



## Peru: Mass Rebellion against the Boluarte Regime!

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Picture on the Cover: Demonstration against the Boluarte regime in Peru (Source: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2022\\_Peruvian\\_political\\_protests#/media/File:Protestas\\_Lima\\_Diciembre\\_2022\\_\(18\).jpg](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2022_Peruvian_political_protests#/media/File:Protestas_Lima_Diciembre_2022_(18).jpg))

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## Revolutionary New Year Greetings for 2023

### Prepare for a year full of revolutionary upheavals and counterrevolutionary dangers

*An Open Letter from the Revolutionary Communist International Tendency (RCIT), 26.12.2022*

**D**ear Comrades, Brothers and Sisters!  
As we are entering a new year, the *Revolutionary Communist International Tendency* (RCIT) sends its warmest greetings to all militants fighting for a future in which humanity has broken the chains of capitalist exploitation, imperialist domination and social oppression!

Since 2019, we are in the midst of a new phase of modern history which is beyond doubt the most tumultuous since 1945. Its essential features have been so far:

- \* The *Great Depression* of the capitalist world economy which began in late 2019 and which is currently deepening with skyrocketing inflation, food and energy crisis. This reflects the process of decay of capitalism, a process which inevitable provokes social decline and political explosions.

- \* A series of popular uprisings in the second half of 2019 – the largest global wave of class struggles since 1968. This mass unrest was brought to an end by another key event:

- \* The *COVID Counterrevolution* of the ruling class which began in China in January 2020, and which soon spread to nearly all countries. However, this reactionary policy of Lockdowns and “Green Pass” surveillance has been defeated by the masses in 2022 – first in Europe and other countries, more recently in China.

- \* The Ukraine War, which is a legitimate war of national defence of the Ukrainian people against Putin’s barbaric invasion.

- \* The dramatic acceleration of rivalry between the imperialist Great Powers (U.S., China, Russia, Western Europe, and Japan) which has opened a new period of Cold War.

In the last few months, we have seen what seems to be another global wave of class struggles. Among the most important of these are:

- The mass demonstrations in China against the author-

itarian Lockdown and Zero COVID policy which forced the regime to retreat. These are the largest protests against the Stalinist-capitalist dictatorship since the Tiananmen uprising in 1989.

- The popular uprising in Iran against the capitalist-theocratic Mullah regime – again, the largest mass protests in this country since 1979. This is also an important rebellion against the reactionary oppression of women.

- The violent popular mobilisations in Peru after the oligarchy imposed an illegitimate new government and declared a state of emergency.

- The undaunted liberation struggle of the Palestinian people against the Zionist occupation. This brewing Third Intifada has already resulted in the formation of new armed resistance groups in Palestine which are heroically fighting against the Israeli army in Jenin, Nablus and other cities.

- A huge strike wave in key Western European countries like France and Britain (in the case of the latter, the largest since the early 1980s).

- A huge popular mobilisation of the Ukrainian people – including 57,000 women serving in the army – to defend their motherland. While the workers in the Ukraine have not succeed by now to build their independent military units, the gigantic numbers of volunteers and the broad popular support for this war of defence reflects the progressive and liberation nature of this struggle. Contrast this to the widespread demoralisation among the Russian soldiers!

- the impressive mass protests in Russia against Putin’s mobilisation of 300,000 new conscripts for his reactionary war against the Ukraine – despite draconian repression by bonapartist state apparatus. In addition, there have been numerous resistance actions of soldiers as well as acts of



Comrades of *Convergencia Socialista* (RCIT Section in Argentina) during the Rebellion in December 2001

sabotage against facilities of the Russian state and military.  
 - In Argentina, millions of people took the streets after the win of the Football World Cup and exercised their democratic right to celebrate. Expressing a general trend, they did it in a manner passing over the repressive forces so that these could not guarantee any longer the control of public life. Such exercise of self-organization – independent of the government, the bosses' parties and the bureaucracy – will serve to set up the next struggles in a country where the ashes of the *Argentinazo* continue to burn.

We send our greetings to all these courageous activists fighting against oppression and exploitation!

We have no doubt that the year 2023 will be characterized by even more revolutionary explosions, wars and attacks by the ruling class.

The RCIT calls all socialists to unite on the basis of the revolutionary program. Among its most important aspects are:

\* Siding with the struggles of the workers and oppressed and advocating the self-organisation of the masses (committees of action, popular assemblies, units of self-defence, etc.)

\* Intransigent opposition to all imperialist powers – those in West as well as in East.

\* Supporting liberation struggles against Eastern as well as against Western imperialists resp. their allies (e.g. Ukraine against Russia, the struggle of the Syrian people against Assad, of the Yemeni people against the Saudi invasion, of the Palestinian people against the Zionist state, of the Afghan and Iraqi people against the U.S. invaders after 2001/03, of the Burmese people against the military dictatorship, etc.)

\* No political support for (petty-)bourgeois leaderships of

legitimate wars resp. popular struggles (e.g. Zelensky in the Ukraine, pro-Castillo forces in Peru, etc.)

\* Application of the united front tactic towards non-revolutionary leaderships in cases where such are at the top of objectively progressive struggles.

Comrades, brothers and sisters, the most urgent problem is the deep crisis of revolutionary leadership as the workers and popular organisations remain dominated by social democratic, Stalinist, left-populist or centrist organisations. Such forces lean towards one or the other imperialist power, look for alliances with sectors of the bourgeoisie, impose bureaucratic control over mass struggles or spread confusion with advocating non-revolutionary methods and tactics.

Hence, the most important task for socialists is to unite and to help building a new *Revolutionary World Party* – a party which can lead the masses towards revolutionary insurrection against barbaric capitalism and for a socialist future!

The RCIT has made important steps forward in the past 18 months by fusing with other revolutionary organisations – first in Argentina and, more recently, in Russia. Despite our small forces we are able to play an active role in workers struggles (e.g. among teachers in poor neighbourhoods in Buenos Aires) or in the international solidarity campaign with the Ukrainian resistance. We provide serious analysis of the world situation and elaborate revolutionary tactics. We look forward to join forces with like-minded socialists with whom we agree on a program of action in the current historic period.

Comrades, brothers and sisters, join us in the struggle for liberation and socialism!

*Unity – Struggle – Victory!*

## 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.

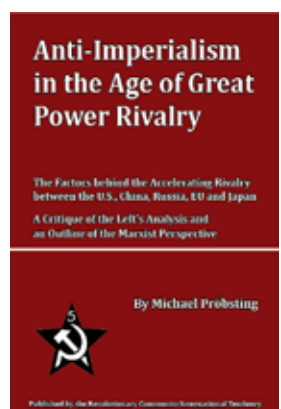
*Anti-Imperialism in the Age of Great Power Rivalry* demonstrates the validity of the Marxist analysis of modern imperialism. Using comprehensive material (including 61 Tables and Figures), Michael Pröbsting elaborates that a correct understanding of the rise of China and Russia as new Great Powers is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



# China: Popular Rebellion against Lockdowns and “Zero COVID”

*Statement of the Revolutionary Communist International Tendency (RCIT), 28 November 2022*

1. An unprecedented wave of protests is spreading across China since early November. People are demonstrating against the draconic Lockdown policy – called “Zero COVID” strategy – which the Xi regime has imposed since early 2020. Migrant workers in Guangzhou broke through metal barriers and demanded an end to the lockdown. A few days ago, workers at a Foxconn factory in Zhengzhou clashed with police over poor pay and brutal COVID restrictions. These protests have become more widespread after a tragedy in Ürümqi (in the Xinjiang region) on 24 November 2022 when a fire in a building killed 10 people and wounded 9 in a residential area under lockdown. Since then, protest rallies have been held in many large cities, including Beijing, Shanghai, Nanjing, Chengdu, Chongqing and Korla. Demonstrations have taken place at 50 universities., including at Xi’s alma mater, Tsinghua University in Beijing, where about 2,000 students gathered to demand an easing of anti-virus controls, shouted “*freedom of speech!*” and sang the *Internationale*.

2. These popular protests are primarily directed against the reactionary Lockdown and “Zero COVID” policy. Videos from rallies show demonstrators shouting slogans like “*No more lockdowns! No more lockdowns!*”, “*Unlock Xinjiang, unlock China!*”, “*We do not want PCR (tests), we want freedom*”, “*We don’t want masks, we want freedom!*” “*We don’t want COVID tests, we want freedom!*” In Chongqing, a man was filmed giving a speech in his residential compound, loudly proclaiming “*Give me liberty, or give me death!*” to the cheers and applause of the crowd. Quotes from this man’s speech – who has become known on social media as the “*Chongqing hero*” – are widely circulating, such as “*there is only one disease in the world and that is being both poor and not having freedom [...] we have now got both*”.

3. The Xi regime justifies its brutal policy of state repression with the need to fight the virus. However, China shares the approach of most other capitalist countries around the globe in 2020-21 of combating the pandemic primarily not with health provisions but with police state measures. This policy – which we have called *chauvinist state bonapartism* – is characterized by local or even nation-wide lockdowns for longer periods, draconic restrictions of freedom of movement (both within the country as well as across the border), mass surveillance (Green Pass, etc.), (semi-)compulsory vaccination campaigns, etc.

4. While the reactionary Lockdown policy is not unique in itself, the Xi regime has certainly imposed the most brutal version of it. Huge areas are put under strictest lockdown for long periods. The Xinjiang region – which is home of nationally oppressed Uyghur people – has been in strict lockdown for three months! People are often not allowed to go out to buy food or even to get medical treatment. In many cases, residents have their doors chained shut. Thousands of people are forcibly transported to makeshift quarantine camp. Incidents like the death of a four-month-old baby after a delay in receiving medical attention while suffering vomiting and diarrhoea in a quarantine hotel in Zhengzhou, have provoked public outcry.

5. A particularly interesting feature of the current demonstrations is their increasingly political, anti-regime

character. Many people hold up blank sheets of paper to protest the totalitarian censorship in public media by the Stalinist authorities. The slogan “*press freedom!*” has become a popular demand at these rallies. Videos on social media also show people chanting slogans against the bonapartist regime of Xi Jinping. “*We don’t want lifelong rulers. We don’t want emperors!*”, “*Remove the Communist Party! Remove Xi Jinping!*” or “*Xi Jinping, step down, Communist Party, step down!*” It is hardly surprising that these protests have quickly turned politically and anti-regime, given the fact that workers and oppressed are suffering from Xi’s extreme draconic Lockdown policy since nearly three years.

6. The *Revolutionary Communist International Tendency* (RCIT) strongly welcomes the popular rebellion against the reactionary Lockdown and “Zero COVID” policy! We fully support the demand for an immediate end of this chauvinist state bonapartist policy. We have condemned this policy – which we have called *COVID Counterrevolution* – since early February 2020. We explained that the ruling class exploited the pandemic as an excuse for expanding state control over the popular masses in a world situation characterized by the worst economic depression since nearly a century, accelerating rivalry between the Great Powers and increasing political instability in many countries. As we stated in our Manifesto “*COVID-19: A Cover for a Major Global Counterrevolutionary Offensive*” (21 March 2020): “*These are the conditions which make it necessary for the ruling class to adopt major steps in order to regain the initiative and to enforce its political control over the popular classes via massively expanding its state apparatus. In order to achieve this goal, they create the atmosphere of global panic and a state of emergency. They do so both on a national as well as on a global level.*” Mass protests in many countries, particularly in late 2021 and early 2022, forced most capitalist governments around the world to beat a (temporarily?) retreat. However, the specific characteristics of the Chinese Stalinist-capitalist regime – an unprecedented economic crisis, massive social contradictions, Xi’s determined attempt to consolidate his one-man rule – have resulted in a particularly long and draconic implementation of the Lockdown and “Zero COVID” policy.

7. The current wave of demonstrations – which might be one of the, if not the, largest protests since the Tiananmen Square uprising in 1989 – could provoke a serious challenge for the totalitarian-bonapartist Xi regime. If police forces do not succeed in smashing these protests, they could even open a revolutionary crisis in one of the most important imperialist Great Powers. The RCIT and all authentic socialists are in unconditional solidarity with the rebellion of the Chinese workers and oppressed. We call for the downfall of the Stalinist-capitalist regime and for a socialist revolution opening the road to an authentic workers and poor peasants republic in China. In contrast to the Stalinist dictatorship, such a workers and popular government would respect the right of self-determination for all oppressed nations, including the right to secede and to create their own state.

8. The current mass protests are a powerful blow against the Stalinist, reformist and left-populist parties



around the world which support the Stalinist-capitalist regime in Beijing as a “progressive”, an “anti-imperialist” or even “socialist” force. As a matter of fact, this regime has nothing to do with “socialism” and everything with capitalism, imperialism and totalitarian bonapartism! Those “left-wing” parties which side with this regime against the people are counterrevolutionary enemies of the international working class.

9. It is also worth pointing out that China’s reactionary Lockdown policy is only the most consistent and most brutal version of a policy which has been supported since early 2020 by nearly the whole reformist and centrist left. As we demonstrated in various documents, many of these forces – including various pseudo-“Trotskyist” groups – have openly called for a world-wide “Zero COVID” policy. Often, they explicitly praised China as a model! The mass protests against such a policy demonstrate that such “left-wing” parties are thoroughly reactionary.

10. The RCIT calls socialists to join forces in supporting for anti-Lockdown and anti-bonapartist popular protests. We support health measures that really serve to confront Covid and other diseases, but we never support policies that, in the name of health, serve to restrict freedoms and impose authoritarian regimes. The general orientation of the WHO and the capitalist governments was not to defend health, but to use Covid as an excuse to defend the capitalist system, which is going through the worst crisis in its history. We combine such an approach with an internationalist and socialist perspective and fight for the creation of a *Revolutionary World Party*.

*International Bureau of the RCIT*

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

## Books of the RCIT

### Michael Pröbsting: *The COVID-19 Global Counterrevolution*

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

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

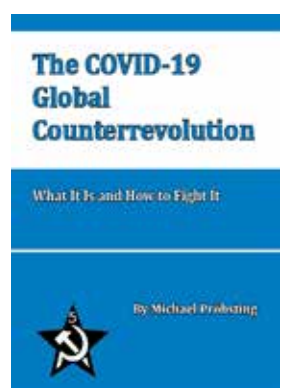
In addition, there is a wave of anti-democratic attacks of a scale which has not been seen in the imperialist countries since 1945. This has triggered a global turn towards Chauvinist State Bonapartism and the creation of a monstrous Leviathan-like state machinery.

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

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

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

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



Published by the Revolutionary Communist Internationalist Tendency

# China Protests: The Anti-Lockdown Program of University Students

## A Strong Confirmation of the Marxists' Opposition against the Lockdown Policy

By Michael Pröbsting, International Secretary of the Revolutionary Communist International Tendency (RCIT), 30.11.2022

The current wave of mass protests in China against the regime's repressive Lockdown policy are a crucial event not only for the country but also globally. As we stated in a recently published declaration, the RCIT fully supports this popular rebellion which has spread to numerous cities including the most important metropolises like Beijing, Shanghai, Nanjing, Chengdu, or Chongqing.<sup>1</sup>

These protests are a powerful confirmation of our intransigent opposition against the capitalist Lockdown policy which was primarily driven not by health-related considerations but rather by political and economic interest of the ruling class.<sup>2</sup>

The uprising in China shows once more that the workers and oppressed despise the totalitarian restrictions – in contrast to the reactionary Lockdown Left which shamefully supported these measures since spring 2020.

At this place we will neither repeat to explain our program against the *COVID Counterrevolution* nor will we discuss the disastrous policy of the Lockdown Left.<sup>3</sup> Here we will rather focus on a highly interesting set of demands which has been raised by a group of 40 students at the prestigious Peking University a few days ago.

In a widely-circulated statement, they criticize that the Lockdown and "Zero COVID" policy of the Xi regime which makes life increasingly difficult for people: "*Patients or mothers are denied timely medical treatment because they cannot provide their nucleic acid results, residents and students are forcibly transferred and quarantined without their knowledge, and doors are blocked so that people have nowhere to go or even lose their lives in the event of an accident.*"<sup>4</sup> They state that because of these results the official policy is "*becoming more and more unpopular*".

Consequently, the call for an end of the reactionary Lockdown and "Zero COVID" policy. Concretely, the raise the following demands:

*"Therefore, we hereby call for:*

1. *To avoid the abuse of public power, all regional quarantine blockades should be stopped to ensure that all people in communities, villages, units and schools can enter and leave freely;*

2. *Abolish technical means to monitor the whereabouts of citizens, such as pass codes and "jiankang bao" cell phone tracking app. Stop considering the spread of the epidemic as the responsibility of certain individuals or institutions. Devote resources to long-term work such as vaccine, drug development and hospital construction;*

3. *Implement voluntary nucleic acid testing and voluntary quarantine for undiagnosed and asymptomatic individuals;*

4. *Liberalize restrictions on the expression of public opinion and allow suggestions and criticism of specific implementation problems in different regions;*

5. *Make truthful disclosures of infection data, including the number of infected people, the death rate, long sequelae rate, to eliminate epidemic panic during the transition."*

The RCIT has called since the very beginning of the COVID Counterrevolution in spring 2020 for an end of the quarantine measures for the population (irrespective if

they are infected or not), of the restriction of movement and of the mass surveillance by the capitalist state. We also called for social measures (e.g. full payment of wages for infected people forced to stay at home) and for health-oriented measures like the expansion of the public health sector and the planned development of drugs or vaccination not by capitalist corporations but by public health institutions under workers and popular control.<sup>5</sup>

The demands raised by the students at the Peking University – like similar democratic anti-Lockdown demands which became popular at mass demonstrations in Europe last year – show that the spontaneous response of the rebellious masses goes into a revolutionary direction. They fully confirm the Marxist program which the RCIT and other authentic socialists have defended in the last three years! And they ridicule the opportunist Lockdown Left which supported the bonapartist policy of the capitalist state or even praised China as a model and called for more draconic restrictions for the people!

### Footnotes

1 RCIT: China: Popular Rebellion against Lockdowns and "Zero COVID", 28 November 2022, <https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/asia/china-popular-rebellion-against-lockdowns-and-zero-covid/>; see also Juan Giglio: Defensores de cuarentenas y pases sanitarios apoyan la lucha de chinos contra cuarentenas ¿Doble vara o una realidad que liquidó sus argumentos? <https://convergenciadecombate.blogspot.com/2022/11/defensores-de-cuarentenas-y-pases.html>

2 The RCIT has published more than 100 pamphlets, essays, articles and statements plus a book on the COVID Counterrevolution which are all compiled at a special sub-page on our website: <https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/global/col-lection-of-articles-on-the-2019-corona-virus/>.

3 For our latest article on the Lockdown Left see: Michael Pröbsting: Protests against "Zero COVID" in China: An Embarrassment for the Lockdown Left. The popular rebellion against the COVID Counterrevolution refutes the analysis and program of the opportunist left (with Alan Woods' IMT as an example), 30 November 2022, <https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/global/china-protests-and-lockdown-left/>

4 Translated and published by David Cowhig: 2022: Peking U Students on "Epidemic Prevention and Control" (Draft) and Tsinghua U Alumni Statement, 11/27.11.2022, <https://gaodawei.wordpress.com/2022/11/27/2022-peking-u-students-on-epidemic-prevention-and-control-draft-and-tsinghua-u-alumni-statement/>. All quotes are from this document if not indicated otherwise.

5 RCIT: A Revolutionary Action Program to fight COVID-19! Workers and Oppressed: Don't trust the State of the Rich and Powerful! Trust only Yourselves! April 2020, <https://www.thecommunists.net/rcit/health-program-covid19/>; see also: ALS: A Marxist approach to the international mobilizations against the authoritarian health restrictions, February 2022, [https://www.thecommunists.net/home/espa%C3%B1ol/una-aproximaci%C3%B3n-marxista-a-las-movilizaciones-internacionales-contras-las-restricciones-sanitarias-autoritarias/#anker\\_1](https://www.thecommunists.net/home/espa%C3%B1ol/una-aproximaci%C3%B3n-marxista-a-las-movilizaciones-internacionales-contras-las-restricciones-sanitarias-autoritarias/#anker_1)

# The Toll of the COVID Counterrevolution on Children's Health

Commentary by Medina Avdagić (Gunić), Revolutionary Communist International Tendency (RCIT), 14 December 2022

The beginning of the imperialist war against Ukraine, which Putin waged in February this year, became a welcomed distraction for the bourgeois media away from the Corona pandemic. At this point it seems that the period of the COVID Counterrevolution, the massive Bonapartist attack from the bourgeoisie against the workers and oppressed under the pretext of fighting a pandemic, has come to an end in many parts of the world. The official saga is that the vaccines have helped to defeat the virus. Comrade Michael Pröbsting has already debunked this myth a year ago with his elaborations on excess mortality and mass vaccinations in Europe. <sup>1</sup> Some recent events have proven ones again how important it was to fight the Bonapartist agenda from the very beginning.

Unfortunately for the ruling class and those supporters of the Bonapartist attacks in the centrist and reformist left, the spirits that they called are not so easy to shake off. First, the country which was the vanguard of the Bonapartist counterrevolution, namely China, has faced explosive protests from the masses against their strict pandemic measures. This most consistent Bonapartist of all was scrutinized for its lockdowns from the very same Western sources which praised those very same measures in the period of 2020 and 2021. Moreso, those centrists who praised a Zero COVID strategy or at least supported all Bonapartist measures during the COVID Counterrevolution suddenly became either very silent about it or showed some serious chutzpah by condemning the very same Bonapartist measures they had cheered before.

At this point, I will not repeat the arguments in the countless statements, articles and essays which the RCIT has published from the very first moment against the Bonapartist attacks. <sup>2</sup> Further, readers of this article are invited to look on our recent elaborations on the protests in China. <sup>3</sup> Instead, I will focus on another djinn that left the bottle and is hunting the cheerleaders of Bonapartism.

## Which viruses have truly been dangerous for children? (Spoiler Alarm: Not Corona)

In these very days and weeks, a so-called "Tripledemic" has its toll on children's health in many countries of the world. The combination of influenza (the flu) and respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) in addition to the still circulating corona virus is bringing pediatricians and hospitals to their limits. In addition, the rhinovirus (common cold) causing similar symptoms has its season too. Contrary to the saga of the dangerous COVID pandemic, the other two viruses of the "Tripledemic" are by far more harmful and dangerous for children. This is especially true for the youngest ones in the age group of 0-60 months.

By the end of 2021, the WHO has stated that approximately 1,902 children in this age group died from Corona in the year of 2020. <sup>4</sup> The same source also stated that 2,231,276 children have been infected with Corona. To put these number in perspective: the estimated number of children under the age of 5 years living that year was nearly 680,000,000. <sup>5</sup> The overall death toll for children that ages is very high with 5,000,000 worldwide in 2020, a shocking

0.7% death toll far too high for such a young age. <sup>6</sup> The reasons for this high number were preventable diseases like pneumonia, diarrhea, and malaria.

However, virus diseases like influenza and RSV are also far more deadly for children than Corona. "According to a meta-analysis published in 2011, a total of one million severe, acute, lower respiratory infections and between 28,000 and 111,500 deaths may be attributable annually to influenza-associated infections in children younger than 5 years, with 99% of these deaths occurring in developing countries." <sup>7</sup>

In addition, infections with the respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) caused the death of approximately 118,200 children of this age group in 2019 worldwide. <sup>8</sup> Compared to those two viruses, neither the rhinovirus (common cold) nor Corona can be compared to their severeness. While every dead child is to mourn, the obvious gap in case numbers show how little the COVID pandemic endangered the youngest members of our species and how dangerous the current simultaneous spread of the deadly viruses might become.

This is even more the case since the occurrence of such a combined wave is due to the implemented pandemic measures before. After all, most children have not been in close contact with others during the last two autumns and winters and did not spread the usual seasonal viruses.

## The danger of isolation

Many doctors have argued that being isolated for a year or two without risking any sort of virus infection will not have any impact on the immune system of people. Because of the short span of immunity after an infection with the common cold, the flu and similar virus diseases, our adult immune system does not miss crucial training if not exposed to those viruses during a limited amount of time. Those argumentations fitted the whole concept of isolation and "social distancing" as well as the force of masks and hygiene measures. While it is extremely challenging to truly estimate how easy or difficult it is for adult immune systems to face several different viruses after it was not used to that kind of exposure for two years, the answer for the child immune systems is obvious.

It is general knowledge that the bodies of children are different compared to adult bodies. Muscles, organs in general and the brain in specific as well as hormones are developing with a different pace and under different rules than for adults. This is also true for the immune system that is in full training and learning mode during childhood. Stopping the training of the immune system for two years while the child (hopefully) does not stop to develop, only to shock it with sudden exposure to more potent and combined waves of already aggressive viruses is a guarantee for disaster. This is especially true for children who were forced to stay at home a lot, not even being exposed to the microbial exposure of nature in a decent number of hours per day. It is only very recently that scientists understood the connection between super clean houses (i.e., lack of exposure of microbes to children) and the development of allergies, autoimmune diseases, and asthma.



In 2021, the midst of hysteria around the Corona pandemic, the British newspaper Guardian published an article stating: *“Our immune system is a learning system, just like the brain,” Rook says, explaining that the system has two branches. We are born with an “innate” immune system encoded in our genes, but this is “tuned” by our “adaptive” immune system, which collects data from the microbes around us to determine which are safe and which are dangerous. Without the right data, the immune system starts attacking things it shouldn’t, causing allergies, asthma and autoimmune diseases (when the immune system targets your body’s own tissues). [...] “A child on the 24th floor of a tower block is simply not meeting the appropriate microbiota,” Rook says, explaining that staying indoors away from the natural world and other people limits the microbes encountered, as does having an unvaried diet (which he fears may be a problem for children going without school meals). “It is worrying.”* Byram W Bride is an immunologist at the University of Guelph in Canada. *Early on during global lockdowns, Bridle wasn’t too concerned for children’s immune development because, after all, kids often get stuck at home for a few weeks when they’re ill or over the summer holidays. “But the issue is now, we are over a year and counting,” Bridle says. “We’re talking about a big chunk of development of the immune system. So it’s hard to imagine that this cannot have a negative impact on our children.” Like Rook, Bridle worries about a rise in immunological disorders caused by lockdown limiting children’s exposure to the natural world – even before the pandemic, scientists documented that “those who grow up in large urban centres tend to have a much higher incidence of allergies, asthma and autoimmune diseases”. Bridle explains that while the immune system doesn’t fully mature until adolescence, birth to age six is the critical period for its development. [...] Rook says as well as allergies and autoimmune diseases, poor immunoregulation can cause chronic inflammation which can lead to diabetes, obesity, and cardiovascular diseases. “It’s a pretty impressive list.” [...] Let’s take a moment to press the big “don’t panic” button in our brains. While children’s microbial exposure may have been limited by lockdown, it remains to be seen just how much. [...] It may yet be a few years before we know whether the children of lockdown have higher rates of immunological disorders.”<sup>9</sup>*

How ridiculous is the fact that under pretext of saving lives (namely the lives of those over the age of 65 years in the rich countries), the answer to worries about effects on children was not to panic but just to wait and see if the little ones will develop huge health problems causing millions of extremely premature deaths for future generations or not. After all, asthma causes already the death of nearly half a million people every year; and diabetes, obesity, and cardiovascular diseases together cause the death of 27.4 million people per year.

Luckily, the Guardian advised us not to panic. Why should we have panicked? Well, obviously because the risks for asthma, obesity, diabetes, and cardiovascular diseases were increased for all living children for decades to come. And all this took place against the background of draconic lockdown measures and the enforcement of experimental vaccines.

However, we do not need to wait and see if and how children will be negatively affected as future adults. Already today, the so-called “Tripledeemic” will have its toll on children’s life.

Neither the bourgeoisie, nor those praising Bonapartist attacks during the COVID Counterrevolution in the centrist

and reformist circles, want to deal with the issue anymore.

The RCIT will fulfill its duty to analyze, explain and fight the consequences of these counterrevolutionary developments. After all, we did so from the very first moment of the COVID Counterrevolution. Being an authentic Marxist is nice. I can only recommend it.

### Footnotes

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## Our Solidarity is with the Ukrainian People!

### The working class of Russia and all the oppressed need to organize to stop the war and the occupation of the Ukraine

*Joint Declaration of the Anti-Imperialist Conference of Revolutionary Socialists in Russia, 26 November 2022*

The aggressive war of Russian imperialism against the Ukrainian people has been going on for nine months now. Hundreds of thousands of people on both sides have already been killed, millions of Ukrainians have been forced to flee from the Russian military, violence, torture and daily missile terror. Ukrainian cities, industries, infrastructure, agricultural products have been destroyed, plundered or captured. The blame for these crimes lies entirely with the Putin regime, which no longer has any right to exist and must be dismantled.

Simultaneously with external aggression, the Russian dictatorship, established in the interests of the oligarchs and big capitalists, is increasingly oppressing the peoples and the multinational working class within the country itself. It is only a matter of time before peoples dissatisfied with their national destiny will begin to revolt against Russian imperial nationalism and against local princelings like Kadyrov, who faithfully serve the Kremlin Bonaparte. The liberation of the peoples of Russia is inextricably linked with a new proletarian revolution against the reactionary dictatorship, imperialism and capitalism. Only such a revolution can bring freedom from national oppression and imperial neglect to all the peoples of the country, as well as independence to those peoples who desire it.

In an attempt to consolidate the most conservative and reactionary sections of society around itself, the regime uses all possible chauvinists and obscurantists to propagate war, from Strelkov to Kadyrov, and unties the hands of state-funded and oligarch-funded paramilitary formations like Prigozhin's Wagner PMC. Putin's war party today demands more and more military tributes. Mobilization not only devours our sons, brothers and husbands, but also bleeds the economy, crushed by sanctions and the consequences of the incompetent policies of the Putin regime in previous decades. People are sent to the front even without basic protection, reducing the already small chances of survival in this senseless meat grinder. It is not surprising that the soldiers begin to riot throughout the country. These are the sparks of a large-scale social explosion that lies ahead of us.

The working class of Russia is paying for the war not only with their own lives, but also with a decrease in the standard of living in general: a drop in wages, which will be devoured by inflation more and more quickly, a redistribution of the budget for the war, which promises even greater destruction of the education and health systems. The war becomes a pretext for more and more repressions, the final

destruction of freedom of speech, of assembly and of organization. In defending its power, the regime is stepping up its reactionary propaganda of division and pitting, exacerbating the already difficult situation of youth, women, LGBTQ people, internal and external migrants. Solidarity and collective struggle against war and any attacks on the standard of living, on any part of the working class – this must become the basis for organizing revolutionary forces capable of challenging the ruling class and its system.

The reaction of various political forces to the war inside Russia once again revealed the treacherous nature of all the self-proclaimed “communist” parties: Zyuganov's Communist Party, Tyulkin's RKRK, and other Stalinist groups. They rushed to defend Russian imperialism and will perish with it. Other forces that call themselves Marxists and internationalists refuse to recognize the just, national liberation character of the war on the part of Ukraine and thereby help Putin to fool the masses. Their whole analysis is nothing more than a retelling, in a “Marxist” way, of the regime propaganda about the war of the West against Russia. It is not surprising that such groups now cling to the coat-tails and work with Zyuganovites.

Naturally, one cannot deny the growing confrontation between the two largest imperialist powers, the United States and China, which may lead to a new world war in the future. But at the moment, the contradictions between them have not yet reached the point where war necessarily follows to resolve them. On the contrary, it is this situation in the world, where the two biggest predators are still sufficiently intertwined, when there are no clearly defined blocs opposing each other, that opens up opportunities for independent actions by such imperialists as Russia, who are trying to use the current world situation for their own strengthening, waging wars of conquest and manoeuvring between world gendarmes.

Understanding all this, we – internationalist and anti-imperialist socialists from different organizations – are joining forces in this period of the deepest crisis of the system of world capitalism and Putin's Bonapartism. We will act in support of the liberation struggle of the Ukrainian people, the working class and the oppressed peoples in Russia. We call on all those who agree with the main ideas of our declaration to join us in our great tasks!

*\* Down with the war! For the immediate and unconditional withdrawal of Russian troops from the territory of Ukraine!*

*\* No support for the war under the pretext of “self-determination of Donbass”!*

## Comunismo Revolucionario

### Spanish-language Journal of the RCIT

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

\* For the abolition of mobilization and the immediate demobilization of all those called up after September 21, for the full right of all military personnel to freely refuse to participate in hostilities!

\* For the abolition of all repressive laws punishing anti-war agitation and refusal to participate in the war!

\* For the organization of anti-war committees at workplaces, universities, schools, districts and the army to conduct agitation and prepare mass demonstrations and strikes against the war and the bonapartist Putin regime!

\* Protect the Ukraine from Putin's invasion! Support for the liberation struggle of the Ukrainian people, including the right to receive weapons wherever possible!

\* Down with national oppression, protect the right of self-determination of the peoples of Russia, up to secession and independence!

\* For intransigent revolutionary defeatism - down with Russian imperialism in every conflict!

\* No support for any great power in the East or in the West! Dissolve all military blocs, such as the CSTO, ANZUS or NATO!

\* No sanctions against the working class. Yes to workers' sanctions against Putin's military and oligarchs!

\* Down with the Putin regime! Power in Russia - to democratically elected representatives from all sections of the working class and oppressed peoples! For socialist Russia with a socialized economy based on workers' democracy and democratic planning!

Socialist Tendency

Socialist Alternative

Former members of the Marxist Tendency

## Russia: Joint Anti-Imperialist Initiative of Revolutionary Socialists

### Report: Conference of socialists from different organisations agrees to coordinate forces in the struggle against Russian imperialism and the Putin regime

On November 26, an anti-imperialist conference of revolutionary socialists was held. At the meeting, representatives from *Socialist Alternative*, the *Socialist Tendency* and ex-members of the *International Marxist Tendency* discussed the situation in the world and in Russia, the program of struggle against Putin's war and possible formats for common actions.

In addition to a joint declaration (see [https://www.thecommunists.net/rcit/joint-anti-imperialist-initiative-of-revolutionary-socialists-in-russia/#anker\\_3](https://www.thecommunists.net/rcit/joint-anti-imperialist-initiative-of-revolutionary-socialists-in-russia/#anker_3)), it was decided to organize a *Coordination Council*, which will facilitate collaboration

between the organisations and help to unite efforts for joint struggle where possible. Comrades agreed on a united front format, which can be formulated briefly as: we march separately, we strike together. All parties agreed that it is necessary for organizations and groups to collaborate without hiding existing differences on other issues, but to openly discuss them, if necessary, in a friendly discussion. We call on everyone who shares the ideas and program set out in the declaration to join us and help develop our common struggle in the workplace, in universities, in schools and in the regions to end war, imperialism and capitalism!

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

## The Ukraine War and the Inter-Imperialist Rivalry

Check out more than 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/>



## *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



## Peru, Decadence and Political Crisis

*Statement of the Revolutionary Communist International Tendency, 11.12.2022*

In the book, the 18th Brumaire of Louis Bonaparte, Marx argues, paraphrasing Hegel, that history repeats itself, but adds that it first happens as a tragedy and then as a farce. The events of last week in Peru confirmed Marx's claim with astonishing accuracy.

*"Last Wednesday Pedro Castillo announced through a televised message the establishment of an emergency government, the temporary closure of Congress, the call for elections to elect a new Congress with constituent powers, the imposition of a curfew and the intervention of the Judiciary. Castillo's message cannot but recall the Fujimorazo of April 1992. At that time, President Alberto Fujimori, also through a television message, basically announced the same thing that Castillo did this last week, invoking – through a message much more extensive, by the way – the same causes."* (Profile 10/12/2022)

The difference was that Castillo failed to line up the army behind the coup and ended up falling, entangled in his own net. Peru is a country in permanent political crisis, with a lean economy that pushes this type of critical situation. Precisely for this reason, the now deposed president, came to the government as part of that crisis of representation, which gave rise to a process of total and absolute exhaustion of the traditional bosses' parties, which is a clear and forceful expression of the exhaustion of the political regime "democratic" of Peru.

The reason for the different result is that Fujimori represented the most reactionary sector of the oligarchy and, therefore, could count on the support of key institutions of the bourgeois state. In contrast, Castillo is a "pink" populist bourgeois politician. He won the elections because of his track record in the popular mass organizations and because of the support of an important sector of them. His electoral program included progressive social and democratic demands with reactionary anti-women and anti-LGBT positions.

However, once he came to power, Castillo did everything possible to prove himself as a competent representative of the ruling class. For this reason, despite not coming from those parties and from the traditional and rickety Peruvian bourgeoisie, upon occupying the executive power, he immediately became the business administrator of that bourgeoisie and, above all, of the large multinationals, of which the Peruvian capitalists are subsidiaries.

That is what he demonstrated when trying to maximize the profits of the big mining companies, with the tax reform and with the repression. This once again revealed the pro-business nature of the government, which through Supreme Decree 042-2022-PCM, made the company's request official. In its first article it decrees that "the Police will maintain control of internal order, with the support of the Armed Forces." In this way, and just as he has been doing with the members of the peasant commune of Torata-Moquegua, Castillo appeals to open repression to contain popular demands and ingratiate himself with the interests of the big mining businessmen. (Left Diary 04/28/2022)

However, and despite Castillo's efforts to guarantee capitalist governance, his own weakness, the lack of large political and union structures that can sustain him, and without the support of the mass movement – which voted for him to reject Keiko Fujimori – ended up falling, impris-

oned in the fight of cliques (of which he is a part) that seek to do business from the State.

The state bureaucracy is one of the central businesses of Peru's weak capitalist class, which is why the fight to manage the government's springs, which is so open, has generated permanent instability since the last century until now. For this reason, and in the midst of the world economic crisis and the beginning of a new wave of workers' and popular struggles, Peruvian instability will continue despite the bourgeois attempts to stop it.

Castillo's overthrow is an attempt by the oligarchy to regain political power under its full control. In their eyes, Castillo suffered not only from being an incompetent administrator of the political affairs of the ruling class, but also from his sporadic attempts to regain popularity by repeating slogans from his electoral platform (such as the creation of a Constituent Assembly).

The revolutionary left must not remain passive in the face of the current popular protests against the overthrow of Castillo. We do not lend any political support to such a bourgeois "pink" populist politician. But we share the sentiment of progressive sections of the masses that the overthrow is an attempt by the oligarchy to consolidate power in its hands.

The task is to intervene in such protests by supporting the resistance against the offensive of the oligarchy without expressing any political support for Castillo or his administration (which included also various completely reactionary and obscurantist figures). We don't advocate political support for Castillo but rather for practical resistance against the offensive of the oligarchy. In such a struggle, it is decisive to advocate democratic demands.

From the revolutionary left, along with repudiating the government that has just been installed, without any democratic mechanism to legitimize it, we must support the struggle of the workers and the people, so that it is the masses (through a victorious general strike) who decide what government and what "model" country you want. That could happen, from the advancement of the elections – which this government denies – or from the convocation of a Constituent Assembly, which Castillo promised in his campaign.

But, whatever the mechanism chosen by those below, it must be the workers, with their democratic organizations, who guarantee the control and regulation of these votes, because, as they have demonstrated throughout the recent history of Peru, the bourgeois cliques are enemies of the popular will, enemies of the democracy they say they defend.

Meanwhile, we are going to continue insisting that the only fundamental way out, capable of resolving the elementary demands of the poor people of Peru, is to throw them all out and impose a workers' and popular government that begins the path towards socialism. A government of these characteristics should, in the first place, expropriate the large monopolistic companies and nationalize commerce and banking, to put them to work, under the control of their employees, at the service of an opposite economic emergency plan.

# The War Crime of the Deportation of a Palestinian Human Right Activist by Israel

by Yossi Schwartz, ISL (RCIT Section in Israel/Occupied Palestine), 20.12.2022

You have to be a real stupid or a hypocrite not to know that the political and the military leaders of the Zionist apartheid state are committing war crimes. The latest war crime of Israel is the deportation of the human right activist Salah Hamouri, 39 years old from East Jerusalem occupied in 1967 and annexed a few years later. In July 1980, the Zionist parliament – the Knesset passed the Jerusalem Law as part of the country's Basic Law, that declared unified Jerusalem the capital of Israel, formalizing its effective annexation. The United Nations Security Council ruled the law is “null and void” in United Nations Security Council Resolution 478. This has not moved Israel.

Prior to his deportation Salah Hamouri was in prison in administrative detention on suspicion of participation in terror activities due to his alleged affiliation with the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) group, but he was not charged or convicted in the proceedings against him. As a matter of fact, he was activist in the Palestinian human rights organization Addameer, that defends the rights of Palestinian prisoners which was deemed by Israel without a proof to be a terror organization, together with several other NGOs, in October 2021. Addameer – along with the UN, several European nations and a number of Israeli human rights groups – have all strongly rejected the designation. This also has not moved Israel.

Administrative detention is a device the Zionist state uses to put people Israel cannot prove that they violate the Zionist laws in jail. When the State of Israel was formed in 1948, the Provisional Council of State adopted the Law and Administration Ordinance, which included the adoption of the Mandate Law that governed Palestine during the period of the British Mandate. In that framework Is-

raeli law inherited Regulations 108 and 111 of the Defense Emergency Regulations – 1945. These regulations authorized the High Commissioner and Military Commander to issue a detention order against a person for purposes of preserving public safety, state security, or public order. The Detention Act, enacted in 1979, replaced the arrangements under Regulations 108 and 111.

During the Zionist para-military organization attacks against the British mandate after the government in London issued a white paper that restricted Jewish immigration to Palestine and promised independence with Arab majority in Palestine, it issued the law of 1945 emergency. “A set of regulations enacted by the High Commissioner for Palestine, under his authority under the Palestine (Defence) Order in Council, 1937, and published in the Palestine Gazette on 27 September 1945. The purpose of the regulations was to give the Mandatory government and security forces additional authority to act against Jewish and Arab underground organizations. They enabled the government to put restrictions on movement and free speech, establish a military court system, expropriate and demolish houses, place suspects under administrative detention and more. The regulations remain in effect in Israel and the Palestinian Territories under Israeli law, apart from several that were repealed over the years, with the application of some dependent on the official existence of a state of emergency, that has been continuously declared since 1948” [1]

The emergency act of 1945 when it was applied to the Zionists, “of course, explains the attack on them by the Jewish lawyers in 1946. At the 1946 lawyers’ conference, Dov Yosef stated: “With regard to the security regulations the question is: Will we all be subject to official terrorism?” At the same meeting, Yaakov Shimshon Shapira proclaimed: The regime built in Palestine on the De-

## Books of the RCIT

### Yossi Schwartz: Palestine and Zionism

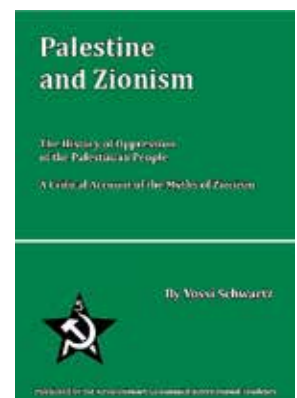
#### The History of Oppression of the Palestinian People. A Critical Account of the Myths of Zionism

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/>



*fense Regulations has no parallel in any civilized nation. Even in Nazi Germany there were no such laws*" [2]. However, with typical narrow-minded nationalist hypocrisy; notwithstanding these attacks, the Emergency Regulations were incorporated into the legal system of the newly born "Home of the Jewish People," supposedly the realization of the prophets' dream of justice and equality. Thus, the Zionist morality succeeded in reconciling "Nazi" methods with the prophets' dream [3]. Since the founding of the Zionist state, these: "Administrative detention is incarceration without trial or charge, alleging that a person plans to commit a future offense. It has no time limit, and the evidence on which it is based is not disclosed. Israel employs this measure extensively and routinely, and has used it to hold thousands of Palestinians for lengthy periods of time. While detention orders are formally reviewed, this is merely a semblance of judicial oversight, as detainees cannot reasonably mount a defense against undisclosed allegations. Nevertheless, courts uphold the vast majority of orders" [4]

By November 12 this year 850 Palestinians were held in administrative detention by Israel, the highest record since 2015. "Deporting a protected person from occupied territory is a grave breach of the Fourth Geneva Convention, constituting a war crime," UN human rights spokesman Jeremy Laurence said in a statement, referring to East Jerusalem.

Indeed article 49 of the Fourth Geneva Convention states: "Individual or mass forcible transfers, as well as deportations of protected persons from occupied territory to the territory of the Occupying Power or to that of any other country, occupied or not, are prohibited, regardless of their motive" [5]

"On January 1, 2022, the nearly 500 administrative detainees held in Israeli prisons at the time launched a collective boycott of military courts and called on lawyers not to attend court sessions nor to engage in judicial processes related to their detention. This boycott, which ended on June 27, 2022, is a continuation of decades of Palestinian struggle against Israel's carceral policies — including through hunger strikes, demonstrations against prison authorities, and certain forms of cultural production from captivity" [6]

Michael Lynk, a UN special rapporteur for the situation of human rights in the Palestinian Territory occupied since 1967 stated:

"Administrative detention is an anathema in any democratic society that follows the rule of law," Lynk said. "When the democratic state arrests and detains someone, it is required to charge the person, present its evidence in an open trial, allow for a full defense and try to persuade an impartial judiciary of its allegations beyond a reasonable doubt." "... Administrative detention, in contrast, allows a state to arrest and detain a person without charges, without a trial, without knowing the evidence against her or him, and without a fair judicial review," he said. "It is a penal system that is ripe for abuse and maltreatment." International law allows a state to use administrative detention only in emergencies, and only if a fair hearing can be provided where the detainee can challenge the allegations against her or him. In an occupation, Article 78 of the Fourth Geneva Convention only permits an occupying power to employ administrative detention "for imperative reasons of security. (...) Israel also regularly incarcerates its Palestinian administrative detainees in Israeli prisons, a violation of Article 76 of the Fourth Geneva Convention, which says protected people under occupation should be detained in the occupied territory (...) I also call upon Israel to abolish its practice of administrative detention, release those detainees it presently holds, and strictly follow international law in the application of its security operations" Lynk said" [7]

Israel has been regularly criticized by human rights organizations for its promiscuous use of administrative detention. Even France denounced the deportation:

"France on Sunday condemned Israel's deportation of French-Palestinian lawyer Salah Hamouri. "We condemn today the Israeli authorities' decision, against the law, to expel Salah Hamouri to France," the French foreign ministry said in a statement. The French foreign ministry said Paris had been "fully mobilized, including at the highest level of the state, to ensure Salah Hamouri's rights are respected, that he benefits from all possible assistance and that he can lead a normal life in Jerusalem, where he was born, resides and wishes to live". France also took several steps to communicate to the Israeli authorities in the clearest way its opposition to this expulsion of a Palestinian resident of East Jerusalem, an occupied territory under the Fourth Geneva Convention," the statement read." [8]

The Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (ICC), where war crimes can be prosecuted, follows the definition set out by the 1949 Geneva Conventions, which were ratified by 196 states.

This definition includes acts of: willful killing, torture or inhuman treatment, willfully causing great suffering or serious injury, extensive destruction and appropriation of property which is not justified by military necessity, compelling a prisoner of war to serve in the forces of a hostile state, willfully depriving a prisoner of war of the rights of fair and regular trial, unlawful deportation or transfer or unlawful confinement.

Nevertheless, no punitive measures have been imposed by the imperialist states which love to present themselves as champions of freedoms while in the real world their hands are full of the blood of the workers and the poor peasants. They may pay lip service and say that what Israel does is not very nice, but they will stand with Israel as long as Israel will stand in the front line of imperialist control of the region and help rotten local corrupted rulers to oppress their own people.

As a matter of fact, the International Criminal Court (ICC) has never prosecuted leaders from the imperialist state but only leaders from the semi colonies like for example Jean-Pierre Bemba – President of the Mouvement de Libération du Congo (MLC) and commander-in-chief of the MLC's military branch, Armée de Libération du Congo (ALC) – in the Central African Republic. Sometimes the ICC issues warnings for arrest for war crimes but is unable to arrest the war criminal. For example, the ICC issued two arrest warrants in 2009 and 2010 against the former Sudanese President Omar al-Bashir for war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide. He was overthrown in 2019, however, he remains free and at large.

Thus, if you believe in Pinocchio that became a living child you can believe that the imperialist institutions will bring justice to the working class and the oppressed nations.

#### Footnotes

[1] <https://ecf.org.il/issues/issue/1471>

[2] Dov Yosef became Israel's first Minister of Justice; his judicial adviser was Shapira. [3] The Other Israel chapter 8 The Emergency Regulations

[4] [https://www.btselem.org/topic/administrative\\_detention](https://www.btselem.org/topic/administrative_detention)

[5] International Humanitarian Law Databases

[6] <https://al-shabaka.org/briefs/the-prison-intifada-supporting-palestinian-administrative-detainees/>

[7] <https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2020/10/un-expert-calls-israel-end-practice-administrative-detention-and-immediately>

[8] <https://www.timesofisrael.com/france-slams-israel-for-deporting-palestinian-over-alleged-terror-against-the-law>



## Iran, Türkiye, Syria: Hands Off the Kurdish People!

**Against any invasion by the Turkish or Iranian army! Unite the Kurdish struggle for freedom with the popular struggle against the tyranny of Assad and the Mullahs! Drive the Russian and NATO forces out of the Middle East!**

*Statement of the Revolutionary Communist International Tendency (RCIT), 24 November 2022*

1. Since more than two months the reactionary Mullah regime in Iran is shaken by a massive wave of popular protests. This uprising has been triggered by the murder of the young Kurdish woman Jina Amini / Mahsa Amini by the regimes' police. As this uprising has its stronghold in the Kurdish areas, the brutal attempts of the theocratic regime to crush the protests have a strong focus on Kurdish resistance organisations (including those stationed in exile in Iraq).

2. The bonapartist Erdoğan regime in Türkiye threatens to utilise the horrendous terrorist attack in Istanbul on 13 November as a pretext to invade Northern Syria and to crush the Kurdish resistance forces. In fact, the Turkish army did already bomb Kurdish positions in the last days.

3. The *Revolutionary Communist International Tendency* (RCIT) strongly condemns these threats against the Kurdish people. We reiterate our support for the right of national self-determination of the Kurdish people in Iran, Iraq, Türkiye and Syria. We say that if the Kurdish people want to have their own state, socialists will support their desire!

4. We also reiterate our solidarity with the popular uprising in Iran! Down with the Mullah regime! For a workers and poor peasant government based on popular councils and militias!

5. The latest developments are also a powerful confirmation of the criticism of socialists against the pro-imperialist opportunism of the (petty-)bourgeois leadership of Kurdish parties like the PKK/YPG or

Barzani's and Talabani's forces. They have repeatedly collaborated with the U.S. or looked for deals with Russia and the Assad regime. At the same time, the PKK/YPG has refused to support the Arab revolution which began in 2011. This policy has resulted in the isolation of the Kurdish struggle from the Arab masses and in the dependence of support by Great Powers or reactionary regimes.

6. We emphasise that the decades-long heroic struggle of the Kurdish people needs a socialist perspective and an anti-imperialist leadership! Build revolutionary workers parties – nationally and internationally!

*\* Defend the Kurdish people against the aggression by the Turkish or Iranian army!*

*\* For a joint struggle of the Kurdish, Arab, Turkish and Iranian workers and poor peasants!*

*\* National self-determination of the Kurdish people including the right to have their own state!*

*\* Support the uprisings of the Syrian people against the Assad tyranny!*

*\* Victory to the people in Iran – down with the Mullah regime!*

*\* Solidarity with the Palestinian people – long live the Third Intifada! Down with the Zionist state! For a free, red Palestine from the River to the Sea!*

*\* Down with Russian and U.S. imperialism! Drive the Russian and Western forces out of the Middle East!*

*\* For a socialist federation of workers and poor peasants republics in the Middle East!*

*International Bureau of the RCIT*



### 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 programmatic 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*

## The Zionists are not Welcome in Qatar

by Yossi Schwartz, ISL (RCIT Section in Israel/Occupied Palestine), 28.11.2022

The Abraham Accords is a series of treaties normalizing diplomatic relations between Israel, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Bahrain, Sudan, and Morocco, facilitated by the U.S. Administration] between August and December 2020. The agreements were called "The Abraham Accords" in honor of Abraham – the patriarch of Judaism, Christianity, and Islam.

These rotten agreements change a decade that had consistently linked prospects for Israeli peace with Arab states to a resolution of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. The agreements of 2020 reflect a significant improvement for Israel's strategic position in the region and the open betrayal of the Arab local rulers, servants of imperialism, of the Palestinian people.

On September 15, 2020, the UAE signed a normalization agreement with Israel. The same day, Bahrain signed a declaration of peace with Israel. One month later the two signed a joint declaration of diplomatic relations with Israel. On December 22, 2020, Morocco signed a declaration of renewal of diplomatic relations with Israel.

The Gulf state signed the Abraham Accords not only because of their hostility to Iran, but to be assisted by Israel against a new round of the Arab revolution. In addition, these accords serve the interest of American imperialism. The UAE wanted access to advanced American weapons systems that the accords with Israel can bring.

One of the central goals of the Israel Chief of Staff of the Zionist army Aviv Kochavi's visit in July to Morocco was to advance arms deals. Morocco has purchased military equipment from Israel worth \$1.2 billion over the past two years, and Israel intends to double this amount, according to a report in Israel's Yedioth Ahronoth by military analyst Alex Fishman [1]. In April 2019, a court rejected an appeal against the prison sentences imposed on Hirak ("movement") activists, some of whom had received heavy sentences. Major setbacks regarding freedom of speech and civil liberties have also manifested in the arrest of journalists, artists and human rights activists on various charges, which are a reflection of the continued use of the judicial system against critics and independent actors.

*"Morocco needs these arms to crush the people of Western Sahara. Formerly a Spanish colony, the territory of Western Sahara was invaded and occupied by Moroccan and Mauritanian troops in 1975 following what has come to be known as the Madrid Accords, when Spain unilaterally withdrew from its colony. Through this act, both countries violated the 1975 International Court of Justice (ICJ) declaration that neither Morocco nor Mauritania has territorial sovereignty over the Western Sahara. The United Nations did not recognize the Madrid Accords, and a 2002 opinion of the UN Office of Legal Affairs made clear that colonizing powers cannot simply hand over the keys of one country to another. In 1976, the Polisario Front, recognized by the United Nations as the only legitimate representative of the Sahrawi people, announced (from exile in Algeria) the establishment of the Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic (SADR) as an independent state."* [2]

*"On an official visit to Morocco in June 2022, Interior Minister Ayelet Shaked said on June 21, "Israel supports the sovereignty of Morocco on the Sahara. We talked about the close relationship*

*between the two countries, and also the joint projects that we can do together"* [3]

*"Foreign Minister Yair Lapid had previously addressed the issue, but in a more general manner. In March, Lapid hosted in the southern Negev region the foreign ministers of the US, Egypt, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain and Morocco, for a first-of-its-kind meeting. After his meeting with Bourita on the sidelines of the Negev summit, Lapid issued a statement saying that the participating countries would work together to counter "attempts to weaken Moroccan sovereignty and territorial integrity."* [4]

*"Israel has sold to Arab countries weapons and military equipment amounting to \$3.5 billion since the signing of the Abraham Accords two years ago. The report pointed out that where Israel sells weapons, it also sells training, maintenance and software modifications."* [5]

So, who are the Anti-Semites that claim that Israel oppresses only the Palestinians? As a matter of fact, Israel has a long record of selling weapons to many regimes that oppress the local population. Sometimes even Jews (see the case of Argentina and the Junta that Israel supported).

However, while the rotten Arab rulers collaborate with Israel against the local population the Arab workers and poor hate the Zionists. *"Many Israelis have claimed to have been met by hostility and hatred at the World Cup in Qatar, with fans refusing to speak to Israeli journalists, waving Palestinian flags in the background of their videos and yelling at them. Moav Vardy, KAN's foreign affairs reporter, was yelled at by a Saudi fan who told him that "You are not welcome here. This is Qatar. This is our country. There is only Palestine; no Israel. Other videos from Qatar show people immediately walking away when they find out the person interviewing them is Israeli. In one particular video, N12's Ohad Hemo begins to interview a group of Lebanese men who then walk away when Hemo tells them he's Israeli. One of them then turns back and asks Hemo what he's doing there and then tells him that Israel doesn't exist. In other videos, people stand behind various Israeli reporters and raise Palestinian flags"* [6]

The Zionists will claim of course that these is a manifestation of Anti-Semitism while in reality it is a healthy expression of hate of the racist oppressors.

*Down with Israeli racism!*

*Break the disgusting Abraham records!*

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

### Footnotes

[1] [www.middleeastmonitor.com/20220723-report-israel-seeks-to-increase-arms-sales-to-arab-countries/](http://www.middleeastmonitor.com/20220723-report-israel-seeks-to-increase-arms-sales-to-arab-countries/)

[2] <https://arabcenterdc.org/resource/the-polisario-front-morocco-and-the-western-sahara-conflict/>

[3] <https://www.al-monitor.com/originals/2022/06/israeli-minister-backs-moroccan-claims-western-sahara-sovereignty>

[4] Ibid

[5] [www.middleeastmonitor.com/20220723-report-israel-seeks-to-increase-arms-sales-to-arab-countries](http://www.middleeastmonitor.com/20220723-report-israel-seeks-to-increase-arms-sales-to-arab-countries)

[6] Jerusalem post 27.11/22

# Kosova: Down with Serbian-Chauvinist Provocations!

## Time to Teach Serbian Chauvinism and Western Imperialism What True Independence and Freedom for the Albanian People means!

*Statement of the Revolutionary Communist International Tendency (RCIT), 15 December 2022*

1. The weekend of 10-11 December 2022 witnessed the biggest escalation in Northern Kosova since a year. Two explosions and an exchange of fire between gunmen and police forces hit the city of Mitrovica. Immediately after the incidents, the Serbian government threatened to send 1,000 police and military officers utilizing Article 4 of the UN Security Council Resolution 1244. This reactionary doctrine was imposed on the Albanian people by Western imperialism in 1999 via the UN. Like the Dayton Agreement for Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH), the S/RES/1244 enables Western imperialist forces, namely the NATO with their KFOR troops, to hold the area under their control and enabled the UNMIK interim government (which was in power until 2008). Likewise, it holds the legal right to grant the Serbian government influence in Kosova.

2. The RCIT supports the Albanian people of Kosova in their effort to fight back any attempts by Serbian chauvinists to gain more control over the Northern areas. At the same time, the RCIT condemns the close alliance between the government of Kosova, its police and military apparatus with the Western imperialist forces of NATO, the U.S., and the European Union. As long as KFOR troops are in Kosova, as long as the corrupt parliament works as a servant to Western imperialism and as long as the imperialist policy of the United Nations is imposed – Kosova is neither truly free nor truly independent. It is the historic task of the workers and oppressed of Kosova to drive the imperialist forces and their lackeys out of its state. It is the task of the workers and oppressed of Europe to support such an attempt by mass actions against the military apparatus of NATO, its KFOR troops and EU forces.

3. The recent incidents are not new to the state of Kosova as time and time again, Serbian nationalists provoke escalations. The seemingly small issue of car license plates serves as a symbol and trigger for attacks on the sovereignty of the Albanian state Kosova. Especially since the beginning of the imperialist war of Putin against the Ukrainian people in February 2022, the Serbian government and likewise their extension in the *Republika Srpska* in BiH fantasize about regaining influence with the help of its big imperialist brother Russia. Hence, every hit that the Ukrainian resistance lands against imperialist Russia is an indirect hit against Serbian chauvinists. Likewise, it is of utter importance that the people of Ukraine learn from the mistakes of both the Albanian and Bosnian resistance.

4. The most important Albanian resistance movement in the 1990s against the Serbian oppression forces – the *Ushtria Çlirimtare e Kosovës* (UÇK) – was pacified and largely transformed into the police force of Kosova which supports and protects the corrupt government, currently under the lead of prime minister Albin Kurti. Its close ties to Western imperialism (similar to the servant status of the Bosnian-Croatian Federation in BiH) puts the people of Kosova, who have fought so heroically for their independence, into a de facto colony. This is the Damocles sword over the head of the Ukrainian resistance too. True victory of the Ukrainian people will only be possible against Russia and without NATO imperialism.

5. The RCIT and its predecessor organization have defended and supported the resistance of the Albanian people since the very first moment. We advise the people of Kosova to see the situation as it is: In reality, all Western imperialist forces and their lackeys are enabling the Serbian chauvinists to regroup themselves again and again *by containing the explosive potential of the popular Albanian resistance*. Those Western parasites want you to believe that they keep peace for you. Many workers and poor in Serbia and the *Srpska Republika* are tired enough of the chauvinist agenda. Like the Russian soldiers who desert the front lines, wide support for any further chauvinist attack will shrink in the ranks of the Serbian workers and poor if you take the power in your own state. Break the agreement of disarmament by forming armed militias of the workers and poor to bring down the government in Kosova. Replace it with a truly independent state, by a workers and poor peasants republic based on the militias. Drive all Western imperialist forces out of your state. Declare solidarity with the Ukrainian people, the people of Chechnya and all other oppressed nations. Call the Bosnian people to fight for their independence too. And call the Serbian workers and poor to bring down their own chauvinistic rulers and to respect your independence. Revive the glory of your historic resistance by smashing the colonial existence in which you are forced into.

*Long live a truly independent and free Kosova!*

*Kick all imperialist powers out of the Balkans!*

*For workers and poor peasants republics in Kosova, Bosnia, and Serbia!*

*For a socialist federation of the Balkan people!*

# 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)**



## Nurses Strike to Defend the NHS, their Pay and Conditions

By Laurence Humphries, RCIT Britain, 18 December 2022

**N**urses from the *Royal College of Nursing* took industrial action on the 15th December this year. They went on strike in defence of the NHS and to defend their pay and working conditions in the light of raging inflation running at over 14%.

Steve Barclay, the secretary of *State for Health* had instructed the *Pay Review Board* not to pay nurses above the 2% already awarded. This was a minimum payment and nurses had no alternative but to take action to defend the NHS, the only free national health service that Britain offers. Dramatically as it is, many nurses have such low income that they use food banks and rarely get by with the increased living costs.

Britain is experiencing massive action by the workers and the oppressed against the crisis of recession, the economic slump peaking since months now.

The British government, having an infatuation with Bonapartism, tries to save its crisis ridden system. Post, railway, port, bus, airport and university staff (likewise other sectors) are taking strike action to defend their pay and working conditions.

I visited the picket line by nurses in Kettering Northamptonshire and found determined workers who value the importance of the health service. They fight to stop the drain of nurses leaving hospitals. Their action continues on the 20th December with other health workers like ambulance drivers also striking in the new year. Unions like Unite, Unison and the GMB will join the action in the new year.

RCIT IN BRITAIN calls for a massive recruitment of doc-

tors and nurses while all wages in the health sector must be increased by far more than the inflation rate! We need all health workers on a fair and wealthy income level, showing respect to their tremendous work if we want to turn NHS into a proper health care system. Furthermore, the strike wave of the various sectors of workers must be united in a general strike movement to bring down the current reactionary government and to replace it by a workers government.



British Nurses on Strike

## Books of the RCIT

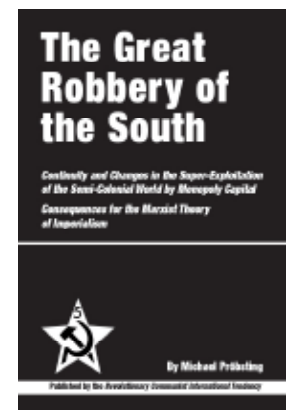
### Michael Pröbsting: The Great Robbery of the South Continuity and Changes in the Super-Exploitation of the Semi-Colonial World by Monopoly Capital. Consequences for the Marxist Theory of Imperialism

**T**he 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)



## The Emerging Struggle of U.S. Railway Workers

Adam Smith, *The ISL*, 14.12.2022

More than a century of federal legislation has been written to prevent railway strike[1]. The railway industry is arguably the most first one that comes to mind when thinking of labor strikes and militancy, along with the miners. Beginning with the Pullman strike of 1894 and the Great Railroad Strike of 1877, federal forces as well as private ones like the Pinkerton, have been sent to deal with labor militancy. The Taft-Hartly act was passed after the postwar strike wave, reversing the gains of the Norris-LaGuardia and NLRB acts of 1932 and 1935. Apart from ban on wildcat strikes, secondary strikes, jurisdictional strikes, closed union shops, section 301 also allows for employers to bring lawsuits against striking employees for damages for "interfering" in their business or not following a "no-strike" pledge.

"If there is no agreement by that time, all 12 unions could strike on December 9, 2022. As a matter of fact, in anticipation of such action, some chemicals and other dangerous fluids will not be transported after December 3<sup>rd</sup>, since it could leave explosive or incendiary fluids unattended." [2]

Harry Truman, although "opposed" to the act, used it during his presidency. Similarly, Biden who claims to be "an Amtrak guy" and a supporter of the unions, signed an order, ahead of the December 9th deadline, forcing the Railway Union who haven't capitulated so far, to accept a deal containing a 24% rise over 5 years (less than inflation), and no sick days. AOC and other "progressive" democrats voted for it.

"I don't like going against the ability of unions to strike," Ms. Pelosi said. "But weighing the equities, we must avoid a strike. Jobs will be lost. Even union jobs will be lost. Eight unions voted to support that agreement, but four did not. The legislation under consideration would impose the deal on all 12 unions, effectively forcing union employees to continue working." [3]

Apart for monetary compensation, unions are raising several other issues:

"Freight railroads operate 24/7/365. Almost all train employees work on call, with only 2 hours or less notice before going to work, not including travel time. With the massive cutbacks over the past period, everyone has to live by the phone. It is not unusual for employees at some railroads to work 3 or more weeks

without any real time off from the job other than the federally mandated rest periods between shifts (most of which was time spent sleeping). Disciplinary charges, meaning suspensions without pay were given to a lot of employees. In some cases, they were even denied the ability to attend family funerals under threats of suspension and/or dismissal. This is why the employees are fighting this time around. Enough is enough." [4]

"Rail workers have argued that they can be penalized under current attendance policies for taking a day off because of illness, and that the ability to time off for short-term illness is a safety matter: that their job requires a high level of concentration that they cannot meet if they are ill" [5]

"Everybody goes to work and there's nothing positive to talk about," said Doering, who is also the Nevada legislative director for SMART Transportation Division, a labor union of train, airline and other transportation workers. "There are no positive things going on within the industry. You are forced to choose between your career and your life. Doering previously said workdays lasting up to 19 hours, consisting of 12-hour shifts and hours of waiting around for transportation or relief crews, have become the norm. So too has spending more time in motels waiting for one's next gig than at one's actual home." [6]

Due to the incompetent and corrupted union leadership, a legal railway strike seems impossible. A wildcat one is the only remaining option to secure a decent contract.

For the repeal of the Taft-Hartley act! Down with Biden's injunction!

For a railway strike!

### Footnotes

[1] Liability of Employees under State Law for Damages Caused by Wildcat Strike: The Brown Case <https://sci-hub.se/https://doi.org/10.2307/1120263>

[2] <https://www.forbes.com/sites/walterloeb/2022/11/28/railway-strike-threatens-more-economic-disruption-on-december-9th/?sh=35830c995dd2>

[3] <https://www.nytimes.com/2022/11/29/us/politics/biden-rail-strike.html>

[4] <https://www.socialistalternative.org/2022/12/02/rail-workers-betrayed-biden-the-squad/>

[5] <https://www.trains.com/trn/news-reviews/news-wire/house-to-vote-today-on-legislation-to-block-rail-strike/>

[6] <https://www.freightwaves.com/news/weve-probably-averted-a-rail-strike-now-what>

## 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)

