



Earthquake in Türkiye & Syria: Capitalism Killed Thousands!

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English-Language Journal of the Revolutionary Communist International Tendency (RCIT), No. 143, March 2023

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Picture on the Cover: The devastating results of the earthquake in Türkiye and Syria (Source: Wikipedia, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2023_Turkey%E2%80%93Syria_earthquake#/media/File:Turkey-Syria_Earthquake_Montage.jpg)

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

**www.thecommunists.net - rcit@thecommunists.net
Tel/SMS/WhatsApp/Telegram: +43-650-4068314**

Manifesto on the First Anniversary of the Ukraine War

Victory to the heroic Ukrainian people! Defeat Russian imperialism!

No support whatsoever for NATO imperialism!

Manifesto jointly issued by the International Bureau of the RCIT and Socialist Tendency (Russia), 10 February 2023

As we are nearing the first anniversary of the Ukraine War, the *Revolutionary Communist International Tendency* (RCIT) and its section in Russia – *Socialist Tendency* – send their warmest greetings to the heroic Ukrainian people. Since 24 February 2022, our brothers and sisters are resisting the barbaric onslaught of the Russian army under the most difficult circumstances! According to unofficial figures about 100,000 Ukrainian soldiers have been killed or wounded in action along with 30,000 civilian deaths. At the same time, the Russian army has suffered 180,000 dead and wounded. As Putin tries to bomb the Ukraine back to stone age, large parts of the population are freezing and starving.

We also send our best greetings to the courageous socialists in Russia who don't succumb to the wave of chauvinism and militarism and who raise the banner of support for the Ukraine in the spirit of consistent anti-imperialism!

The Ukraine War is a historic event which has shaped the world situation for the past 12 months. It is not only a major war in the heart of Europe but has also global ramifications. It has triggered a food and energy crisis felt on all continents – most importantly in the poorest regions of the Global South. Furthermore, it has accelerated the inter-imperialist rivalry between the Great Powers, in particular NATO and Russia. Hence, the war is exacerbating the recession of the capitalist world economy as well as the political polarisation within major countries. In short, the Ukraine War has laid the foundation for revolutionary and counterrevolutionary explosions around the globe.

The RCIT and all authentic socialists have sided with the Ukraine's war of national defence from the very beginning. While we lend no *political* support for the bourgeois Zelensky government, we call for material support – including military aid – for the Ukrainian resistance.

At the same time, we emphasise the *dual character* of the conflict since it is *not only* a national liberation war of the Ukraine but, at the same time, it is *also* linked with the accelerating rivalry between the imperialist powers. Hence, a consistent internationalist and anti-imperialist position requires a *dual tactic*. Socialists are obliged to defend the Ukraine – a semi-colonial capitalist country – against Russian imperialism. At the same time, they must lend no support whatsoever for the chauvinist and militarist policy of any Great Power against their rivals. Hence, it is impermissible to support economic sanctions or similar Great Power measures. The RCIT has summarised such an approach in the slogan: *“Defend the Ukraine against Putin's invasion! Against Russian and against NATO imperialism!”*

From early on, the RCIT has participated in practical activities in solidarity with the Ukrainian people. We initiated resp. participated in three solidarity convoys bringing aid to the Ukraine (together with Chechen and Crimean Tatar organisations as well as with the ILNSS and LIT-CI). Likewise, we co-organised public rallies in solidarity with the Ukrainian people. (See on this various reports on our website, <https://www.thecommunists.net/rcit/internation->

[al-workers-aid/](#))

In addition, our comrades in Russia have constituted an internationalist and anti-imperialist bloc with *“Socialist Alternative”* and former members of the Russian IMT section to jointly advance a policy in the spirit of revolutionary defeatism (see <https://www.thecommunists.net/rcit/joint-anti-imperialist-initiative-of-revolutionary-socialists-in-russia>).

As we have said from the beginning, given the dual character of the conflict, it can not be excluded that the nature of the war could change in the future. For example, a direct intervention of NATO troops could transform the war in the Ukraine from a just war of national defence into a inter-imperialist war between Great Powers. In such a case, socialists would be obliged to change their tactic from revolutionary defensism of the Ukraine into a defeatist position. However, this is only a possibility in the future and revolutionaries base their strategy on the facts of today and not on speculations about tomorrow.

A crucial test for socialists

Given its historic significance, the Ukraine War is a crucial test for all progressive workers and popular organisations. This is the case not only because of the global importance of this conflict for the world situation. It is also a formative event as it is a test case for future conflicts. As we are living in a historic period of capitalist decay, it is inevitable that we will see a rising number of conflicts and wars where one Great Power attacks a semi-colonial country which in turn receives aid from a rivaling imperialist state. Unfortunately, the vast majority of left-wing organisations have failed this test.

Putinistas and Semi-Putinistas

A number of Stalinist and populist parties as well as their pseudo-Trotskyist copycats have shamefully joined the camp of Russian imperialism as they justify Putin's invasion as a “defensive act” against NATO. Absurdly, they deny the imperialist nature of Russia and, effectively, support Putin's efforts to transform the Ukraine into a colony of the Kremlin.

Examples for such social-imperialist traitors are Stalinist parties in Russia (e.g. KPRF, RKRП, OKP) as well as in many other countries which have signed the so-called *“Havana Declaration”* as well as the *“Paris Declaration”* (both adopted in October 2022). Other examples are the grouping around EEK (Greece) and DIP (Türkiye) as well various sects in the Spartacist tradition.

These Putinistas and Semi-Putinistas are arch-enemies of the workers and oppressed. Socialists need to resolutely combat their reactionary influence within the workers and popular mass organisations.

Reactionary Abstentionism and the theory of "proxy war"

Other bourgeois-populist, Stalinist and self-proclaimed Trotskyists take a neutral, abstentionist position in the Ukraine War. In contrast to the Putinistas, they do not openly side with the Kremlin's barbarous war. However, they deny the Ukrainian people's right to resist colonialisation and denounce their legitimate struggle as a "proxy war" in the interest of NATO imperialism.

The Fourth International, founded by Leon Trotsky, once stated: "*The struggle against war and its social source, capitalism, presupposes direct, active, unequivocal support to the oppressed colonial peoples in their struggles and wars against imperialism. A 'neutral' position is tantamount to support of imperialism.*" (Resolution on the Antiwar Congress of the London Bureau, 1936) This is no less true for the Ukraine War today! Taking a reactionary abstentionist position in the national liberation struggle of the Ukrainian people is equivalent to indirect support for Russian imperialism!

Examples for such advocates of reactionary abstentionism are the bourgeois-populist "*Progressive International*" (Lula, Bernie Sanders, Yanis Varoufakis, etc.), the Stalinist alliance led by the Greek KKE, petty-bourgeois pacifists, as well as various centrist "Trotskyist" organisations (e.g. the FT/PTS, IMT, CWI, ISA)

A peculiar form of such reactionary abstentionism is one advocated by some "Trotskyist" forces which, in abstract, recognise the Ukrainian people's right for defend their country against Russian imperialism but, at the same time, strictly oppose any material support for this struggle. Worse, they call to sabotage military aid to the Ukraine. Such platonic "support" for the Ukraine is a mockery of anti-imperialism and, effectively, results in the same shameful policy as the other advocates of reactionary abstentionism.

Pro-Western supporters of the Ukrainian liberation struggle

Various European reformists – like pro-Western social democrats in LINKE (Germany) or PODEMOS/PCE/IU (Spain) – combine verbal solidarity with the Ukraine with outright support for imperialist armament and anti-Russian sanctions. Their support for the Ukraine is nothing but a figleaf for their pro-NATO social-imperialism.

Distinct from – and contrasting pleasantly with – such lackeys of Western Great Powers are those anti-government socialists who support the struggle of the Ukrainian people and who have participated in solidarity activities. The RCIT and other authentic socialists have collaborated with these comrades and will continue to do so.

However, it must not go unmentioned that such forces combine a correct support for the Ukraine with unprincipled backing for Great Power policy by NATO imperial-

ism. Most importantly, they fail to oppose the chauvinist policy of sanctions and similar measures which the U.S. and their European allies have imposed against Russia. These comrades don't understand that this policy is, primarily, not an instrument in support of the Ukrainian people but rather an instrument of Great Power chauvinism in the context of the accelerating inter-imperialist rivalry.

Examples for such a policy are organisations like the Mandelist "Fourth International" or the Latin-America-based LIT-CI.

Lessons for the future

The Ukraine War and the failure of most progressive forces to take an internationalist and anti-imperialist position bears important lessons for the future. In order to advocate a consistent revolutionary line, it is necessary to integrate a concrete tactic into the broader framework of Marxist analysis and principles.

This means that it is impossible to find a correct orientation in a world situation characterised by wars and Great Power rivalry without a Marxist analysis of the imperialist character not only of the "old" Western powers (U.S., Western Europe, Japan) but *also* of the new Eastern powers (China and Russia).

This also means that it is impossible to find a correct orientation in a world situation characterised by Great Power rivalry without recognising the obligation for socialists to take a position of *revolutionary defeatism* against all Great Powers.

In addition, it is impossible to find a correct orientation in a world situation characterised by imperialist coercion without a Marxist analysis of the *semi-colonial* character of the countries of the Global South, i.e. that these peoples are oppressed and super-exploited by imperialist powers and monopolies.

Furthermore, it is impossible to find a correct orientation in the current world situation without recognising the obligation for socialists to defend semi-colonial countries and oppressed peoples against imperialist aggression and reactionary dictatorships. Such defence must imply the advocacy of the *anti-imperialist united front tactic* directed to those forces which stand at the top of a legitimate liberation struggle.

Finally, the most important lesson is the necessity for authentic socialists who agree on the above-mentioned principles to join forces. The tumultuous world situation, characterised by explosive contradictions, does not allow for conservative routinism and organisational sectarianism!

Defend the Ukraine against Putin's invasion!

Against Russian and against NATO imperialism!

Forward in building a new World Party of Socialist revolution!

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

Ukraine War and Inter-Imperialist Rivalry

Check out more than 160 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/>

Ukraine War: Mutiny of National Minority Battalions in the Russian Army

Report by Denis Sokolov, Socialist Tendency (RCIT Section in Russia), 15 February 2023

On February 12, Igor Strelkov, a well-known chauvinist reactionary, former defence minister of the so-called “Donetsk People’s Republic”, leader of the pro-Russian imperialist forces in the Donbass, published the following message on his public telegram channel:

“Following the Tuva battalion, after complaints to Kazan, the Tatarstan volunteer battalion was removed from the front and sent home. Not a single volunteer battalion from the “Russian” regions of the Russian Federation has yet been withdrawn from the front, despite the same problems and appeals to “their” governors.”

This short publication testifies to two trends in the Russian army at once:

1. In the ranks of the military, decadent moods and moral decay are thriving, associated with high losses and the lack of a full-fledged supply of all the necessary soldiers on the front line.

2. Battalions, consisting of volunteers recruited in the national republics of Russia, are most susceptible, in the words of Strelkov, to “mutinies”, i.e. refusing to go to the front line of the clash. It was these battalions that were withdrawn from the territory of hostilities and from the territory of Ukraine in general, while the Russian battalions continue to participate in the war.

At the moment, we are interested in the second question, the one that is least discussed in the media and in the media space in general, and information on which is the least available of most issues related to the war in general.

What might this state of affairs indicate? The fact that representatives of national minorities living in Russia and participating in hostilities in Ukraine can unconsciously understand the aggressive and reactionary essence of the Russian-Ukrainian war on the part of Russia, understand that for them there is no enemy among other oppressed

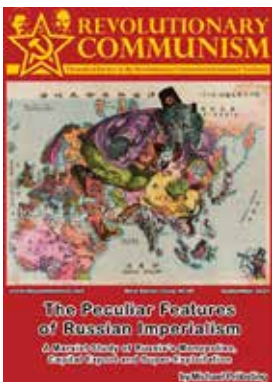
nations, understand that they have no historical and national interests in this war on the side of Russia. Yes, at the moment it is at a rudimentary, spontaneous, unconscious level.

However, if this trend, under certain circumstances, finds its development and expansion, then it can move to the next level, subject to the weakening of the central state, to the level of a full-scale national liberation struggle. It is from such struggle for national independence that a new socialist revolution in Russia can flare up.

We have repeatedly seen in previous months, especially during the first wave of mobilization, spontaneous protest actions of mobilized soldiers. Especially striking among these protests were the speeches of representatives of the oppressed national minorities or people from the national republics of Russia.

In such a situation, and even more so in a situation where this trend is expanding, it is the duty of the socialist internationalists to deepen national liberation sentiments among the oppressed nations to the point of fighting for their complete liberation, that is, for class, revolutionary, socialist liberation.

An important nuance here is that the actions of the internationalists should not be aimed at denying and condemning the struggle for national independence, reducing all the contradictions of capitalism to purely economic contradictions (capital against the proletariat), namely, at expanding and deepening it, by supporting the demands for the right of self-determination and criticism of the (petty) bourgeois leadership of the national movements, a decisive disengagement from it and the conduct of the democratic struggle as an integral part of the revolutionary struggle by the forces of Marxists and socialists.



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

Report on the Political Situation in Russia for February 2023

Report on recent developments, prepared by members of the Socialist Tendency (RCIT Section in Russia), 4 February 2023

Preface by the Editorial Board: Below we publish a new report written by comrades from Социалистической Тенденцией (*Socialist Tendency*) in Russia. *Socialist Tendency* is the section of the RCIT in Russia. This report shows some social and economic consequences of Putin's reactionary war against the Ukraine.

While the Ukrainian people are obviously the main victim of this imperialist aggression, the Russian population also experiences increasingly social consequences of this catastrophe. The Putin regime has tried since the beginning of the war to avoid such consequences for the domestic population in order to keep political stability. However, this becomes increasingly difficult. For this reason, the Kremlin intensifies both Great Russian chauvinist propaganda as well as repressive laws against the anti-war opposition.

If one should characterise the current situation in Russia, one could give the following historic analogy. At the moment, the situation in Russia resembles more the first phase of World War I, not the last phase (shortly before the February Revolution in 1917), i.e. at the moment the masses are rather in a passive mood. There is no strong enthusiasm for the war. But, until now, the regime has managed "to keep the war away from many people", as it has avoided that mobilisation of conscripted soldiers would massively affect the population of big cities. Hence, for now there is no mass mood for rebellion but rather waiting what future will bring.

However, this can change easily in the next few months. For example, if there is another round of mobilisation (there are rumours that this time it might even affect another 500,000 conscripts), this could provoke public outrage. The same could happen if the Russian troops suffer another humiliating defeat at the front lines (similar to their expulsion from the Kharkiv region in September 2022).

In the current situation, the tasks of socialists in Russia are, first and foremost, to safeguard their organisation un-

der conditions of illegal and semi-legal work. At the same time, socialists have to continue their work – mostly propaganda and education – among the anti-war activists as well as among the masses. Such work will enable socialists to prepare for intervention in the upcoming events which could include all kinds of military catastrophes and political explosions.

Other documents of our comrades in Russia can be read either on their website (www.socialisttendency.com, in Russian language) or at a special page on our website where all RCIT documents (in English and other languages) on the current NATO-Russia conflict are compiled: <https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/global/compilation-of-documents-on-nato-russia-conflict/>.

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1. Ongoing social consequences of the war against Ukraine

Since the share of military spending in state budget of the Russian Federation has increased exorbitantly, the ruling class tries hard to squeeze more money from ordinary citizens of the country via increase in taxes. As a result, tariffs for housing and communal services have increased in many regions of Russia since the beginning of 2023. The rise in prices for these services reaches 40% or more in some places. Particularly interesting is the example of Ufa where prices for heating homes have increased by as much as 140%. Electricity prices have also risen in 21 regions and tariffs for businesses have increased by 10-20%.

Another consequence of the hostilities are the problems with the availability of medicines in Russian pharmacies, including the most necessary ones. In total, the government sees a threat of shortage in 97 types of medicines of the state register. Various options are being put forward to solve this problem - for example, allowing the sale of medicines where the information on the packages is not translated into Russian language, or the import of unreg-



Publications of the RCIT

The Inter-Imperialist Cold War between the US and China

By Michael Pröbsting, March 2021

A RCIT Pamphlet, 20 pages, A4 Format

Introduction * A symbolic public row * Two thieves as upholders of moral standards * Escalating the conflict between China and Japan * The Quad Summit * Inter-Imperialist tensions in the Taiwan Strait * Unavoidable continuation and acceleration of inter-imperialist rivalry * Continuing doing business * Towards escalation on the Korean Peninsula? * "Fuck the EU" and Russia, again? * Confirmation of the Marxist analysis * Footnotes

istered products into the country.

Furthermore, Russian citizens are spending less money on baby food. Sales of such products fell by 8% in 2022. During the previous crisis in 2014-2015, Russians refused to save money on their children and pets, but now they are forced to transfer their children to "adult" food when incomes fall.

2. Some political consequences of the war with Ukraine at the moment

More than 550,000 people from Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan and Tajikistan have obtained Russian citizenship in the last 5 years. Now they have been put on the so-called mobilization lists, and the authorities claim that they now have the duty to defend the country of which they are citizens. Meanwhile, in the past, stateless migrants have already been sent to war with Ukraine. In general, labour migrants in imperialist countries are the most disenfranchised category of the population, which also receives less solidarity and understanding from the indigenous population. On the other hand, migrants in Russia have repeatedly shown their ability to unite with each other and to organize themselves. Perhaps, with the mass conscription of migrants into the troops, they will be able to utilise these abilities for resistance against the Russian repressive apparatus.

A draft law on mandatory registration of citizens of the Russian Federation traveling abroad by car has been submitted to the State Duma. In this way, legislators are trying to complicate the possibility of leaving the country for those who do not agree with the mobilization and thus try to resist being drafted into the Armed Forces. Over the past year, 1,5 million Russians left for the "near abroad" countries, and this is only the official figure! The adoption of this bill will lead to a simplification of mobilization at the borders, as well as to new corruption schemes for re-

sponsible services and individuals.

In recent weeks, more and more repressive bodies have been bringing charges and sentencing in so-called "terrorism" and "extremism" cases. Basically, the cases are related to the arson of military registration and enlistment offices and "sabotage" on the railways. Such activities may indicate both a real increase in radicalism among the population and attempts by the authorities to shift the blame for the defeats at the front onto so-called "internal enemies". Perhaps the authorities are preparing in this way for a very likely surge in acts of sabotage and protests in response to the upcoming second wave of mobilization.

Russian school history textbooks are going to add a chapter about the so-called "Special Military Operation" (CBO). With this initiative, the authorities want to supplement the already extensive propaganda work in relation to the younger generation. "Patriotic upbringing" has overwhelmed all children's and educational institutions - from kindergartens to universities. The move to introduce a chapter on "CBO" into history textbooks only indicates that the propaganda impact of the state on young minds will not be limited to existing programs, but will expand more and more.

The parasitism of the Russian ruling class continues on the memory of the defenders of the degenerated workers state - the USSR - during the Second World War. On the anniversary of the victory of the Soviet troops in the Battle of Stalingrad, the city of Volgograd was temporarily renamed Stalingrad. Thus, the authorities are trying to "cloud" in the minds of people the arguments about the unsuccessful conduct of the war with Ukraine by the successes of the Soviet Union in the struggle against world fascism, identifying themselves and their state with the USSR.



Publications of the RCIT

Ukraine: A Capitalist Semi-Colony

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

By Michael Pröbsting, January 2023

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

A RCIT Pamphlet, 28 pages, A4 Format

U.S.-China Rivalry: Air Cowboys

U.S. Air Force shot down 4 flying objects in 8 days as China announced a similar move

By Michael Pröbsting, International Secretary of the Revolutionary Communist International Tendency (RCIT), 13.2.2023

The Great Power rivalry between the U.S. and China has entered another stage of escalation. On 4 February, the U.S. Air Force shot down a Chinese balloon which it claimed to have been for intelligence surveillance. And in the last three days, U.S. fighter jets brought down with missiles another three “unidentified objects” over Alaska, Canada and Michigan. This has no peacetime precedent, even Pentagon officials admit.

At the first glance, it has an amusing touch. While the first incident clearly involved a balloon owned by China, origin and nature of the other three objects are unknown, as the *New York Times* notes: “American officials do not know what the objects were, much less their purpose or who sent them.”¹

While Pentagon officials admit that these objects did not pose security threats, they did not rule out any explanation about their nature – not even UFOs! Asked if officials have ruled out extraterrestrials, General Glen VanHerck, head of NORAD and U.S. Northern Command said, “I haven’t ruled out anything at this point.” And these are the people commanding the deadliest weapons of the planet!

The reason why there are suddenly more “unidentified objects” is most likely that U.S. authorities are actively looking for them. Melissa Dalton, the assistant secretary of defense for homeland defense and hemispheric affairs, said at a news conference on 12 February: “We have been more closely scrutinizing our airspace at these altitudes, including enhancing our radar, which may at least partly explain the increase in objects that we’ve detected over the past week.” VanHerck confirmed this: “With some adjustments, we’ve been able to get a better categorization of radar tracks now and that’s why I think you’re seeing these, plus there’s a heightened alert to look for this information.”²

“A lot of garbage”

It is most likely that such objects are harmless things like weather balloons or Wi-Fi balloons. Rep. Jim Himes – the top Democrat on the House Intelligence Committee and one of so-called “Gang of Eight” (the congressional leaders from both parties who are briefed first on intelligence and national security matters) – said in an interview on 12 February: “Now, my theory is - and this is where it gets pretty speculative, but it’s informed speculation. I’m thinking back last year to when we had the hearings on what we’re supposed to call UAPs, unidentified aerial phenomas - most people call them UFOs. And what I learned in that hearing is that there is an immense amount of garbage up there, all kinds of balloons. You don’t have to be a nation-state to launch a balloon. You know, there are folks launching weather balloons, Wi-Fi balloons, you name it. And now we’re just particularly sensitized to it. And we also happen to have a lot of our military radars and that sort of thing doing something that they’re not used to doing, which is looking for balloons. So I think because we’re really looking hard, we’re seeing a lot of this garbage. And when it incurs - when it - when there’s an incursion into civil aviation space, I think, at that point, the authorities say, boy, we’d better do something about this.”³

In other words, the U.S. authorities don’t know what the nature of such “unidentified objects” is, they don’t consid-

er these as a threat, they have all reasons to assume that such objects are “garbage” ... but still shoot them down! There exist many clichés about the Wild West mentality in the U.S. and not all of them are wrong! “First shoot, then ask” – this seems to be the motto of the geriatric wannabe cowboy Joe Biden!

Political reasons

However, it would be a mistake to explain the latest escalation by irrational fear and paranoia of the Pentagon or the White House. In fact, there are tangible political reasons that Django Biden rides again. First, the U.S. Administration is under fire by the Republicans after it took the Air Force one week to shoot down the Chinese Balloon. Now, they want to make sure that the military looks as a hypervigilant as possible.

Furthermore, there is another, more strategic reason behind the bizarre shooting spree in the stratosphere. The ruling circles in Washington and the bourgeois media wants to create the public perception that “America is under attack” by the “China threat”. It was no accident that U.S. President Biden said in his “State of the Union Address”, three days after the Chinese Balloon was shot down: “But make no mistake: as we made clear last week, if China’s threatens our sovereignty, we will act to protect our country. And we did.”⁴

Such a public hysteria provides the ideological background to a new wave of anti-China chauvinism and for a massive increase in military spending. The Democratic majority leader of the US Senate, Chuck Schumer, claimed in an interview on 12 February that all four flying objects were from China. He boasted: “The Chinese were humiliated – I think the Chinese were caught lying. It’s a real setback for them.” He called it “wild” that the US government had no idea about the balloon spying program until just “a few months ago”.

The Republican chair of the House intelligence committee, Mike Turner, called on the Biden administration to be aggressive in its stance on the flying objects. “I would prefer them to be trigger happy than to be permissive. (...) This administration now needs to declare that it will defend its airspace.” He added: “What’s become clear in the public discussion is that we don’t really have adequate radar systems, we certainly don’t have an integrated missile defense system.”⁵

In other words, the ruling class of the U.S. prepares the ideological basis for a massive increase in military spending and ideological chauvinism. In contrast to many other issues, it is united on this issue.

This has been reflected, as we reported in a previous article, in a resolution of the *House of Representatives* which was unanimous adopted on 9 February. This bill had the telling title “Condemning the Chinese Communist Party’s use of a high-altitude surveillance balloon over United States territory as a brazen violation of United States sovereignty” and called for a patriotic closing of ranks and an aggressive imperialist policy against China.⁶

Unavoidable escalation

There is no doubt that China will respond to the new militarization drive of its imperialist rival. In fact, Chinese authorities did already announce that they detected an unidentified flying object over waters near a northern Chinese port city close to the Bohai Sea. They said that they were ready to shoot it down.⁷

Furthermore, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Wang Wenbin accused the U.S. that they had illegally flown high-altitude balloons over Chinese airspace on more than 10 occasions since January 2022. He added that the US has also frequently sent aircraft and warships to conduct close-in reconnaissance on China, with 657 flights in 2022 and 64 flights in the South China Sea in January this year alone. Such an approach “seriously jeopardizes China’s national security and undermines regional peace and stability”.⁸

It does not take much imagination to understand where all this is heading. In order to demonstrate their resolve both imperialist powers are forced to demonstrate their military strength by shooting down (real or imaginary) flight objects of the enemy. Sooner or later, this will bring down not only balloons but drones and aircrafts. And sooner or later, this will kill soldiers and/or civilians ... and open a much more dangerous round of escalation.

Such a militaristic dynamic is the result of the inter-imperialist rivalry between the Great Powers (U.S., China, Russia, Western Europe, Japan) which inevitably accelerates in the current historic period of capitalist decay.

Defend internationalist anti-imperialism!

The RCIT repeats that the task of socialists is to stand up against all forms of “surveillance threat” hysteria, chauvinism, militarism and sanctions policy. It is illegitimate for authentic socialists to lend support for any imperialist Great Power – neither for the U.S., China, Russia, Western Europe nor Japan.⁹ One must not, under any circumstances, defend the imperialist “fatherland” – neither their own nor any other!¹⁰

We therefore denounce the shameful capitulation of the so-called *Squad* – a group of nine pseudo-socialist representatives in the U.S. Congress – who voted last week for the above-mentioned ultra-patriotic anti-China bill.¹¹

In times of militarist and chauvinist hysteria, socialists must defend the principles of anti-imperialism and internationalism! They need to explain that the main enemy of the American (or other) people is not the “foreign enemy” but rather their own government. In the end, it is not the Chinese which make Americans poor or which endanger the lives of Americans on the streets but rather American corporations, police, governmental institutions or domestic weapon manufacturers. Likewise, it was not

Washington which imprisoned Chinese people in the past three years but Xi’s barbaric Zero COVID policy. And the Tibetans and Uyghurs or the people in Hong Kong suffer from Chinese repression forces, not American!

In other words, socialists need to explain that *all* Great Powers are imperialist enemies of the people. The only legitimate struggles which deserve our support are those of workers and oppressed people – from France to the Ukraine, from Syria to Peru!

Footnotes

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Comunismo Revolucionario

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Spy Balloons and Social Networks

By *Damián Vekelo, Convergencia Socialista (RCIT Section in Argentina), 4.2.2023*

After Nancy Pelosi's provocative visit to Taiwan, which marked a turning point between the imperialist powers, the waters seemed to have calmed down. However, the economic crisis inevitably pushes the great powers to fight savagely for the markets, a dynamic that exceeds the will of governments. For that reason, whether or not they are fit to go to war, there is an objective tendency that drives them there.

Now, that fight has returned to take on a public tone: *The Pentagon denounced the presence of an alleged Chinese spy balloon over United States airspace for a couple of days. The complaint comes at a time of high tension in relations between the powers. Xi Jinping's government asked "not to exaggerate" the matter and explained that it is a device for meteorological purposes.*

A few days ago, a senator from the most warmongering party of the Yankee bourgeoisie, the Democrats, proposed controlling Tik Tok, from which China would obtain valuable information. Michael Bennet, a Colorado Democrat and member of the Intelligence Committee, called on Alphabet's Apple and Google CEOs to remove TikTok, the Chinese-owned video-sharing platform, from their app stores, citing national security concerns "serious".

Like most social media platforms, TikTok collects extensive and sophisticated data from its users, including facial and voice prints," Bennett wrote to Apple's Tim Cook and Alphabet's Sundar Pichai. TikTok raises a unique concern because Chinese law obliges ByteDance, its Beijing-based parent, to "support, assist, and cooperate with state intelligence work".

This warmongering trend is typical of capitalism in crisis, which in its imperialist era tends to resolve these crises of overproduction and insufficient markets by destroying part of the planet and murdering millions of people, in order to create a cycle of economic expansion on scorched earth.

The Russian stagnation in Ukraine, the tremendous difficulty of the United States in facing a new war after its defeat in Afghanistan and the defeat of mass restrictions and quarantines -in the name of "health"- in China, put the great powers in a difficult situation to put their armies face to face. However, as we pointed out at the beginning, objective tendencies force the imperialists to face that course.

It is that war is, basically, the exacerbation or most open form of the class struggle, which is not waged only between the bourgeoisie and the proletarians, but also between the capitalists, who know that these situations create revolutionary conditions that they do not want to face. In this sense, the working class of the great powers shows something of its power, refusing - in one and a thousand ways - to become cannon fodder for the capitalists.

The more the conflict between imperialists advances, involving the colonial or semi-colonial bourgeoisies - which are aligned for one side or the other - the workers and popular struggles will deepen and radicalize. We revolutionaries must prepare ourselves to intervene in these, with a program that puts the underlying question at the center, the need to put an end to Capitalism and impose a workers' government that begins the path towards Socialism.

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.

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



By Michael Pröbsting

Published by the Revolutionary Communist International of Workers

The Chinese Balloon and America's "Socialists"

The so-called "Squad" joins the hysterical campaign of U.S. imperialism

By Michael Pröbsting, International Secretary of the Revolutionary Communist International Tendency (RCIT), 10.2.2023

One can hardly claim that the ruling class in the U.S. would be united on many issues. The rivalling camps accuse each other of all sorts of crimes – stealing elections, organising a coup d'état, serving foreign powers, etc. However, there are still a few issues on which each and every one of America's political establishment is ready to join forces against the common enemy.

The most important unifier, at least at the moment, is America's public enemy No. 1 – China. The Biden Administration, together with the Republicans – including the Trumpian imbeciles – and with the unanimous support of the capitalist media claim that "America is under attack" by China's spy balloons.

Since the U.S. military detected such a balloon on 28 January and sent a fighter jet to shoot it down a few days later, public opinion is obsessed with the Chinese surveillance threat.¹ This also generates amusing information like, for example, that some previous incursions by Chinese spy balloons were not detected in real time. The *New York Times* reports that these incidents were "initially classified as 'unidentified aerial phenomena'" and "were handed over to a Pentagon task force charged with investigating U.F.O.s and other aerial phenomena."² No wonder that Hollywood's most profitable films attracting numerous viewers are Science Fiction blockbusters! When earth is flat, the sky is full of aliens!

Anyway, the U.S. is currently inundated with a public hysteria about the "China Threat". All this is not surprising in itself. Of course, China tries to gather information about its rival. Of course, the U.S., Russia and every other Great Power are doing the same. This was the case in the period of the Cold War with the USSR, this is the case today and so it will be in the future as long as we are living in an imperialist world order where Great Powers are contesting for global hegemony.

Unanimous vote of the House of Representatives

Reflecting the consensus of the ruling class, the *House of Representatives* – this is the lower chamber of the U.S. Congress with 435 members – voted yesterday unanimously for a resolution with the telling title "*Condemning the Chinese Communist Party's use of a high-altitude surveillance balloon over United States territory as a brazen violation of United States sovereignty*". Using the typical language of U.S. imperialism, this resolution warns, among others, that

* the "*Chinese Communist Party's (CCP) intelligence collection directed against the United States poses a threat to United States interests and security*",

* that "*it is in the United States national security interest to deter foreign adversaries from engaging in intelligence collection and other malign activities within United States territory and airspace*",

* that is "*condemns the PRC's brazen violation of United States sovereignty*";

* furthermore it "*determines that it should be the policy of the United States to promptly and decisively act to prevent foreign*

aerial surveillance platforms, including those directed by or connected to the CCP, from violating United States sovereignty."³

Again, it is hardly surprising that one of the key institutions of U.S. imperialism votes for an imperialist resolution threatening its most important rival. Both parties which dominate the U.S. Congress since many decades – the Democrats and the Republicans – are representatives of the U.S. monopoly bourgeoisie. As such, they "naturally" rally in support of Washington's Great Power interests.

The "socialists" join the reactionary anti-China campaign

However, it is particularly remarkable that the most prominent "socialist" figures in the U.S. have enthusiastically joined this reactionary anti-China campaign. As it is known, the so-called *Squad* has nine members in the House of Representatives – Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, Rashida Tlaib, Jamaal Bowman, Cori Bush, Greg Casar, Ilhan Omar, Ayanna Pressley, Summer Lee, and Delia Ramirez. The *Squad* is well known for being – together with Senator Bernie Sanders – among the most progressive and left-wing members of the U.S. Congress. The first five of the above-mentioned are also members of the "*Democratic Socialists of America*", a social democratic organisation with nearly 100,000 members.

However, despite their "progressive" rhetoric, all nine members of the Squad voted for the above-mentioned anti-China resolution which raises the banner of U.S. imperialism!⁴

And while we are not aware of a public statement by Bernie Sanders on this issue, there is no doubt that he will share the position of the Squad. Just remember how he wholeheartedly supported America's trade war against China in 2019!⁵

It is well-known that the true character of people is not seen in colourful speeches during an election campaign but in periods of crisis and conflicts. In the current situation, America's ruling class is waging a chauvinist campaign against its main rival – Chinese imperialism. It is in situation like this that socialists must stand up and resolutely oppose "to rally around the flag"!

Of course, we don't do so because of any sympathy for China. This is an imperialist power no better and no worse than its American rival.⁶ The RCIT has always argued that socialists must oppose *all* Great Powers (U.S., China, Russia, Western Europe and Japan).⁷ They need to stand up against all forms of chauvinism, militarism, sanctions policy, "defence of the imperialist fatherland", etc. They have to fight for the principles of international working-class solidarity and in defence of oppressed peoples (from Afghanistan and Iraq to Ukraine, Chechnya and East Turkmenistan).

Clearly, the pseudo-socialists of the *Squad* have nothing to do with such internationalist and anti-imperialist principles! Hence, it is the duty of socialists to sharply denounce such shameful social-chauvinists and to combat their influence within the workers and popular organisations!

Footnotes

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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.

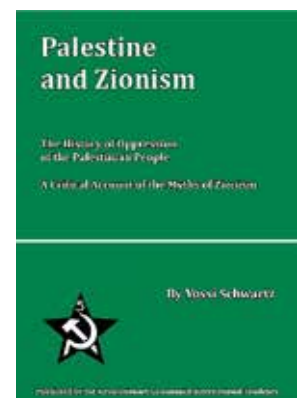
Yossi Schwartz also shows that the Palestinian people have heroically resisted against the occupation resulting in two Intifadas as well as the successful defense of Gaza against the Israeli aggression in three wars (2008/09, 2012, 2014). The author also analysis the shameful betrayal by the PLO leadership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



Argentina: Rallies in Support for the Peruvian People

Report by *Convergencia Socialista* (RCIT Section in Argentina), 10.2.2023

Several thousand protesters, led by delegations of Peruvian organizations in Argentina, marched this Thursday towards the Plaza de Mayo, agreeing on a central point: Dina Boluarte must be thrown out, so that it is the workers and the people who democratically decide their fate!

Beyond the coincidences, in the declaration of convocation, in the speeches of each one of the representatives of the different leftist parties that were present at the event, nuances were expressed, and even substantive differences, regarding one of the slogans of the march: the Constituent Assembly.

This debate is very important, because Peru, as our comrade Juan Giglio said in his speech, is a laboratory for the class struggle, anticipating what is to come in the rest of the continent, which sooner or later will be filled with rebellions. In this sense, we revolutionaries must warn that the bourgeoisie not only represses, but is also capable of deceiving the mass movement with “democratic” or populist traps, as it usually does on this continent.

For this reason, in order for the deepest democratic aspirations of the Peruvian masses in struggle to materialize, the workers, the peasant movement and the poor people must guarantee their realization, through their democratic

discussion and decision-making bodies and the popular militias. Clearly, the capitalists will leave power only if they are kicked out.

Juan Giglio, greeted the unity achieved in Argentina to support the compañeros and compañeras of Peru, on behalf of CS and the CCRI.

Report from another Demonstration by *Convergencia Socialista* 3.2.2023

Comrades of *Convergencia Socialista* (RCIT Section in Argentina) participated at a rally on 1 February in front of the Peruvian embassy. The rally denounced the murderous government of Dina Boluarte and called for solidarity with the mass movement that is fighting to overthrow it.

Our comrade Graciela Capurro spoke at this rally. In her speech, she emphasized our solidarity with the Peruvian people. She also explained that the struggle should aim for the revolutionary overthrow of the Boluarte regime and the creation of a workers and popular government, based on mass assemblies and militias.



Leaders of *Convergencia Socialista* speak at Rallies in Solidarity with the Peruvian People: Juan Giglio (l.) and Graciela Capurro (r.)

Western Europe: Mass Strikes against Anti-Social Attacks

For an economic and political program of struggle!

Statement by the Revolutionary Communist International Tendency (RCIT), 6 February 2023

1. A wave of mass struggles is sweeping across Western Europe – most importantly in France and Britain. These mobilisations have been provoked by the massive inflation and energy crisis and, in the case of France, a strategic attack of the Macron government against current pension system. These struggles are taking place against the background of a deep recession of the capitalist world economy as well as the Ukraine War and the inter-imperialist Great Power rivalry.

2. Britain experiences a series of strikes in different sectors – mostly for higher wages. These struggles, which started already several months ago, culminated in a “*mega strike*” on 1 February with about 500,000 workers participating. The conservative Sunak government rejects any significant wage increases in the public sector. It rather threatens to limit the right of public sector unions to strike and pushes for anti-labour minimum service bill.

3. The focus of the current mass mobilisations in France is opposition against the plan of the Macron government to raise the retirement age from 62 to 64 years. The government did already push for this reform in 2019 but was forced to delay it. Public opposition against this reform is widespread – between 68-80% of the population according to different polls. Two national days of action did already take place on 19 and 31 January and another one is scheduled for 7 February. Participation in these mass mobilisations is very high – even for French standards. According to the CGT, more than 2.8 million workers demonstrated on 31 January in more than 200 cities and even the Interior Ministry spoke about 1.2 million participants.

4. A particular interesting phenomenon are the so-called “*Robin des Bois*” (Robin Hood) operations where union militants in France’s energy sector provide free gas and electricity to schools, universities, public sports facilities, daycare centers, public libraries, some small businesses and low-income households that had been cut off from power. Unsurprisingly, the Macron government is not amused about these excellent anti-capitalist actions while, equally unsurprisingly, these are very popular among the masses!

5. The current strike wave marks a new high point of the class struggle in Western Europe. Britain experiences the largest number of strikes since the mid-1980s. And France resembles more and more the days of the mass protests against the so-called *Plan Juppé* in winter 1995. The main reason for this upsurge in struggles is the militant mood amongst the masses provoked by a deep social crisis of capitalism combined with a massive loss of public confidence in the ruling class. For three years, bourgeois governments are reacting visibly helpless in face of “unexpected catastrophes” like the COVID Counterrevolution or the Ukraine War. They promise one thing and 6-12 months later everyone can see that this was complete nonsense. (“*We need a full lockdown for a few weeks and then the crisis is over*”; “*we impose the harshest possible sanctions on Russia and then Putin will stop the war soon*”, etc.) In other words,

Europe is in the middle of its worst social and economic crisis since 1945 and, at the same time, its ruling class also faces an unprecedented political crisis. Under such conditions, an escalation of mass struggles could open a (pre-) revolutionary crisis on the “*old continent*” (which is, by the way, an accurate category not in terms of civilisation but in terms of superannuation of the population).

6. The trade union bureaucracy has been forced to call for these days of action under huge pressure of the masses. However, socialists need to warn that the leadership of reformist parties and unions will tend to sell-out the struggle at the earliest possibility. This is why it is urgent that the workers and the popular masses – union and non-union members, young and old – build *independent action committees* in workplaces and neighbourhoods and create coordination councils with delegates from local committees. Of course, such committees are not alternatives to the unions but should help to integrate broader layers and, at the same time, create a counterweight to the bureaucracy. They could build organised pressure on the union leaderships, calling them to organise more actions and, at the same time, function as alternative centres of struggle if the unions refuse to fight.

7. Furthermore, it is important to overcome the limitation of the strikes to one-day actions. In order to escalate the struggle and to bring the governments to their knees, it is necessary to organise an *indefinite general strike* which paralyzes the country. At the same time, unions and action committees must organise *self-defence units* in order to protect strikes and demonstrations against police violence. In addition, it is important to link up the struggles across the border and to organise Europe-wide protest activities.

8. Finally, we repeat emphasising that the peculiar nature of the current struggle is that while it is economic *in form* (against inflation or pension reform) it is political *in substance*. This is because it is inextricably linked with major political events in world politics – most importantly the Ukraine War and the inter-imperialist rivalry between Great Powers like NATO and Russia.

9. The RCIT advocates a program of struggle which challenges the capitalist logic of power and wealth.

For an immediate price cap for food, energy, and housing!

For regular and automatic inflation adjustment of wages!

Against all attacks on social rights!

Tax the rich!

For the expropriation of energy corporations without compensation for the capitalists and under democratic control of the workers!

Nationalisation of the large enterprises in all key sectors of the economy under workers control!

10. At the same time, the RCIT calls socialists to combine such slogans with political demands. Various social democrat politicians support the logic of bourgeois governments that in face of Ukraine War and Great Power rivalry, Europe “*must defend itself*” and therefore, people have to make sacrifices to increase military spending or to safeguard “*our energy sovereignty*”. On the other hand,

various Stalinist politicians downplay Russia's imperialist character and the reactionary nature of Putin's war against the Ukrainian people. In contrast, authentic socialists stand in solidarity with the Ukraine and the necessity to support its war of national defence. At the same time, socialists refuse to support "their" imperialist governments and their chauvinist-militarist policy (like imposing economic sanctions, expansion of NATO, etc.). *Defend the Ukraine against Putin's invasion! Against Russian and against NATO imperialism! Down with the reactionary Great Power policy of sanctions!*

Material aid (including weapons) for the Ukraine!

No support for imperialist sanctions!

11. The RCIT calls all activists, who agree with such a

strategy, to join forces in building a new party of socialist revolution on a national as well as international scale.

International Bureau of the RCIT

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We refer readers to two documents of the RCIT on the food and energy crisis which can be read here: <https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/global/action-program-against-the-food-and-energy-crisis/>. See also more than 160 RCIT documents on the Ukraine War and the current NATO-Russia conflict which are compiled at: <https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/global/compilation-of-documents-on-nato-russia-conflict/>

Rally on the 12th Anniversary of the Egypt Revolution 2011

Report (with Photos and Videos) from a Rally in Vienna on 22 January 2023, Austrian Section of the RCIT

On 22nd January, the Egyptian migrant community in Vienna organized a rally to commemorate the 12th anniversary of the Egypt Revolution. This popular uprising in 2011 brought down the dictatorship of Mubarak and opened a period of (limited) bourgeois democracy. It was an important victory which encouraged the revolutionary wave in the whole Arab world.

However, this democratic revolution remained incomplete and left the old ruling class – the army command, the super-rich elite closely connected with the imperialist powers and the Gulf monarchies – in their positions. As a result, the military – led by General Sisi – launched a bloody coup in July 2013 and destroyed the democratic

gains. Since then, the regime has killed thousands of people and threw more than 60.000 people into prison.

The rally was addressed by Ibrahim Ali, the leader of the Egyptian migrant community in Austria.

Activists of the Austrian section of the RCIT attended the rally. Our comrade Michael Pröbsting, International Secretary of the RCIT, delivered two speeches in which he stressed the solidarity of the RCIT with the resistance of the Egypt people against the military dictatorship.

See photos and video clips of Michael Pröbsting's speeches here: https://www.thecommunists.net/rcit/rallies-in-solidarity-with-the-egypt-people-2023/#anker_1



Rally in Solidarity with the Egyptian People: Michael Pröbsting (l.) and Ibrahim Ali (r.)

The Zionist War Criminals attacked the Jenin's Refugees' Camp

A statement by the ISL the section of the RCIT in Israel/Occupied Palestine, 29 January 2023

On January 26 the Zionist army killed at least 9 Palestinians and injured at least 20 others in Jenin refugees' camp. The dead included an elderly woman, according to Palestinian officials. She was identified as Magda Obaid by the Jenin hospital authorities. The number of Palestinians killed by the Zionist forces during raids in the 1967 occupied West Bank and East Jerusalem in January is at least 29 people, including five children. At least 15 of those killed were from Jenin. At least 170 Palestinians were killed in such raids in 2022, many of them civilians.

Jenin camp is the northern camp in the West Bank. It was established in 1953 after the original camp of refugees from the ethnic cleansing of 1948 was destroyed by a snow storm. In 2002, the Zionist military force of about 5000 armed terrorists occupied the camp after ten days of intensive heroic resistance. The Zionists terrorists using all kinds of armor tanks and warplanes committed a massacre of tens of people, destroyed more than 400 houses, severely damaged additional many houses, and displaced more than a quarter of the camp's residents.

The Zionist apartheid state that calls all the Palestinians freedom fighters, terrorists, denied as usual that it committed a massacre and tries to hide that: *"Foreign Minister Shimon Peres is very worried about the expected international reaction as soon as the world learns the details of the tough battle in the Jenin refugee camps, where more than 100 Palestinians have already been killed in fighting with IDF forces. In private, Peres is referring to the battle as a "massacre" [1]*

Israel that uses state terrorism is denying that occupied people have the right to armed resistance against the occupier. However, in December 1982, following Israel's devastating invasion of Lebanon six months earlier, the United Nations General Assembly passed resolution A/RES/37/43 concerning the 'importance of the universal realization of the right of peoples to self-determination'. It endorsed, without qualification, 'the inalienable right' of the Palestinian people to 'self-determination, national independence, territorial integrity, national unity and sovereignty without outside interference', and reaffirmed the legitimacy of their struggle for those rights 'by all available means, including armed struggle'. It also strongly condemned Israel's 'expansionist activities in the Middle East' and 'continual bombing of Palestinian civilians', both said to 'constitute a serious obstacle to the realization of the self-determination and independence of the Palestinian people'. In the four decades since then, Israel's violence against the Palestinian people and its colonization of their land has not ceased. Up to the present moment, all over historical Palestine, from the Gaza Strip to Sheikh Jarrah, Palestinians are still under that same occupation, subject to suffocating control over virtually every aspect of their lives – and the sadistic, unaccountable violence of the Zionist state" [2]

Al Jazeera's Senior Political Analyst Mawan Bishara said that *"in the international arena, combating 'terrorism' has a magical sound to it. It's able to justify anything and everything even when it's totally incorrect. While Israel justifies its actions on security grounds, the Palestinians "see that as a cynical ploy aimed at humiliating the Palestinian authority," the analyst said. The raid took place in the so-called Area A, under Palestin-*

ian administrative and police control according to the terms of the Oslo agreement. "These young people of the refugee camp are just trying to protect themselves, it's not like they're going out in Israel and shooting at Israelis," Bishara added." [3]

"Israeli forces also fired tear gas canisters towards the hospital, affecting the children's division, Baker (the head of Jenin hospital) said. It caused suffocation injuries to children and others, he said. According to the health ministry the situation on the ground was very difficult, with injured people continuously reaching hospitals, as it accused Israeli forces of obstructing ambulances and medics" [4]

"The ambulance driver tried to get to one of the martyrs who was on the floor, but the Israeli forces shot directly at the ambulance and prevented them from approaching him," Baker continued" [5]

The Palestinians responded to the Zionists terrorists by throwing stones and Molotov cocktails on the settlers and setting on fire tires in the 1948 occupied lands. The intifada has climbed another step.

Stones were thrown at a settler vehicle at the Akra intersection between Tufuh and Magdalim. Two settlers injured their eyes and were taken to Beilinson Hospital in Petah Tikva. At the same time, Palestinians also threw stones at a bus between the small Yakir intersection in the direction of Emmanuel, as well as at two vehicles. Molotov cocktails were thrown at vehicles on Route 5 between Ariel and the Gitti Avisher intersection and fled to the village of Kifal Hares. In addition, massive stone pelting was also recorded at Israeli vehicles between Tapuh and Ariel intersections. The resistance is not concentrated only in the north west Bank, but in the whole of the country. Palestinians set three burning tires on fire on the Chutza Yehuda road, near the Olive junction. Burning tires were also set on fire at the perimeter fence near New Gibeon, at the entrance to the Bnei Hasan camp near Kiryat Netafim, as well as at the barrier between Hatmar Shomron to Itamar and at the junction of the houses in Kfar Hvara. Also, near the Hawara checkpoint, young Palestinians burned tires.

Under the growing resistance, the Palestinian Authority announced that it would suspend security coordination with Israel following the raid (This is likely to be empty words). Rockets were fired at Israel from Gaza, following threats to retaliate from the Hamas and Palestinian Islamic Jihad groups. The Zionist air force attacked targets in Gaza. Biden is trying to end the resistance and opposes Abu Mazen's threat.

In addition, the UN Security Council is to hold an emergency meeting following the lethal attack on Jenin. The meeting is going to be held in closed-door session Friday requested by UAE, China and France as tensions snowball following the raid on northern West Bank city. No doubt to stop the growing resistance of the Palestinians that possibly has entered a higher stage. It is reported that there was a real clash of the Palestinians and the Zionist terrorists: *"Widespread clashes broke out in Nablus on Friday morning, with Palestinian media stating that at least 52 injured in the fighting between Palestinians and the IDF, Maariv reported on Friday afternoon" [6]*

On Friday evening a young brave Palestinian killed 7 set-

tlers in Neve Yacob built on stolen land after 1967. It cannot be said that settlers living on Palestinian stolen lands are innocents. However, we do not support individual terror as it does not advance the struggle of liberation of Palestine. It gives the government of Israel the opportunity to further attack the Palestinians. We also can understand the joy of the Palestinians for this action. At the same time, we condemn all the hypocrites like the U.S who did not condemn the massacre in Jenin and Nablus but condemn the killing of the settlers.

Down with the Zionist apartheid!

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

Endnotes:

[1] <https://www.haaretz.com/2002-04-09/ty-article/peres-calls-idf-operation-in-jenin-a-massacre/0000017f-df39-d856-a37f-fff9b39d0000>

[2] <https://www.ebb-magazine.com/essays/the-palestinians-inalienable-right-to-resist#:~:text=Furthermore%2C%20regardless%20of%20what%20is,must%20be%20recognised%20and%20supported>

[3] <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2023/1/26/israeli-raid-kills-three-palestinians-in-jenin-fighting>

[4] Ibid

[5] Ibid

[6] <https://www.jpost.com/breaking-news/article-729842>

Capitalism is guilty of the murder of thousands in Türkiye, since most of the buildings did not have anti-seismic systems

By Juan Giglio, *Convergencia Socialista (RCIT Section in Argentina)*, 7 February 2023

In 2015 I traveled, as a delegate of the Committee of Solidarity with the people of Kurdistan, to Diyarbakir (Amed for the Kurdish people) which, as the de facto capital of this heroic people, is located in the southeast of Türkiye. From there I went to Kobane, after clandestinely crossing the border that divides that country from northern Syria (Rojava for the Kurds) where I made contact with the guerrillas that fought and defeated the Islamic State bands.

Several of the cities that I visited on that journey, such as Gaziantep, Sanliurfa or Amed itself, have been devastated by the earthquake, which caused thousands of deaths, not only because of its phenomenal intensity, but also because a large part of the constructions in the region did not have been built with the necessary requirements to deal with this type of damage, which is common in the area.

One of the first images I registered on the trip was the enormous number of new buildings that were being built

there, a product of the economic boom that was sweeping the country and benefiting a bourgeoisie (Turkish and Kurdish) eager to make quick profits. I have no doubt that these capitalists did nothing to face this type of catastrophe, which is not a “natural” topic, since its effects could have been mitigated with the use of anti-seismic standards that are used in other cities around the world.

Capitalism kills more than any earthquake or tsunami, much more now, when it is going through the period of greatest decline! It must be changed quickly and effectively by another system, based on democratic planning, that allows a true increase in the quality of life of the majority, a perspective that includes avoiding this type of situation. For that to happen, the General Staff of the Revolution must be built, the national and international party that organizes the decisive battles against this murderous system.



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By Michael Pröbsting, September 2022

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A RCIT Pamphlet, 20 pages, A4 Format

Türkiye & Syria: The Earthquake and Capitalism

Yossi Schwartz, ISL, the section of the RCIT in Israel/Occupied Palestine, 11.02.2023

On February 6, massive earthquakes struck southern Turkey and northern Syria, inflicting ghastly damage across a geographic region that has already borne a great deal of earthly devastation in recent decades. The ongoing war in Syria has produced millions of refugees, many of whom have now found themselves victims of seismic activity in the Turkish south. An untold number of people remain buried beneath the rubble. Traumatized survivors contend with frigid temperatures and aftershocks; refugees contend with the loss of any semblance of refuge" [1]

The majority of the people hit by the earthquake are the poor who live in unsafe buildings. "To be sure, the dwellings inhabited by the have-nots of the earth can be structurally less reliable and potentially more vulnerable to tectonic tumult – as was seen, for example, in the Peruvian earthquake of 2007, when homes collapsed across poor neighborhoods in the province of Ica. But in a world structured upon capitalist foundations, precocity goes much deeper than shoddy construction materials or disregard for building codes" [2]

"For starters, capitalism's insistence on acute inequality and the tyranny of an elite minority means there are major global fault lines between rich and poor – ones that are becoming ever more pronounced in the era of climate change and attendant ecological calamity. And while aid pledges inevitably come pouring in after high-profile disasters, they often only exacerbate the divide by lining the pockets of the aid industry rather than benefiting the disaster-stricken themselves" [3]

Three days before the devastating earthquake in Turkey and Syria "a Dutch researcher predicted that an earthquake would hit the region, highlighting with almost exact precision the epicenter of the quake that would soon strike. Dutch seismologist Frank Hoogerbeets, who works for the Solar System Geometry Survey (SSGS) in the Netherlands, predicted the earthquake in Turkey on February 3. On his Twitter account, the Dutch researcher wrote: "Sooner or later there will be a magnitude 7.5 earthquake in this region (South-Central Turkey, Jordan, Syria, Lebanon). He even attached an aerial photograph and marked the area where the disaster would happen." ... After Hoogerbeets' prediction went viral, he reacted to the earthquake and said: "As I stated earlier, sooner or later this would happen in this region, similar to the years 115 and 526. These earthquakes are always preceded by critical planetary geometry, as we had on 4-5 February." [4]

Thus, the governments of Turkey and Syria had enough time to prepare for the disaster and did nothing. Nor did other capitalist states that could send heavy equipment if requested by Turkey and Assad. Thus, the capitalist system is responsible for the thousands of people who died.

Even worse is the fact that the capitalist governments around the world have not sent delegations of experts with heavy equipment to Syria after the earthquake. "With hundreds of people trapped, rescuers have lamented the lack of international humanitarian assistance desperately needed after the devastating earthquake that killed thousands in northwest Syria" ... "While rescue teams and volunteers from around the world have made their way to Turkey, medical volunteer Obaida Rannoush called out the inaction of the global community when it comes to his country. "More than 60 hours after the quake took place, there are still hundreds trapped under the debris. We

cannot rescue them because of our meager resources. We need heavy machinery, humanitarian and medical aid," he said" [5]

"The lack of response has prompted dozens of Syrian journalists to stage a sit-in at the Bab al-Hawa crossing. Mazen Al-loush, head of media relations for the Bab al-Hawa border, said millions of Syrians have been affected by the earthquake and its aftershocks. "The crossing has been closed since the earthquake took place," he said" [6]

"Madevi Sun-Suon, spokesperson for the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), said on Tuesday that aid flows from Turkey to northwest Syria have temporarily stopped because of the fallout from the earthquake. "Some roads are broken, some are inaccessible. There are logistical issues that need to be worked through," she said" [7]

"But Alloush rejected these claims, saying the roads are open. "Every half hour or so we see cars carrying the bodies of Syrian people who died in the earthquake in Turkey crossing the border into Syria," he said. "So how can the roads be closed for aid but open for funeral convoys? "We know that the UN aid is stored in the Turkish city of Reyhanli, which is just one kilometer away from the border crossing," he added" [8]

As our comrade Juan Giglio wrote "Capitalism kills more than any earthquake or tsunami, much more now, when it is going through the period of greatest decline! It must be changed quickly and effectively by another system, based on democratic planning, that allows a true increase in the quality of life of the majority, a perspective that includes avoiding this type of situation. For that to happen, the General Staff of the Revolution must be built, the national and international party that organizes the decisive battles against this murderous system." [9]

Thus, for humanity to live capitalism must die and be replaced by socialism!

Endnotes:

[1] <https://www.aljazeera.com/opinions/2023/2/7/the-poor-are-stuck-in-whirlwind-of-mismanaged-crises>

[2] Ibid

[3] Ibid

[4] <https://www.jpost.com/international/article-730932>

[5] <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2023/2/8/no-aid-received-for-quake-victims-in-n-west-syria-activists-say>

[6] Ibid

[7] Ibid

[8] Ibid

[9] <https://convergenciadecombate.blogspot.com/2023/02/capitalism-is-guilty-of-murder-of.html>

Earthquake: Capitalism Killed Thousands by “Cheapening” the Costs of Building Collapsed Buildings!

By Damian Quevedo, *Convergencia Socialista* (RCIT Section in Argentina), 8 February 2023

The earthquake that killed thousands of people in Turkey has a natural appearance, since it happened in a seismic zone. However, its consequences on human lives have nothing to do with nature, but are the direct and genuine product of capitalist voracity, which has no limits. As we said in a previous note, a good part of the constructions, especially the newer ones, *have not been built with the necessary requirements to face this type of damage, which is common in the area.* (CS, February 7)

Turkey lived, like other countries, a speculative boom in the construction industry, giving rise to a real estate bubble, which, after several years of fury, exploded. This is what happened in several regions of the planet, such as the United States, where this process collapsed in 2008. In Turkey, the advance of this bourgeois sector stopped after the fall in oil prices in 2018.

Construction has been one of the engines of economic growth since President Recep Tayyip Erdogan came to power in 2003, but the sector fell by 5.3% over a year in the third quarter of 2018, and is accumulating difficulties. Whether it is called a construction or real estate bubble, the truth is that there is a bubble in Turkey. In 16 years, 10.5 million apartments were built, but only about 8 million are occupied [1].

The development of these bubbles, which meant obtaining fast and phenomenal profits for the construction employers, took place thanks to the tremendous reduction in production costs, a factor that was decisive in the collapse of buildings as a result of the earthquake. *The specialists pointed out that the construction methods in the area were not adequate for an area prone to earthquakes. The earthquake deeply affected the buildings. Once the seismic hazard of the different areas of the countries is defined, the buildings must be built from the seismic point of view [2].*

Capitalism has been undergoing for decades a process of stagnation of the productive forces, essentially this means that although there is a great technological development, this has nothing to do with increasing the quality of life of the majority, much less with the preservation of nature. These two elements are the main ones, when it comes to defining the development or not of the productive forces! This phenomenon is linked to another, typical of the capi-

talist system, which is the trend fall in the rate of profit. The increase in mechanization in the productive process, with the sole purpose of increasing labor productivity -to earn more money- reduces the mass of living labor -workers- which, in the long term, implies less profit. Capital, in order to continue expanding, has no choice but to lower production costs to stop, even momentarily, this process. This subordination to the search for permanent economic profit, which is the essence of capitalism, conditions all the potential development of society, including science, which, under the dictates of the bourgeoisie, is not placed at the service of the vast majority of the people, but from the thirst for profit of the big imperialist businessmen.

The contradiction between an enormous development of science and technology -with its potential for the emancipation of man- and the subordination of these potential productive forces to the imperatives of the sale of merchandise and the enrichment of the capitalists, which periodically transforms these productive forces into forces of destruction (especially in the case of economic crises, wars and the appearance of regimes of bloody Fascist dictatorships, but also in the threats that weigh on man's natural environment, thus facing the humanity with the dilemma: socialism or barbarism [3].

It is then that capitalism, which made enormous economic and political developments possible, in relation to the predecessor feudal society, for a long time has become a system that destroys nature and the human being. This happens even when it appears to improve our living conditions with new inventions, which, in the hands of the bourgeoisie, are nothing more than destructive forces.

The only way out capable of stopping this direct path to barbarism is to end capitalism, giving rise to a new society, in which their governments, supported by the democratic discussion of the whole, plan the economy with the purpose of raising the level of life for all and preserve nature. That new system, which can only be imposed through a social revolution, is Socialism.

[1] Infobae 01/18/2019

[2] Page12 02/07/2023

[3] Ernest Mandel; Introduction to Marxism, 1975.

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