racist garbage rightly provoked outcry in many countries of the Global South – particularly in the Arab world and the sub-Sahara Africa. This is not only a classic example of imperialist arrogance. It is also an example of outrageous hypocrisy since Europe’s wealth and democracy is to a large degree the result of its centuries-long history of colonial plunder and oppression of Africa, the Middle East, Asia and Latin America. Furthermore, the “*garden*” could not exist without the “*jungle*”. Without the goods and raw materials from the Global South and without migrants working as cheap and super-exploited labour force in Europe, the continent’s economy would have collapsed long time ago.

5. As a matter of fact, Europe’s governments support the dictatorships in the Africa and the Arab world and collaborate closely with them in stopping migration. They are partners in crime who need each other. General Sisi, Kais Saied and similar figures are *gatekeepers of the imperialist fortress Europe*.

6. The Austrian section of the *Revolutionary Communist International Tendency* (RCIT) strongly condemns the anti-migration policy of the EU. We say that migration is no crime since people are fleeing their native regions because of wars, dictatorships (usually well-connected with one or the other Great Power) or because of misery (which has been caused by the centuries-long imperialist super-exploitation).

7. We oppose the imperialist fortress Europe. The workers movement must *denounce all anti-migration deals and call for open borders*. The RCIT calls for the abolition of Frontex, the brutal border guards responsible for many deaths of migrants in the Mediterranean Sea. We say that the *overcrowded refugee camps must be dissolved*. There is enough space in Europe for refugees since every major city has tens of thousands of empty apartments! Opening of the labour market for refugees would enable them an independent income and, furthermore, it would also allow a *cut in working hours* for Europe’s workers.

8. The bourgeois governments and their media claim that there is not enough money for refugees. This is a lie! Europe is home of hundreds of billionaires – lazy parasites who got rich at the expense of the workers in Europe and the South! Take the money from them with a *special tax* so that they, for once, could make a useful contribution to the society!

9. The RCIT calls for *equal rights for migrants as well as equal wages like the native workers*. Likewise, workers and popular organizations need to *oppose resolutely racist hate campaigns, including Islamophobia*. Furthermore, the international workers movement must *support the struggles of the popular masses in Tunisia, Egypt, Syria, and other countries against their dictatorial regimes*.

10. The RCIT calls all socialists who agree with such an anti-imperialist program to join forces and to jointly build a *revolutionary party – nationally and internationally*.

\* \* \* \* \*

We refer readers also to the following RCIT documents:

RKOB: *Spain/Morocco: Police Kills Dozens of Migrants at the Border. Down with the imperialist Fortress Europe! Dissolve the Spanish colonies in Africa!* 30 June 2022, <https://www.thecomunists.net/worldwide/europe/spain-morocco-police-kills-dozens-of-migrants-at-the-border/>

RCIT: *Open Europe’s Borders for Syrian Refugees - Now! Down with the imperialist Fortress Europe! Support the liberation struggle of the Syrian people against Russia/Iran/Assad!* 4 March 2020, <https://www.thecomunists.net/worldwide/europe/open-europe-s-borders-for-syrian-refugees-now/>

Michael Pröbsting: *General Sisi: Gatekeeper of Imperialist Fortress Europe. EU and Egypt sign agreement to control migration*, 2 November 2022, <https://www.thecomunists.net/worldwide/africa-and-middle-east/general-sisi-gatekeeper-of-imperialist-fortress-europe/>

Adam Smith: *Between Ceuta and Gibraltar. Thousands of refugees try to reach the Spanish enclave on Moroccan land*, 20 May 2021, <https://www.thecomunists.net/worldwide/africa-and-middle-east/thousands-of-refugees-try-to-reach-the-spanish-enclave-on-moroccan-land/>



## The Zionist State's War on the Palestinians

Statement by the Internationalist Socialist League (RCIT Section in Israel/Occupied Palestine), 03.07.2023

The ISL condemns Israel for its latest war crimes. The apartheid state military has launched its largest operation in Jenin since the Second Intifada overnight Sunday, with airstrikes and infantry in the northern city.

Air raids on the Jenin refugee camp in the northern West Bank occupied in 1967, using missile killed at least four Palestinians, according to residents and officials. The names of the people killed by the Zionist air force are: Sameeh Abu al-Wafa, Hussam Abu Theeba, Aws al-Hanoun and Nour el-Din Marshoud, noting that they were all shot in the chest and head.

Dozens of armored vehicles also surrounded the refugee camp from all sides and launched a ground military attack causing heavy damage to homes and roads. A fifth Palestinian, 21-year-old Mohammad Hasanein, was killed overnight on Monday by the same armored vehicles at the northern entrance to the city of Ramallah in the central occupied West Bank, the Palestinians health ministry said.

Two others were also killed according to the Jerusalem post. "Al Jazeera's Jerusalem bureau chief Walid al-Omari said, "some 150 armored vehicles and about 1,000 soldiers from elite special forces and the military, as well as general intelligence, police, and border police" are taking part in the operation". "They are enforcing a total siege on the camp, while special forces are operating inside the camp, raiding homes, searching them, and arresting many people," al-Omari said" [1]

"Resident of the Jenin refugee camp 60-year-old Afiyeh Jameel Yousef Sbeih told Al Jazeera that the Israeli army fired live ammunition into their home, injuring her niece. Her niece, 25-year-old Hanaa Najeeb, who is studying to be a doctor, had just arrived for a visit from Jordan two days ago with her mother and was staying at Sbeih's home. A bullet entered through the front door and hit my niece in the leg while she was in the bathroom. The bullet pierced her leg and went out from the other side," Sbeih told Al Jazeera from the Ibn Sina hospital. We found at least three bullets on our front door, and others across the walls," added Sbeih about their home in the Hawashiyeh neighborhood of the Jenin refugee camp"

"Speaking to Al Jazeera, Deputy Governor of Jenin Kamal Abu al-Rub said the Israeli army "is not only targeting people, but the infrastructure of the camp as well. They have cut off all electricity, telecommunications, and water." [2]

This is what the Zionist crusader terrorists call an operation against terrorists, who are really freedom fighters like the Partisans. This brings to mind the war crimes of French

imperialism in what is known as the battle of Algiers.

And where is his great Highness the wonderful President of the smallest room in his villa Mahmoud Abbas? He calls on the UN to protect the Palestinians. The same UN that helped to form Israel on the ruins of the Palestinian society in the Nakba. And why not call for the return of the British Mandate?

And where is the protest movement that says they protect democracy? How they are busy in more important things like watching how one protester is beating up a person who dared to join them with a Palestinian flag.

And where is Biden who says that he opposes the vandalism of the settlers and the expansion of the settlements? How he is busy selling Israel a fleet of F-35 the deadliest aircraft.

"Jerusalem told Washington about 10 days ago that it plans to try to root out terrorism from the West Bank city, without saying when it would do so or providing further specific details, the Israeli source said.

"We said that security officials think that we cannot avoid entering Jenin, though we had not yet made an exact decision of how and when we would do it," the source stated. We said we would enter for a focused action when we have enough intelligence. American interlocutors understood the necessity of the actions, according to the source, who compared it to the US Army fighting ISIS in Iraq or Syria: "Sometimes, you know you can't wait." [3]

"According to US Secretary of State Tony Blinken, Shapiro will support US efforts to advance a more peaceful and interconnected region, deepen and broaden the Abraham Accords, and Forum. This appointment comes as the Senate considers passing legislation that would create an ambassadorial-level position focused on promoting the Abraham Accords" [4]

Israel, the modern crusader state will continue to commit war crimes as long as it will exist. The only way forward is a Palestinian Arab armed spring together with the Arab workers and poor peasants in the region.

Down with the Zionist apartheid crusaders state!

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

### Endnotes:

[1] <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2023/7/3/two-palestinians-killed-as-israel-attacks-west-bank-city-of-jenin>

[2] Ibid

[3] <https://www.jpost.com/israel-news/article-748642>

[4] <https://www.jpost.com/international/article-748569>



## 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



## Syria: Rally against Torture and Killing by the Assad Regime

Report (with Photos and Videos) from a Rally in Vienna on 25 June 2023, Austrian Section of the RCIT

About 200 Syrian migrants joined a rally on 25 June in the centre of Vienna on occasion of the International Day in Support of Victims of Torture. We commemorated the tens of thousands of Syrian brothers and sisters who have suffered by the brutal tyranny of Assad.

Abdulhkeem Alshater from the group „Free Syrian Community Austria“ led through the rally which also saw speeches from the Chechen sister Rosa as well as from a Bosnian sister.

Comrade Michael Pröbsting, International Secretary of

the RCIT, also addressed the rally. He denounced the reactionary dictatorship of Assad and reiterated our unconditional support for the Syrian Revolution. He also stated our support for the victims of the Putin regime in Russia. Furthermore, Michael condemned the racist policy of border control of the EU which resulted recently in the death of hundreds of refugees off the coast of Greece.

See photos and video clips here: [https://www.the-communists.net/rcit/rcit-interventions-at-rallies-in-2023/#anker\\_13](https://www.the-communists.net/rcit/rcit-interventions-at-rallies-in-2023/#anker_13)



Rally of the Syrian migrant community in Vienna on 25 June 2023; Michael Pröbsting speaks (r.)

## 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.

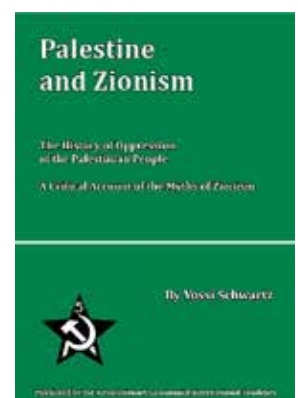
Yossi Schwartz also shows that the Palestinian people have heroically resisted against the occupation resulting in two Intifadas as well as the successful defense of Gaza against the Israeli aggression in three wars (2008/09, 2012, 2014). The author also analysis the shameful betrayal by the PLO leadership 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.thecomunists.net/theory/palestine-and-zionism/>



## Kenya: Down with the Finance Law!

### Scrap the Fuel Tax and Housing Levy! General Strike To Bring Down the Ruto Government!

*Statement of the Revolutionary Socialist Vanguard, Nigerian Section of the RCIT, 17.07.2023*

Thousands of protesters have taken to the streets of major Kenyan cities in the wake of the implementation of the newly enacted Finance Law. The Ruto government has responded with a brutal police crackdown that has led to an exchange of rocks and tear gas between protesters and police. This comes against a backdrop of weekly demonstrations called by the main opposition to the ruling Jubilee Party, Azimio la Umoja's leader, Raila Odinga, to challenge the August 2022 election results which announced William Ruto as the winner of the presidential race. At least 13 people have died since anti-government protests began last month including 6 who were killed in demonstrations after the Finance Law was announced and hundreds have been arrested.<sup>1</sup>

The new Finance Law with major flashpoints being the doubling of fuel tax from 8% to 16% and a newly introduced 1.5% Housing Levy comes on top of crushing debt status and crippling hyperinflation.<sup>2</sup> Hence the renewed momentum it gave street demonstrations called by Raila Odinga and slated for 7th July later dubbed "saba saba" (seven seven). The law also includes tax on food items, beauty products and mobile money transfer that were later rescinded because of popular resistance.<sup>3</sup>

Despite popular resentment towards the Bill the Ruto government pushed it through the House with its parliamentary majority and had it passed into law even in the face of already ongoing weekly anti-government protests. This is due to the global crises of capitalism which has a particularly debilitating and enervating effect on semi-colonial countries. This crises of catastrophic capitalism is multifaceted and all regions of the world including the imperialist powers are boxed into a corner by its economic,

environmental and socio-political manifestations.

While imperialist hegemony like the US can, due to the monopoly the dollar enjoys on the world market, raise the domestic debt ceiling and shed inflation to countries of the global south by printing more dollar bills. Semi-colonial countries must simply inaugurate an austerity regime if capitalism must be sustained in the midst of explosive inflation; a collapsed monetary policy and a worsening debt crisis. That is why even in the face of a pending legal challenge against the law and the Kenyan Supreme Court barring its implementation the Ruto regime has executed its provisions anyways.

Like the Ruto government in Kenya, the barely two month old Tinubu government of Nigeria launched waves of anti-people economic attacks and austerity measures starting from the removal of fuel subsidies to the devaluation of the country's currency and similar increase in tax rebates. The hand of imperialism is more clearly seen when one considers how the major conduit of these attacks is the energy sector. As the use of fossil fuels become more and more unpopular in the West, the major destination of African oil, the imperialist governments are now shifting to Green capitalism giving off a forecast that shows drastic reduction in oil consumption. But the ruling classes of those oil producing countries in Africa which have been underdeveloped by the West's extractive colonialism find the diminishing crumbs from their unholy partnership with the imperialists too little to fund their bogus lifestyle so they must fall on the people to eat their flesh.

We welcome the protests against the new Finance Law and stand with the Kenyan people for the annulment of any part or section of it such as the hiked fuel tax and the



## PUBLICATIONS OF THE RCIT

### Putin's Poodles (Apologies to All Dogs)

*The pro-Russian Stalinist parties and  
their arguments in the current NATO-Russia Conflict*

*by Michael Pröbsting, February 2022*

**Introduction \* 1. NATO is the sole aggressor! Really? \* Is it relevant for Marxists who is the aggressor? \* What is causing the escalation of tensions between Great Powers: the party of warmongers or the imperialist system? \* Can socialists defend "legitimate spheres of influence" of Great Powers? \* Putin and Great Russian Chauvinism claim that the Ukraine is not an independent nation \* Stalinism versus Bolshevism: The Ukraine and the right of national self-determination \* From Kazakhstan to Syria: Stalinism is siding with the counterrevolution \* Is Russian imperialism a "force of social progress"? Discussion of a remarkable Stalinist document \* Stalinism and social-imperialism: concluding remarks \* Footnotes**

*A RCIT Pamphlet, 20 pages, A4 Format*



new residence levy. For us an indefinite general strike will serve as a battering ram against continued implementation of the law and will weaken the Ruto regime for its eventual overthrow. Thus revolutionaries, progressives, workers and civil society groups must put pressure on the Labour leadership to call for a general strike.

The protests must not be subordinated to the caprices of the opposition Azimio Alliance. Raila Odinga, a serial con- tester who has lost the presidential race five times to dif- ferent ruling class blocs only represents the other arm of the Kenyan bourgeoisie. His father was the first vice presi- dent of Kenya in the Jomo Kenyatta government. He was a Member of Parliament from 1992 to 2013 during which time he was prime minister of Kenya from 2008-2013 and bagged several ministerial appointments. His politics fol- lows that of his father, Jaramogi Oginga Odinga, alongside whom Jomo Kenyatta is credited for fighting for Kenyan independence from the British, as the opposition bloc of the Kenyan ruling class. So Raila Odinga only represents the continuation of the inter-“dynastic” Kenyatta-Odinga rivalry which started in the ‘60’s when Kenya gained formal independence and has continued to the present in a rather degenerative fashion with blocs formed around their progenies—Uhuru Kenyatta and Raila Odinga.

Rather we advocate the formation of *action committees* on the protest grounds, in workplaces, markets, schools and communities to execute the struggle. *Self defence guards* must also be formed to shield the popular masses from brutal police crackdown and from government sponsored thugs. These bodies must be set through *democratic elec- tions* by the popular masses in those important centers of the struggle. They must coordinate with each other on a city-wide basis to form state and finally country-wide leaderships that will front key demands and mount pres- sure on the trade unions to call for an indefinite general strike.

Capitalism both on the national level and on a global scale has been hollowed out. It’s institutions can no longer as- suage its sustenance. Little wonder the Ruto government carried through the attacks despite bars from the Supreme

Court.<sup>4</sup> This systemic decay is equally responsible for the brutal crackdown of the state apparatus on journalists cov- ering the protests. As the decay worsens so will the turn of ruling class to a police state and naked means of cohe- sion increase unless the masses take power through their fighting organisations. We advocate for the nationalisation of oil and energy sector under workers’ and poor peasant control without compensation to the multinationals and local stakeholders.

*Down with the finance law! Reverse the fuel tax and scrap the Housing Levy! Cancel all Domestic and Foreign Debt! For Free Food, Medical and Housing Aid from the Imperialist West to Kenya! Nationalise the Oil and Energy Sector Under Workers’ and Poor Peasant Control!*

*Neither the Ruto government or the Odinga Opposition! Form Action Committees To Coordinate the Struggle! For Self De- fence Guards To Fend Off the Brutal Police And State Appara- tus! For An Indefinite General Strike To Bring Down the Ruto Government!*

*For A Workers’ and Poor Peasant Government that Will Ex- propriate the Multinational Corporations and the Local Bour- geoisie Without Compensation; Put the Economic Mainstay Under Public Control And End the Neo-Colonial Subjugation of Kenya!*

#### Footnotes

[1] [https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2023/7/12/kenyan-protesters-in-fresh-clashes-with-police-over-tax-hikes?traffic\\_source=KeepReading](https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2023/7/12/kenyan-protesters-in-fresh-clashes-with-police-over-tax-hikes?traffic_source=KeepReading)  
[https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2023/7/13/more-than-300-including-lawmaker-arrested-after-kenya-protests?traffic\\_source=KeepReading](https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2023/7/13/more-than-300-including-lawmaker-arrested-after-kenya-protests?traffic_source=KeepReading)

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[3] <https://www.google.com/amp/s/www.wionews.com/world/kenyan-police-fire-tear-gas-to-stop-opposition-protests-over-tax-hikes-613122/amp> <https://www.google.com/amp/s/amp.theguardian.com/global-development/2022/jul/12/on-the-street-and-online-social-media-becomes-key-to-protest-in-kenya>

[4] <https://www.reuters.com/world/africa/kenyas-high-court-blocks-tax-hikes-newly-signed-law-2023-06-30/>



## RCIT AFRICA PROGRAM

# Manifesto for the Revolutionary Liberation of Black Africa

*Adopted at the 2<sup>nd</sup> World Congress of the RCIT in November 2017*

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

*A RCIT Pamphlet, 24 pages, A5 Format*

# Nigeria: Anti-Bureaucratic Unionists Alliance

## Reverse Pump Price of Petrol to 185 Naira/litre!

*Statement Raimi Akegbejo, For Anti-Bureaucratic Unionists Alliance. (ABUA), July 2023*

The abrupt announcement declaring the end of fuel subsidy further heightened the anguish of the masses when the Nigeria Labour Congress headed by Joe Ajaero and its sister union Trade Union Congress under Felix Osifo betrayed the masses as the bureaucratic leaderships of both bodies have serially done for decades now. One would have thought that being stakeholders in the Labour Party which is challenging the results of the recently concluded elections, the NLC and TUC would take this inimical attack on the livelihoods and standard of living of masses an opportunity to further prove that the government in power never had the mandate of the people in the first place and lead impoverished Nigerians to put the administration on its knees.

Alas, it is hardly surprising that the leadership of the Nigeria Labour Congress and Trade Union Commission rolled over without even throwing a punch since the presidential candidate of the Labour Party himself, also wished Nigerians penury when he stated during the campaign periods that he would wrap up the subsidy scheme with immediate effect once he assumes office. Yet the erstwhile leadership of the Labour Unions and their replacement in waiting drummed support after the PDP-waitlist politician.

This grave traduction of the masses was carried out shamelessly and without an iota of tact by the Ajaero leadership, as though he was playing a script that should already be expected by Nigerians. Waiting outside the venue of the meeting with the Speaker of the House of Senate Femi Gbajabiamila and his rag-tag negotiating team of political jobbers and self-acclaimed ex-trade unionists, journalists asked Ajaero whether as the speaker had said the proposed strike had been called off, his response was "didn't you hear the speaker read it out?" As though the speaker was a principal to whom the NLC president must answer to.

The strike was cancelled after the meeting with the Federal government despite the decision for a strike being the unanimous resolution of the National Executive Council of the NLC. Worst still, the slated time for the expiration of funds allocated for subsidy was not until the end of this month which has been stipulated by the former administration prior to the declaration at the swearing in of the new president.

The NLC and TUC have now become a platform for Labour aristocrats who have turned the top offices of the umbrella union to chieftaincy titles with which they can bargain for their own political promotion through the ranks of the ruling class by doing them the favour of betraying the masses who toil with their sweat and blood to eke out a daily living. And, of course, it is difficult to imagine that no palms were greased as a short term pecuniary benefit for this sell out. While the average Nigerian does not expect any thorough going resistance and intransigent opposition to the anti-people policies of the APC government. It seems that these clique of union bench-warmers cannot plumb the debts of horror quite enough with their

serial collaboration with the political elite to pauperize the masses and smoothen their own path to join the brigands in power.

The deafening silence of the Labour Unions during Buhari's currency redesign and cash scarcity is the loudest proclamation of the congenital orientation of this crop of "union leaders" to the political class as they suspended all means of mass action to preserve the chances of their populist candidate. It goes without saying that subsequent administrations of the APC government has not only found no way to cushion the effects of the dramatic global economic crises but have equally worsened it through corruption; state high-handedness and state terrorism; and the overall subordination of the national will of the Nigerian peoples to neo-colonial constructs.

Add to this the subsequent unleashing of harrowing economic attacks on the people. The angst from the notorious currency redesign policy still simmers amongst the populace. So any excuse for the removal of fuel subsidies is dead on arrival. True about 800 million dollars is spent on the scheme per month amounting to billions of dollars over the past 8 years but this state sanctioned squandermania is the product of the refusal of the political class to refine oil locally according to the whims and caprices of their imperialist masters and is leavened by their insatiable appetite for the national cake.

Corruption is such a watery excuse for the removal of subsidy for it would then mean the government would shy away from public expenditure in its entirety and there would be no need for a national budget since no sector of public service is free from corruption. The fight against corruption cannot be the end of public amenities. If the subsidy scheme becomes closed, the "cabals" as they are popularly called simply transfer their machinations of graft to another area the government is still pumping money, that is, if it exists.

Another argument for the removal of subsidy is that such funds will be useful for other sectors that require social spending. The problem here is why fuel subsidy. Why must the masses be short changed when the senators, governors and other public office holders smile to the bank to cash out millions as salaries and allowances. Is the budgetary allocation of these public office holders not more, year in, year out, than the allocation for health care and education combined? So why must it be preserved like a Holy Grail. This is apart from the pension that governors and presidents are assigned for life.

Moreover the APC government has prided itself from the time it took the reins of power at the national level as an anti-corruption movement with Buhari, during whose regime we heard of a flurry of reports of recovered funds and returned loots, was annointed by his consort in the party as the Daura-born grand-commando of anti-corruption forces. What happened to all the funds recovered from corruption from Dasuki to Deizani. What happened to the Paris club funds and the various tranches of Abacha loot that has been returned. Why were these monies not



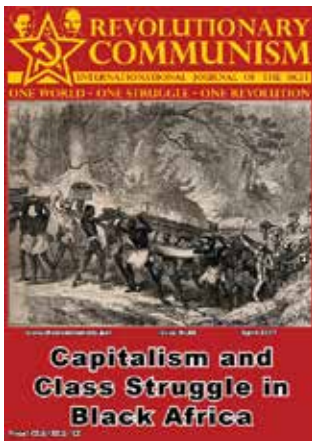
used to build or repair local refineries in the care of the government.

For us the major source of impunity for the government and the unionist rogues is first and foremost the absence of democracy in our unions. For us the fight for the restoration of democracy is the utmost task for every change seeking worker and citizen. It is not by accident that the Dangote refinery located hundreds of miles from the major oil deposits in the Niger Delta opened at a time when consumption of fossils for energy poses an existential crises to the global ecosystem. The Nigerian ruling class as cozied up to the strategic interests of the West for decades. The West has finally given a sly nod, hence the Dangote refinery after raking in trillions of dollars from oil exploration and refining for years. In the past, the organised labour has been formidable and irreplaceable in the fight for decolonisation, independence and against neoliberalism. The power of the working class undiluted remains the most potent force for social transformation.

Therefore, like the biblical saying: "judgement will start in my house, saith the Lord God", Workers must ensure that judgement against corruption, nepotism, cronyism and bureaucracy must start in our unions. Enough of our

unions being used by a clique of brigands to secure their own fair share of the booty from the Nigerian criminal elite. Never again should any strike be summoned without consultations with local branches of the unions after which a Congress from these branches will send resolutions to the center for a strike. It is the traduction of Ajaero and Osifo that has emboldened the Tinubu government to open a Pandora's box of anti-people policy such as the devaluation of the Naira and Student Loan Bill and one can assume that more is still to come. For us we must begin an effort to boot out Ajaero, Osifo and other minions of moribund Labour aristocrats with the bottom-up mobilisation of an indefinite general strike to smash these policies.

We as workers, students and progressives must fight for the nationalisation of the key sectors of the economy; free quality education for all; a sliding scale of wage increments befitting for the level of inflation and appropriate for human dignity. We must strive to make the state-owned refineries function at full capacity and draw out a blueprint for eventual transition of fossil fuel to green energy at a pace appropriate for the available technology. Those who do not move, do not feel their chains!



## PUBLICATIONS OF THE RCIT

# Theses on Capitalism and Class Struggle in Black Africa

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

*A RCIT Pamphlet, 24 pages, A4 Format*

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

## Argentina: Mass Demonstrations in Support of the Workers and People of Jujuy

*Report by Convergencia Socialista (RCIT Section in Argentina), 22.06.2023*

In Argentina, the relationship of forces between the classes is changing due to the rebellion of the workers and the people of Jujuy, which has the sympathy of the mass movement throughout the country. The province of Jujuy, located on the border with Bolivia and Chile, is one of the richest regions in the world in terms of lithium deposits.

The constitutional reform imposed by the regional government - a capitalist force in opposition to the national government - in unity with Peronism, means the prohibition of social protests and the expropriation of lands belonging to the original communities, to hand them over to Chinese, Yankee or European multinationals, dedicated to the business of lithium.

Our party joined the large mobilizations in support of the people of Jujuy, which have been taking place in Buenos Aires for several days. There we participated with the banners of *Socialist Convergence* (RCIT Section in Argentina), through our teacher union lists and the Student Center of the Higher Education Institute 103 in the southern area of greater Buenos Aires, led by our colleagues.

Within this framework, we join the proposal of the PTS - whose list we support in the internal elections of the Left Front - which raises the need to organize a great Assembly of Workers, Communities and all the sectors in struggle of Jujuy, which serves to organize the fight against the Morales government and for a political perspective independent of the bosses' factions.



Militants of Convergencia Socialista (RCIT Section in Argentina) at a demonstration in support for Jujuy on 22 June 2023



# What the RCIT Stands for

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

*No future without socialism!*

*No socialism without a revolution!*

*No revolution without a revolutionary party!*

