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Workers and Oppressed Unite!

English-Language Journal of the Revolutionary Communist International Tendency (RCIT), No. 149, September 2023

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Picture on the cover: French troops in West Africa (Source: Wikimedia, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Operation_Barkhane#/media/File:35e_RAP_Embarquement_HM.PNG)

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

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US Sends Warships, Warplanes and 3,000 Marines to Persian Gulf

No to U.S. sanctions and threats against Iran! Defend Iran in any military confrontation with the U.S. or Israel! No political support for the Mullah regime!

Statement of the Revolutionary Communist International Tendency (RCIT), jointly issued by the International Bureau and Internationalist Socialist League (RCIT Section in Israel / Occupied Palestine), 8 August 2023

1. The Pentagon has sent a contingent of more than 3,000 US Navy personnel and Marines together with two warships – the USS Bataan and the USS Carter Hall – to the Persian Gulf. They join a dozen US F-35s, as well as F-16 and A-10 aircraft and Navy guided-missile destroyers that have already arrived in the region in recent weeks and months. This goes hand in hand with a plan to deploy Marines and Navy personnel onboard commercial tanker vessels in the Persian Gulf region, backed up by US warplanes and Navy ships. Tehran responded by saying it was equipping its Revolutionary Guard's navy with drones and 1,000km range missiles.

2. The White House claims that the purpose of this deployment is to deter Iranian naval forces from attempts to seize commercial oil tankers. This is utter hypocrisy since it the U.S. which has imposed draconic sanctions against Iran for years and which sizes tankers carrying Iranian fuel. Iran's actions are basically legitimate measures in self-defence.

3. It is evident that the deployment of U.S. troops on commercial oil tankers, combined with warplanes and Navy ships, would represent a significant escalation which could result in a war. This would be a development similar to the 1980s – the so-called “tanker war” – when the U.S. Navy was “protecting” commercial shipping moving through the Persian Gulf. The tragic highpoint of this conflict was the downing of Iran Air Flight 655, a civilian aircraft with 290 people on board, by a missile fired from the cruiser USS Vincennes on 3 July 1988.

4. The real goal of this deployment is to strengthen the influence and control of U.S. imperialism over the Strait of Hormuz and the Persian Gulf and to intimidate Iran, a capitalist semi-colony. This is even more urgent for Washington since it has lost much influence in the region in the past period as the renewal of diplomatic relations between Iran and Saudi Arabia a few months ago, brokered by China, demonstrated.

5. The *Revolutionary Communist International Tendency (RCIT)* and the *Internationalist Socialist League (RCIT Section in Israel / Occupied Palestine)* strongly denounce the deployment of U.S. forces in the region. In case of a military confrontation, we call for the victory of Iranian forces and the defeat of the U.S. (or Israel if it is also involved).

6. However, we lend no political support to the reactionary Mullah regime. It brutally oppresses its own people, helps the Assad tyranny to drown the Syrian Revolution in blood and aids Russian imperialism in its war of aggression against the Ukrainian people.

Down with imperialist sanctions against Iran!

In any military conflict between the US and its allies against Iran resp. pro-Iranian forces: for the defeat of the imperialists and the victory of their opponents!

Expel the US forces and its allies from the Middle East!

Solidarity wit the Iranian workers and popular masses protesting against the Mullah regime! Support the Syrian Revolution! Long live the heroic Palestinian people fighting against the Zionist state!

For a free and red Palestine from the River to the Sea! For a socialist federation in the Middle East!

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.

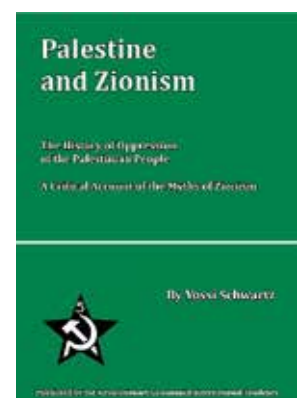
Yossi Schwartz also shows that the Palestinian people have heroically resisted against the occupation resulting in two Intifadas as well as the successful defense of Gaza against the Israeli aggression in three wars (2008/09, 2012, 2014). The author also analysis the shameful betrayal by the PLO leadership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



Syria: New Wave of Mass Protests against the Assad Regime

Statement by the Revolutionary Communist International Tendency (RCIT), 19 August 2023

1. Since 16 August, mass protests are spreading across those regions in Syria which are under control of the Assad regime. These demonstrations have been provoked by dramatically worsening living conditions after the regime lifted subsidies on gasoline and fuel oil. As a result, the price of one liter of gasoline rose from 3,000 Syrian pounds to 8,000 pounds and the price of a liter of fuel oil rose from 700 pounds to 2,000. Such developments will have massive consequences for transport costs and hence for all sectors of the economy. These attacks on living conditions take place against the background of already extremely dire situation where, according to the UN, 90% of the population lives in poverty, and more than half the population is food insecure.

2. While similar demonstrations against worsening living conditions did take place in the south of the country in the past three years, the current protests are remarkable as they are more widespread. Demonstrators gathered in at least 15 towns across Daraa, Rif Dimashq and Suwayda provinces. In the latter province, a general strike was declared. In Deir ez Zor City, butchers went on strike after the governor raised the prices of a kilo of meat. There were protests even in Jaramna, a suburb of the capital city, Damascus. Furthermore, the protests have a distinct political character since demonstrators also chant slogans against the tyranny of Assad like “*Bashar ... Go! We want to live!*” One group of protesters issued a statement declaring its non-recognition of the Syrian regime, calling the regime “*usurped by the Russian occupier and Iranian militias.*” The protests are supported by various local opposition groups and militias like the *10 August Movement*, the *Association for Free Men of the Arab Mountain*, or the *Sheikhs of Dignity*.

3. The *Revolutionary Communist International Tendency* (RCIT) strongly welcomes this new wave of mass protests and sends it warmest greetings to the heroic people of Syria! This uprising – in addition to the fact that heroic people of Idlib continue to keep their region liberated – is another confirmation that the Syrian Revolution is not

dead, contrary to the cynical claims of the cowards and renegades. We reiterate that the Assad regime only *appears* as strong. But in reality, it is weak and totally depends on the support by Putin and the Mullahs. If these protests continue and deepen, they could help to renew the revolutionary offensive to bring down the Assad tyranny.

4. It is crucial that the oppressed masses take the struggle in their own hands and don't let the decisions made by some self-proclaimed but uncontrolled “*leaders*”. All decisions should be taken by the people organized in councils and militias respective by their elected (and accountable) leaders. It is urgent to appeal to the ordinary soldiers of the Assad militias (who often have been pressed into service) to desert and to join the liberations struggle.

5. The Syrian Revolution was and remains part of the glorious Arab Revolution which started in 2011. The liberation struggles against the tyrants, against the imperialist Great Powers and against Zionism – from Syria, Iraq, Lebanon, to Ahwaz, Iran and Palestine – these are all part of one and the same ongoing revolutionary process in the region. These need to be *united to a single Intifada!* Furthermore, it is urgent to build an *international solidarity movement* in support of the Syrian Revolution. We call revolutionary activists to join forces in an authentic revolutionary party – nationally and internationally – which can lead the liberation struggle to victory! Join the RCIT! *Victory to the liberation struggle against the Assad tyranny and its imperialist masters!*

For an international solidarity movement with the ongoing Syrian Revolution!

For a free Syria, a socialist Syria – a Syria which respects the national and religious rights of all people!

Long live the Arab Revolution!

Unity – Struggle – Victory!

International Bureau of the RCIT

Publications of the RCIT in Arab Language

The image displays several Arabic-language publications and posters. On the left, a poster features a hammer and sickle and portraits of Lenin and Stalin, with the text "البيان الشيوعي الثوري" (The Revolutionary Communist Manifesto) and "الثورة والثورة المضادة في العالم العربي: اختبار للثوريين" (Revolution and Counter-Revolution in the Arab World: A Test for the Revolutionaries). In the center, a woman in a headscarf holds a flag. On the right, a poster for "AWRA ثورة" (AWRA Revolution) features a star and the text "الحرية نور المشرق" (Freedom is the Light of the East).

Syria: Rally in Solidarity with Cancer Patients in Idlib

Report (with Photos and Videos) from a Rally in Vienna on 27 July 2023, Austrian Section of the RCIT

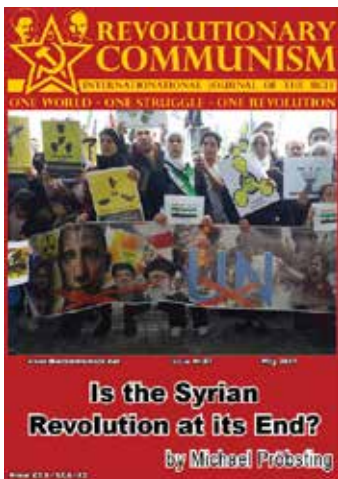
More than 200 Syrian migrants demonstrated on 27 July at the headquarters of the United Nations in Vienna. We called for solidarity with more than 3,000 cancer patients in Idlib who have no access to necessary medical facilities. Abdulhkeem Alshater from the association „Free Syrian Community Austria“ led through the rally which also saw speeches from a Syrian and a Bosnian sister. Another speaker was Dr. Haitham Awardani, a representative of the Palestinian diaspora in Austria.

Comrade Michael Pröbsting, International Secretary of the RCIT, also addressed the rally. He pointed out that there are so many cancer patients in Syria because of the indiscriminate use of chemical weapons by the reactionary dictatorship of Assad. He reiterated our unconditional support for the Syrian Revolution.

See photos and video clips here: https://www.the-communists.net/rcit/rcit-interventions-at-rallies-in-2023/#anker_14



Rally of the Syrian migrant community in Vienna on 27 July 2023; Michael Pröbsting speaks (r.)



Publications of the RCIT

Is the Syrian Revolution at its End? Is Third Camp Abstentionism Justified?

By Michael Pröbsting, April 2017

An essay on the organs of popular power in the liberated area of Syria, on the character of the different sectors of the Syrian rebels, and on the failure of those leftists who deserted the Syrian Revolution

Introduction * The Nature of the Local Coordination Councils in Syria * The Contradictory Nature of the Petty-Bourgeois Rebel Factions * A note on the adjectival juxtaposition of “progressive” to liberal democrats versus “reactionary” to Islamists * Hayyat Tahrir al-Sham and Other Islamist Militias * The Role of Religion in Democratic and National Liberation Struggles * Some Arguments on the Ongoing Progressive Character of the Syrian Revolution * Have the Rebels Become Agents of US Imperialism and Regional Powers? * On Foreign Powers’ Support for Liberation Movements p* Lenin and Trotsky on Liberation Struggles and Imperialist Interference * What Did Lenin and Trotsky Say about Getting Support from Imperialists? * Imagining Two Different Scenarios of the Revolution’s Success & Failure * A Period of Defeats and Retreats: What Are the Reasons? * Some Thoughts on the Future Prospects of the Arab Revolution * The Urgent Need for a Revolutionary Party * Footnotes

A RCIT Pamphlet, 24 pages, A4 Format

The Servants of the Zionist Apartheid State attack the Heroes of Jenin

Statement by the ISL the section of the RCIT in Israel /Occupied Palestine, 04.08.23

During the fight between the Zionist army and the young fighters who defended the Jenin refugees camp the armed forces of the Palestinian Authority (PA) stood aside instead of participating in the battle on the side of the young heroes. They were fighting with light weapons against one of the strongest armies in the world that uses very modern heavy weapons provided by the American imperialists.

Because of this betrayal, the fighters of Jenin led by Khaled al-Ararawi expelled senior Fatah officials Mahmoud al-Aloul and Azzam al-Ahmed during the funerals of some of the Palestinian gunmen killed during the Zionist attack.

Then armed clashes erupted on Tuesday night between the PA officers and the young fighters in Jenin refugee camp in the latest sign of mounting tensions between the Palestinian Authority, Palestinian Islamic Jihad, and Hamas.

"A senior PA official described brave fighters as "thugs" and "car-thieves" and said the Palestinian security forces would chase each one of them and bring them to trial. The official accused Palestinian Islamic Jihad and Hamas of working on instructions from Iran to undermine the PA and increase violence and instability in the West Bank" [1]

The clashes erupted after the PA forces refused to release Khaled al-Ararawi, whose nephew, Majdi, was killed during last month's large-scale Israeli military attack in the camp. Majdi was a member of the Jenin Battalion, an armed group whose some of its members are affiliated with Palestinian Islamic Jihad.

Thus not only the Zionists, the Arab local rulers and the Western imperialists are the enemies of the Palestinian war for national liberation but so is the PA. The road of betrayal began with the Oslo accord.

The victory of the Palestinians war for national liberation will be won as part of the victory of the Arab revolution that will begin as a fight for democracy and end with socialist revolution.

Release Khaled al-Ararawi and all other Palestinian political prisoners whether held by the PA or Israel!

Down with the PA traitors!

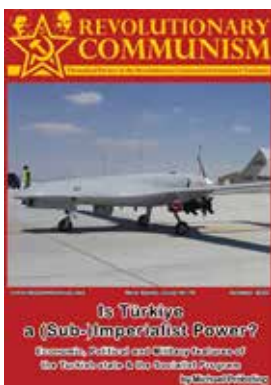
Down with the Zionist apartheid state from the river to the sea

Expel all the imperialists from the region

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

Endnotes:

[1] <https://www.jpost.com/middle-east/article-753431>



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

Presidential Election in Türkiye:

On Those Who Can Learn and Those Who Can't

Jailed HDP leader - in contrast to some "Trotskyists" - says support for bourgeois racist candidate Kemal Kılıçdaroğlu was "wrong"

By Michael Pröbsting, Revolutionary Communist International Tendency (RCIT), 16 June 2023

The recently held Presidential election in Türkiye saw a contest between President Recep Erdoğan and the leader of the main opposition party CHP, Kemal Kılıçdaroğlu. Each candidate represented a faction of the Turkish bourgeoisie. Hence, socialists refused to vote for any of these candidates.¹

Unfortunately, HDP – a petty-bourgeois nationalist party and the main force of the Kurdish minority – did not stand their own candidate but rather supported Kılıçdaroğlu. This is the result of their misdirected collaboration with the Kemalist sector of the Turkish bourgeoisie since a number of years.

The RCIT and all authentic socialists unconditionally defend the Kurdish people against the oppression by the Turkish state. We demand the immediate and unconditional release of Figen Yuksekdag, Selahattin Demirtas and all other political prisoners in Türkiye.

We support the Kurd's struggle for national self-determination, including the right to have their own state. Such a goal can not be achieved via collaboration with a sector of the ruling class (or with U.S. imperialism, as the YPG in Syria as well as the Barzani and Talabani forces in Iraq are doing since many years). National independence goes hand in hand with class independence, i.e. with the international class struggle jointly with workers and oppressed of other nations.²

It is not particularly surprising that petty-bourgeois nationalists collaborate with bourgeois forces as they lack a Marxist program. However, it is all the more astonishing that many Stalinists (TİP, TKP, etc.) as well as self-proclaimed Trotskyists also called to vote for Kılıçdaroğlu at the recent elections. In fact, such a treacherous support for the candidate of a faction of the bourgeoisie is equivalent to the reformist policy of "popular frontism", i.e. the strategy of collaboration with bourgeois forces which Trotsky vehemently denounced.³

It is a well-coming development that jailed HDP leader Figen Yuksekdag has now publicly criticized that her party refrained from fielding its own candidate and, instead, choose to support Kılıçdaroğlu. In an interview with the

media outlet *Middle East Eye* she said: "HDP politicians in prison, including myself, advocated for running our own candidate and consolidating our power by entering the parliamentary elections with a single list. (...) The 2023 elections were a unique process for the HDP [and] its inability to focus on its own strength and accumulated experience resulted in the wrong choice of Kılıçdaroğlu."⁴

This is of course a very correct criticism. But how is it possible that petty-bourgeois nationalists are able to reject support for Kılıçdaroğlu while all those Trotskyists who did the same remain silent about such their outrageous capitulation to the Kemalist bourgeoisie?!

Footnotes

1 See Michael Pröbsting: Türkiye: Trotskyists Must Not Vote for the Anti-Refugee Hatemonger Kılıçdaroğlu! On the shameful electoral support of the Turkish LIT-CI group for the bourgeois CHP leader at the Presidential election, 25 May 2023, <https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/africa-and-middle-east/lit-ci-and-the-presidential-election-in-tuerkiye/>; Juan Giglio: The Same Dog with a Different Collar! Trotskyists of the LIT-CI call to vote for a bourgeois alliance in Türkiye, to defeat Erdogan, 23 March 2023, <https://convergiadecombate.blogspot.com/2023/03/trotskyists-of-lit-ti-call-to-vote-for.html>; Musa Ardem: Debate: El grupo del MST en Turquía apoya al candidato presidencial pro OTAN y acérmino enemigo de los refugiados sirios, Kemal Kılıçdaroğlu, 27.5.2023, <https://convergiadecombate.blogspot.com/2023/05/el-grupo-del-mst-en-turquia-apoya-al.html>

2 For our fundamental program for Türkiye see e.g. RCIT: Tek Yol Devrim! Action Program for Turkey by Sınıf Savaşı (Section of the Revolutionary Communist International Tendency in Turkey), October 2016, <https://www.thecommunists.net/theory/program-turkey/>; for our analysis of Turkish capitalism see e.g. our pamphlet by Michael Pröbsting: 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, 25 September 2022, <https://www.thecommunists.net/theory/is-tuerkiye-a-sub-imperialist-power/>; see also by the same author: Türkiye: sub-imperialist power or semi-colony? Critique: Journal of Socialist Theory (Volume 50, Issue 4, 2022), <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/03017605.2023.2199592>

3 For the RCIT's critique of the support for Kılıçdaroğlu by some Trotskyists, see our articles in footnote 1.

4 Alex MacDonald: Turkey: Jailed HDP leader says backing Kılıçdaroğlu was 'wrong', 15 June 2023 <https://www.middleeasteye.net/news/turkey-jailed-hdp-leader-yuksekdag-backing-kilicdaroglu-wrong>



Publications of the RCIT

The Origins of the Jews

By Yossi Schwartz, July 2015

Chapter I: What are the origins of the Jews?

Chapter II: The Rise of Anti-Semitism

Chapter III: Anti-Semitism and Zionism

Chapter IV: The Russian Revolution:

Bolshevism, the Bund, and Stalinism

ECOWAS, France and U.S.: Hands Off Niger!

Defend Niger against sanctions and military intervention! No political support for the junta of General Tiani! Expel all US/European troops from Niger!

Statement of the Revolutionary Communist International Tendency (RCIT),

jointly issued by the International Bureau and Revolutionary Socialist Vanguard (Nigeria), 1 August 2023

1. The pro-Western alliance ECOWAS as well as the European Union and the U.S. have imposed sanctions against Niger and threaten with military intervention if the new junta does not reinstate the deposed President Mohamed Bazoum within a week. When thousands of demonstrators marched to the French embassy and denounced any military intervention by the old colonial master, President Macron warned that he *"will not tolerate any attack against France and its interests"*. Paris also threatened: *"Should anyone attack French nationals, the army, diplomats and French interests, they will see France respond in an immediate and intractable manner."* In preparation for such a military intervention, Paris has announced today that it will evacuate its nationals from Niger *"very soon."*

2. The background for this escalation is the coup in Niger on 26 July where the Presidential Guard, supported by the army, ousted President Bazoum and declared General Abdourahamane Tiani as the new leader. Bazoum and his party (*"Parti nigérien pour la démocratie et le socialisme"*) – which ruled the country since 2011 – had become highly unpopular because of its corruption, its failure to reduce poverty, its brutal oppression of protests and of oppositional forces (e.g. the arrest of Abdoulaye Seydou, the leader of the new social movement M62) as well as because of its subservient role as a lackey of French and U.S. imperialism.

3. Niger was a French colony until 1960 when it became a capitalist semi-colony dominated by France and other Western powers. It is one of the poorest countries in the world. However, it has also some of the world's largest uranium deposit – as well as other raw materials – which are controlled by French corporations. European leaders are highly interested to keep Niger under their control since France and other EU states get 15-30% of their uranium imports – essential for Europe's nuclear energy industry – from that country. Furthermore, Niger is the last country in Northern and Central Africa where a sizeable number of Western troops (1,500 French and about 1,000 U.S. soldiers) is stationed – under the pretext of the imperialist *"War on Terror"*. Furthermore, the U.S. military runs a gigantic drone base in the northern region of Agadez from where it launches its bloody killing operations in the Sahel region. In short, *"loosing"* Niger would be a strategic setback for EU and U.S. imperialism since they already lost control over Mali and Burkina Faso in the last three years.

4. For all these reasons, France, the EU and the U.S. are determined to keep Niger under control. For such purpose, they want to force the new rulers to reinstate their puppet Bazoum or to find an agreement with General Tiani to continue the pro-Western policy of his predecessor. If these plans are not successful within the next days, the Western imperialists plan to military intervene with the help of their foot soldiers of the Nigeria-dominated ECOWAS alliance.

5. However, the aggression of ECOWAS, EU and U.S. face important obstacles. First, there exists strong popular resentment in Niger against France and its allies. Any military intervention by these foreign powers would provoke determined resistance not only by the new junta but also by the popular masses. Second, several countries in the region – which are formally also members of the ECOWAS alliance – have already denounced the sanctions and military threats against Niger. Guinea expressed its *"disagreement with the sanctions recommended by ECOWAS, including military intervention"*. And the governments of Burkina Faso and Mali said in a joint statement that they *"refuse to apply"* the *"illegal, illegitimate and inhumane sanctions against the people and authorities of Niger"*. They warned about the *"disastrous consequences of a military intervention in Niger [which] could destabilise the entire region"*. They even threatened: *"Any military intervention against Niger would be tantamount to a declaration of war against Burkina Faso and Mali."* In other words, a military intervention by pro-Western troops could result in a war not only with Niger but also with Burkina Faso and Mali.

6. Western leaders claim that their pressure against the new junta in Niger is motivated by its concern for *"democracy"*. Nothing could be further from truth! Just a few weeks ago, EU leaders signed off on a €1bn *"anti-migration"* deal with Tunisia – an authoritarian country ruled by Kais Saied who took power via a coup in July 2021. Another key ally of the EU and the U.S. is General Sisi in Egypt who took power via a military coup on 3 July 2013. In the following weeks he brutally crushed mass protests – most famously the horrible Rabaa massacre on 14 August when the army killed 2,600 demonstrators on a single day! To this we could add other *"strategic allies"* of Western powers like the absolutist monarchies in the Gulf states. Furthermore, everyone in Africa is well aware of the numerous intrigues and coups organised by the Elysee in Paris! No, the only reason why EU and U.S. leaders oppose the new junta in Niger is that they fear to lose control of that country.

7. Likewise, the Tinubu government in Nigeria has no interest in democracy or the acclaimed *"constitutional order"*. It is a weak and unpopular government which fears for its own existence. First, the presidential tribunal where opposition parties challenge the results of the February elections is under pressure to order a re-run. Moreso, before his swearing on May 29 there were already calls for an interim government which ranged then from a caretaker government to an outright military coup. Now with the coup in Niger the likelihood of military coups especially in the West Africa region has increased. While the current conditions do not exactly give room for a coup in the near future it is clear that without the support of major brokers in other ruling class factions, the Tinubu regime is vulnerable. Finally, Tinubu has unleashed a deluge of pitiless austerity measures and reckless laissez-faire policies

against the masses to which the labour unions are set to embark on a 7-day general strike on August 2. It is easy to see why the Tinubu administration views the coup in Niger as existential threat to its government.

8. The *Revolutionary Communist International Tendency* (RCIT) and the *Revolutionary Socialist Vanguard* (Nigerian Section of the RCIT) denounce the sanctions and military threats by ECOWAS, EU and U.S. imperialism! We call for an immediate end of sanctions. In case of a military intervention by ECOWAS troops (which will be directly or indirectly supported by Western powers), we call for the *military defence of Niger* and for the *defeat of the pro-imperialist invaders*. Likewise, socialists demand the *expulsion of US/European troops from Niger*.

9. A military aggression of ECOWAS against Niger would represent an imperialist attack against a poor semi-colonial country. True, the member states of ECOWAS are not imperialist but rather capitalist semi-colonies (including its dominant state, Nigeria). However, in such an attack, ECOWAS would operate as a proxy of European and U.S. imperialism – similar to the African states in the France-dominated *G5 Sahel* alliance or the pro-U.S. AMISOM/ATMIS troops in Somalia. Hence, in such a situation, Niger's resistance against ECOWAS troops would have the character of an *anti-imperialist struggle of a semi-colonial country against a pro-imperialist alliance*. One might object that Niger would be a puppet of Russian imperialism. However, while such a scenario can not be excluded in the future, this is presently not the case. Currently, Russia plays no relevant role in Niger – neither economically, politically nor military.

10. Our defence of Niger against foreign aggression must not be confused with any political support for the new junta. As the Nigerian comrades of the RCIT said in their statement from 28 July: *"Socialists oppose the coup; it is a fight between two equally reactionary wings of the Nigerien ruling class. It is an extension of the bonapartist shift of the ruling class following similar coups in Mali, Sudan, and Burkina Faso. While we oppose all forms of dictatorial governments, we give no support to the Bazoum government. Hence, we call so-*

cialists revolutionaries, progressives and activists to defend freedom of expression including protests and demonstrations."

11. We are aware that many brothers and sisters in Pan-Africanist circles are hopeful about the new junta in Niger. They sympathise with the regimes in Burkina Faso and Mali and consider Russia – whose Wagner mercenaries have replaced French troops – as a "progressive" force. We think that these comrades are deeply wrong! A foreign policy orientation towards Russia – instead of France (resp. other Western powers) – would not provide a way forward for the Nigerien people. This would only replace one Great Power with another – but the system of imperialist oppression and super-exploitation would continue. Think about Russia's role as a brutal occupation power in Chechnya, Syria or the Ukraine. Think about its close relations with the arch-reactionary putschists in Sudan or with General Haftar in Libya. Hence, the RCIT calls for the *expulsion not only of Western troops but also of all Wagner mercenaries from Africa!*

12. Authentic socialists have to oppose all imperialist Great Powers in East and West (U.S., China, Western Europe, Russia and Japan). Likewise, the way forward is not to replace one capitalist authoritarian regime with another. The workers and poor peasants in Niger need to organise themselves in *councils of actions* and *popular militias*. Such organs of the masses should constitute the basis for *workers and poor peasant government* which moves forward to *expropriate the foreign corporations* and to *distribute the land to those who work on it*. This could lay the foundation for the course of *total decolonization*, i.e. a truly free Niger independent of imperialist domination by any Great Power. As our Nigerian comrades stated, *"we call for a free socialist Niger as part of a voluntary Confederation of West African Socialist Republics."*

13. In case of a pro-imperialist military intervention against Niger, the RCIT and its Nigerian section call for the *creation of action committees to organise protests*. We call authentic socialists who agree with such an anti-imperialist program to join forces and to build a *revolutionary party – nationally and internationally*.



RCIT AFRICA PROGRAM

Manifesto for the Revolutionary Liberation of Black Africa

Adopted at the 2nd World Congress of the RCIT in November 2017

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

A RCIT Pamphlet, 24 pages, A5 Format

Niger: President Bazoum is Ousted in a Coup

Statement of the Revolutionary Socialist Vanguard (RSV), Nigerian Section of the RCIT, 28th July, 2023

The Nigerien president, Mohamed Bazoum, has been deposed through a coup staged by the presidential guard. The 2000-strong presidential guard detained Bazoum on Wednesday and announced on state television that they were taking over the government. The Nigerien Armed Forces, despite initially threatening to launch a counter-offensive against the presidential guard to reinstate the president, has come out in support of the putschists. These developments have drawn condemnation from Western governments like the US and France as well as international organisations and regional blocs like the UN and ECOWAS. With the coup in Niger been the 6th in a row for the past 3 years in the Sahelian Belt, the capitalist crises might have plunged the region into a more protracted "coup season".

Irrespective of the "security concerns" of the coup plotters the coup has every probability of further destabilising an already volatile region which is swarming with extremist armed groups linked to Daesh and Al Qaeda especially Boko Haram, ISWAP and Fulani militias known as Bandits in Nigeria which shares a northern border with Niger. Moreso, the extent of unrest that will be elicited by the coup remains to be seen as there are already anti- and pro-coup demonstrations in Niamey.

Niger is one of the most underdeveloped semi-colonial countries in the world. It's large deposits of uranium and other mineral resources have been exploited by the imperialist West for decades. It lies at the bottom of the UN's Human Development Index and has been a recipient of the UN's humanitarian aid for years. As has been mentioned the country is plagued with attacks from armed extremist groups and national conflicts with countless lives lost and thousands displaced. Its borders are flashpoints for the cross-national operations of this extremist groups against each other and security forces of the border countries. All these is more and more compounded by a deepening capitalist crisis which has heightened food inflation and worsened environmental conditions. Now with the advent of the coup the UN has suspended its supply of aid to Niger.

The coup is a blow against US imperialism which has long maintained its grip over successive Nigerien governments. Its gigantic drone base in the northern region of Agadez is used as a satellite to launch the "War on Terror"

campaign in North and Central Africa. It is another step in the general decline of European imperialist influence in the region as France which has recently moved troops to Niger after they were expelled from Mali and Burkina Faso may be threatened yet again to remove its troops from the region, this time permanently.

In contrast, the rapprochement of military juntas in the region from Mali to Burkina Faso and now Niger with Russia is set to improve. Yevgeny Prigozhin, the leader of the notorious Russian-backed Wagner Group, has called for "a new journey to Africa" just weeks before the coup. (1) While no links can be traced to his statement and the coup, the influence of Russia in the region remains a decisive factor in the political turns in the region.

Socialists oppose the coup; it is a fight between two equally reactionary wings of the Nigerien ruling class. It is an extension of the bonapartist shift of the ruling class following similar coups in Mali, Sudan, and Burkina Faso. While we oppose all forms of dictatorial governments, we give no support to the Bazoum government. Hence, we call socialists revolutionaries, progressives and activists to defend freedom of expression including protests and demonstrations. We call for the expulsion of US/European troops from Niger and an end to the weaponisation of UN humanitarian aid as tool of cohesion in semi-colonial countries.

At the same time, we denounce the growing influence of the Eastern imperialists-- Russia and China - in Africa. We stand against any admission of the Wagner Group into Niger. For international food and medical aid to Niger. No to Western sanctions against Niger. All imperialists whether from the East or West are robbers and thieves, they must all be expelled from the region. Armed extremist violence in Africa is the aftermath of colonial subjugation and imperialist exploitation. Thus, we call for a *free socialist Niger* as part of a voluntary *Confederation of West African Socialist Republics*. This free socialist Niger must have a *workers and poor peasant government* that will lay the foundation for the course of total decolonisation.

Footnotes

[1] Russia's Wagner boss appears to hail Niger coup, tout services <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2023/7/28/russias-wagner-boss-appears-to-hail-niger-coup-tout-services>



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

Russia: Solidarity with Boris Kagarlitsky!

*Statement of the Revolutionary Communist International Tendency (RCIT),
jointly issued by the International Bureau and Socialist Tendency (Russia), 25 July 2023*

A criminal case has been opened against Boris Kagarlitsky accusing him of “supporting terrorism”. Kagarlitsky is one of the most prominent left-wing intellectuals in Russia whose works have been translated in various other languages.

The *Revolutionary Communist International Tendency* (RCIT) and *Socialist Tendency* (the RCIT section in Russia) strongly denounce this act of repression and declare their solidarity with Boris Kagarlitsky. We do not hide that we have political differences with this comrade. However, the issue at this place is not political differences between socialists – this is about democratic solidarity with a victim of the reactionary Putin regime!

It is particularly urgent to show solidarity with Boris Kagarlitsky since he – in contrast to Zyuganov’s KPRF and other “communist” lackeys of the Kremlin – has courageously denounced Russia’s invasion of the Ukraine since the beginning.

The attack on Kagarlitsky is another expression of the desperate policy of the crisis-ridden Putin regime which tries to consolidate its domination by suppressing all kind of critics from the left as well as from the right. The purge of “unreliable” generals, the arrest of Igor Strelkov and other reactionary ultra-chauvinists, and now the strike against a prominent left-wing critique of the war – all this shows a Bonapartist regime which fears disloyalty and criticism

from all quarters. Clearly, Russia is heading towards a period of internal convulsion!

The RCIT and *Socialist Tendency* reiterate their support for the Ukraine’s just war of national defence against Russian imperialism. At the same time, we oppose all Great Powers – the U.S., China, Russia, Western Europe and Japan. The workers in Russia need to prepare for political explosions which could create the conditions for a revolutionary uprising to bring down the Bonapartist regime. We call workers and popular organisations in Russia as well as internationally to show their solidarity with Boris Kagarlitsky!

We refer readers to the following RCIT documents:

Russia: The Death Agony of the Putin Regime and the Perspectives for the Class Struggle. On the tasks of socialists in the coming period of crisis of the Bonapartist regime and its imperialist war against the Ukrainian people, 6 July 2023, <https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/europe/russia-death-agonny-of-putin-regime/>

We also refer readers to the RCIT documents on the Ukraine War and the current NATO-Russia conflict are compiled: <https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/global/compilation-of-documents-on-nato-russia-conflict/>.



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

Russia: Not to Police Repression against Muslim Migrants!

Islamophobia is a Form of Racism in Imperialist Countries

Statement of Socialist Tendency (Section of the Revolutionary Communist International Tendency in Russia), 22 July 2023

As many already know, racism is a specific form of systematic oppression of national minorities of which Islamophobia is one of its manifestations.

Imperialist countries use Islamophobia as an ideological justification for the super-exploitation of Muslim oppressed nations, including immigrants. With its help, the ruling class of the exploiting nations divides the proletariat along religious and national lines, incites the workers of the "titular" nations against their colleagues of the oppressed nations.

Russia is no exception to this general rule. So, on July 7, in a prayer house in Kotelniki near Moscow, representatives of law enforcement agencies sprayed tear gas, which disrupted the prayer of Muslims.

In connection with this incident, Muslims said that the riot police were conducting "egregious raids", calling them "barbaric". They're going to go to the prosecutor's office.

"OMON officers carried out a raid in a Muslim center that was blatant in its impiety. During the raid, the security forces did not allow the believers to complete their prayers, put them face down on the floor, frightened the children to tears, stomped on the carpets in their shoes, and when the parishioners legally demanded to explain the reason for their long detention within the walls of the Muslim center, one of the OMON officers sprayed a fire extinguisher towards the parishioners, presumably with tear gas," the appeal says.

In the aftermath of, and presumably in connection with, these events, Central Asian migrants organized an unsanctioned demonstration in Moscow against police violence and lawlessness.

We, as internationalist socialists, support the demands of Muslims to stop the unreasonable police repression against them.

To stop the repression, and not only against Muslims,

but also against all representatives of the left, workers, anti-imperial and anti-war opposition, it is necessary to unite the working class, regardless of cultural, religious and national affiliation. The Russian working class must cast aside chauvinist and imperialist prejudices in order to win over the representatives of various minorities. Only on the basis of relations of equality and mutual respect is it possible to unite all sections of the working class.

Such provocative racist Islamophobic actions are not only a Russian trait, but also a pan-European one. For example, far-right activists in Sweden burned a Koran on June 28 in front of the largest mosque in Stockholm. Read more about this and the protests associated with it in the article on our website.

We refer readers to the following RCIT documents:

Russia: The Death Agony of the Putin Regime and the Perspectives for the Class Struggle. On the tasks of socialists in the coming period of crisis of the Bonapartist regime and its imperialist war against the Ukrainian people, 6 July 2023, <https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/europe/russia-death-agony-of-putin-regime/>

Protesters Torch Swedish Embassy in Baghdad over Quran Burning. Down with racist Islamophobia in Europe! 20 July 2023, <https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/africa-and-middle-east/protesters-torch-swedish-embassy-in-baghdad-over-quran-burning/>

We also refer readers to the RCIT documents on the Ukraine War and the current NATO-Russia conflict are compiled: <https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/global/compilation-of-documents-on-nato-russia-conflict/>.



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

NATO Official Suggests Ukraine Should Trade Territory for Membership

Western powers plan to sell-out the Ukraine's national rights for a "grand bargain" with Putin

By Michael Pröbsting, Revolutionary Communist International Tendency (RCIT), 16 August 2023

Stian Jenssen, a leading NATO official, has made a remarkable statement to Norwegian media yesterday. Speaking about how to end the war and possible NATO membership of the Ukraine, he said: *"There is significant movement in the question of future NATO membership for Ukraine. It is in everyone's interest that the war does not repeat itself. (...) Russia is struggling enormously militarily, and it seems unrealistic that they can take new territories. (...) Now it is rather a question of what Ukraine manages to take back."*¹ *"When asked by Norwegian newspaper VG whether Ukraine must cede land to achieve peace and get NATO membership in return, Mr Jenssen suggested that question has already been raised within the alliance. 'I'm not saying it has to be like this,' he said. 'But that could be a possible solution.'"*

Unsurprisingly, Ukrainian officials reacted furiously to this proposal. Ukraine's foreign ministry spokesperson Oleh Nikolenko slammed the comments as *"absolutely unacceptable."* He wrote on Facebook: *"We always assumed that the Alliance, just like Ukraine, does not trade its territories. (...) Conscious or unconscious engagement of NATO officials in forming a narrative about Ukraine's refusal from its territories plays into the hands of Russia."*

Likewise, Mykhailo Podolyak, an adviser to Ukraine's President Zelenskyy, dismissed the remarks of the NATO official as *"ridiculous"*.

Jenssen's statement is extraordinary for several reasons. First, he serves as chief of staff to NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg, in other words, he is the right hand of the leader of the Western military alliance. Hence, one can take it for granted that Jenssen made his remarks with the approval of his boss.

This very fact as well as Jenssen's own suggestion (*"that question has already been raised within the alliance"*) show that we are not dealing with the opinion of one or two officials but with a point of view which is shared by a number of Western governments.

Furthermore, it is a remarkable shift from the official statements which Western state leaders have made many times since the beginning of the war that they would support the Ukraine in its efforts to liberate its territories.

No surprise

However, Marxists are not surprised about the NATO official's statement. The RCIT and other authentic socialists have explained for some time that Western powers have no interest in supporting the Ukraine's right of national self-determination.²

Sure, the U.S. and Western Europe are interested in weakening Russia, and, for such purpose, they lend limited military support to the Ukraine. At the same time, Washington and its allies are interested in a "grand bargain" with Putin since Western powers fear a never-ending war

– which has already weakened Western economies and somehow isolated the U.S. and EU from the Global South. Furthermore, Western powers are also worried about the destabilizing political and economic consequences of a possible collapse of Russia.³

In order to advance its interests, Western imperialists want the Ukraine to shut up and restrain its efforts to liberate its occupied territories. They want to fully subordinate the Ukraine so that it serves Western goals as a subordinated agent. This is the purpose of Biden's policy of limited support for Kyiv via weapons deliveries, offering some kind of relationship with NATO and, at the same time, trying to impose a policy of territorial concessions. As we already pointed out, Washington has already started secret negotiations with Moscow in order to achieve a pacification of the Ukraine War on the basis of such a deal.⁴

NATO: A dangerous trap for the Ukrainian people

The RCIT has repeatedly warned that NATO imperialism considers the Ukraine as nothing but a dispensable pawn on the chessboard. This is why the blind and servile pro-Western policy of the Zelensky government is reactionary, utopian as well as dangerous for the Ukrainian people. It is reactionary because such a policy strengthens the Western Great Powers – the long-term hegemon of the imperialist world order until they got challenged with the rise of China and Russia as new imperialist powers.⁵

Zelensky's policy is utopian because Washington and its allies will not hesitate to make a deal with Putin at the cost of the Ukraine's national rights. This has become clear not only from the Jenssen's statement but also from reports about the ongoing secret negotiations between the U.S. and Russia. And it is dangerous because by making itself dependent on NATO, Kyiv gets increasingly forced to subordinate itself to the dictates from Washington.⁶

Hence, the above-mentioned quotes of leading officials of the Zelensky government are pathetic and demonstrate how helpless these bourgeois politicians are in face of Great Power rivalry. They do not build the defence of the country on the strength of the Ukrainian people but on the promises of Western imperialism. They are willing to reduce labour rights and to sell out their country in order to serve the profit interests of U.S. and European corporations. They don't look for an alliance with the workers and oppressed peoples in Russia and internationally but with Washington and Brussels.

For a popular war against Russia without subordination to NATO!

We reiterate that the Ukrainian people must resist any subordination to the plans of U.S. imperialism. Washing-

ton and Brussels want to make the country a full semi-colony of Western powers and to pacify the war in the interest of Russian imperialism. However, in order to expel the invaders and to gain full national self-determination, the Ukraine must be independent of the interests of any Great Power! This will be possible only if the workers and popular masses replace the pro-NATO Zelensky regime by a *workers and popular government!*⁷

The RCIT calls socialists in the Ukraine, in Russia and globally to unite on an internationalist and anti-imperialist program. *For a Popular War to defend the Ukraine against Putin's invasion! No subordination of Ukraine to NATO and EU! Against Russian and against NATO imperialism!*

Footnotes

1 Sky News: NATO official: Ukraine could give up territory in return for membership, 15.8.2023, <https://news.sky.com/story/ukraine-russia-war-latest-12541713>; Sky News: "Absolutely unacceptable" - Ukraine's foreign ministry slams NATO official, 15.8.2023, <https://news.sky.com/story/ukraine-russia-war-latest-12541713>; Sky News: "Giving up territory for NATO membership would be 'ridiculous' - Zelenskyy adviser, 15.8.2023, <https://news.sky.com/story/ukraine-russia-war-latest-12541713>; Nataliya Vasilyeva: Ukraine hits out at giving Putin land in return for Nato membership, The Telegraph (UK), 15 August 2023, <https://www.telegraph.co.uk/world-news/2023/08/15/ukraine-hits-out-at-ceding-putin-land-nato/>. All quotes about that meeting are from these articles if not indicated otherwise.

2 See on this in particular RCIT: Ukraine War: The Liberation of Western Kherson Oblast and the Danger of a Great Power Deal, 15 November 2022, <https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/global/ukraine-war-liberation-of-kherson-danger-of-great-power-deal/>; Towards a Turning Point in the Ukraine War? The tasks of socialists in the light of possible lines of development of the war of national defence in combination with the inter-imperialist Great Power rivalry, 11 March 2023, <https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/global/towards-a-turning-point-in-the-ukraine-war/>.

3 See on this RCIT: Russia: The Death Agony of the Putin Regime and the Perspectives for the Class Struggle. On the tasks of socialists in the coming period of crisis of the Bonapartist regime and its imperialist war against the Ukrainian people, 6 July 2023, <https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/europe/russia-death-agonies-of-putin-regime/>; Michael Pröbsting: Kissinger on Great Power Rivalry and Ukraine War. Notes on a remarkable interview with a "wise old man" of U.S. imperialism, 22 May 2023, <https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/global/kissinger-on-great-power-rivalry-and-ukraine-war/>; by the same author: Western Powers and the Prigozhin Coup in Russia. On the consequences of the attempted coup for U.S. and European imperialism and the Ukraine War, 26 June 2023, <https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/global/western-powers-and-prigozhin-coup-in-russia/>; Once Again on the

Worries of Western Powers after the Prigozhin Coup in Russia, 29 June 2023, https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/global/western-powers-and-prigozhin-coup-in-russia/#anker_4

4 See on this e.g. Michael Pröbsting: Ukraine War: Secret Negotiations between U.S. and Russia Have Started. Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov met with former U.S. diplomats to discuss about the pacification of the conflict, 8 July 2023, <https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/global/ukraine-war-secret-negotiations-between-u-s-and-russia-have-started/>; by the same author: Ukraine War: What Does the U.S. Offer in its Secret Negotiations with Russia? Both imperialist camps want to pacify the war and impose a deal which would be a disaster for the Ukrainian people, 31 July 2023, <https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/global/ukraine-war-what-does-the-u-s-offer-in-its-secret-negotiations-with-russia/>.

5 For the RCIT's analysis of the inter-imperialist rivalry of the Great Powers see e.g. our book by 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, RCIT Books, Vienna 2019, <https://www.thecommunists.net/theory/anti-imperialism-in-the-age-of-great-power-rivalry/>.

6 See on this e.g. RCIT: NATO Integration: An Imperialist Trap for the Ukrainian People! For a Popular War to defend the Ukraine against Putin's invasion! No subordination of Ukraine to NATO and EU! Against Russian and against NATO imperialism! 19 June 2023, <https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/global/nato-integration-is-imperialist-trap-for-ukraine/>; Michael Pröbsting: Ukraine War: What Are the Results of the NATO Vilnius Summit? On the contradictory process of NATO-Ukraine rapprochement and, at the same time, diverging interests between Western powers and Kyiv, 13 July 2023, <https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/global/what-are-the-results-of-the-nato-vilnius-summit/>; by the same author: Is Ukraine About to Become NATO's "Israel" in Eastern Europe? The "Wall Street Journal" reports about plans of Western governments to transform their relationship with the Ukraine at the NATO Summit in July, 29 May 2023, <https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/global/is-ukraine-about-to-become-nato-s-israel-in-eastern-europe/>.

7 We refer readers to a special page on our website where all RCIT documents on the Ukraine War and the current NATO-Russia conflict are compiled: <https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/global/compilation-of-documents-on-nato-russia-conflict/>. In particular we refer to the RCIT Manifesto: Ukraine War: A Turning Point of World Historic Significance. Socialists must combine the revolutionary defense of the Ukraine against Putin's invasion with the internationalist struggle against Russian as well as NATO and EU imperialism, 1 March 2022, <https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/global/manifesto-ukraine-war-a-turning-point-of-world-historic-significance/>; see also: Manifesto on the First Anniversary of the Ukraine War. Victory to the heroic Ukrainian people! Defeat Russian imperialism! No support whatsoever for NATO imperialism! 10 February 2023, <https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/global/manifesto-on-first-anniversary-of-ukraine-war/>



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

Ukraine War and Inter-Imperialist Rivalry

Check out more than 200 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/>

Mexico: Narco vs Morena in Guerrero – a False Dichotomy

By Jorge Arboleda, RCIT Mexico, July 31, 2023

Between June 24 and mid-July, Chilpancingo, the capital of the State of Guerrero, suffered a strong wave of violence in which there were “narco-blockades”, vehicle fires, the murder of transport workers on different routes, the appearance of dismembered bodies and finally, the invasion of a group of approximately 5,000 peasants from the Quechultenango community who, between July 10 and 11, blocked the highway, stole a police riot vehicle government, kidnapped and detained 13 police officers, and forced their way into the State Congress demanding a dialogue with part of the authorities. This last fact caught the attention of the national media, scandalizing the “violence” with which these peasants acted against the police and the National Guard, who could not contain the mobilization and failed to repress the protesters. All this a few days after a video was released in which Norma Otilia Hernández, the mayor of Chilpancingo, sat in a restaurant to talk with Celso Ortega Jiménez, who, along with her father, Carlos Ortega Rosas, AKA “La Ardilla” (the squirrel), is designated as the leader of the regional criminal group known as “the Ardillos”.

From that moment on, the media and especially the federal authorities began to give supposed explanations in this regard. In the president’s daily conference, AMLO and Rosa Icela Rodríguez, the Secretary of Citizen Security and Protection, reported that said mobilization was directly organized by the Ardillos, and that they had identified two of their leaders: Guillermo Matías Marrón and Jair Sereno Chávez, and that their demands were the release of two carriers who had been detained by the National Guard for alleged links to drug trafficking.

However, on the second day of the blockade, a negotiation table was held in the middle of the street and in full view

of all, where the heads of the Ministry of Public Security, CICAEG, CAPASEG, IGIFE (social support institutions for works and infrastructure) participated. and the General Directorate of the Interior, in which Matías Marrón, one of those indicated, took the microphone and denied having ties to the Ardillos, and presented himself as the leader of the Organization of Commissioners of Guerrero (a PRI ¹ front organization that actually is controlled by caciques). He explained that their demands had nothing to do with the release of anyone, but with the construction of roads and infrastructure that they have been asking the government for years. In some media outlets, Jair Sereno Chávez, the other defendant, gave telephone interviews to deny the information that the SSPC gave at the president’s conference; explaining that he is a resident of Quechultenango and that he is a “local influencer”, and that he joined the mobilization at the request of his neighbors.

Although the words of these two men do not necessarily have to be taken for granted, what the Mexican government and many media outlets replied about these events was that now the criminal groups already have a social base, and that they are capable of mobilizing masses to hit the morenista government of the State of Guerrero, the city of Chilpancingo and the federal government, trying to generate a false dichotomy in which the government is a victim of drug trafficking.

To begin with, it is necessary to know that the Ardillos have a direct relative in the Guerrero government. Bernardo Ortega Jiménez, Celso’s brother, is a representative for the PRD in the State Congress and was mayor of Quechultenango, and despite the fact that he denies any connection to the crimes of his brother and his father, one cannot help but think that his innocence is false, however, it is



PUBLICATIONS OF THE RCIT

Putin's Poodles (Apologies to All Dogs)

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

by Michael Pröbsting, February 2022

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

A RCIT Pamphlet, 20 pages, A4 Format

an example of how criminal groups in Mexico have close relationships with local, regional and federal politicians.

The logical thing to think of all these facts is that there was a negotiation channel between the Ardillos and the Chilpancingo government that was broken for some mysterious reason, and that as a result of this began the wave of recent violence, which the Obrador government has taken the opportunity to feed this false dichotomy.

The journalist Témoris Grecko has written two articles in which he tries to put this recent phenomenon in context, but sadly falls into the official discourse, assuring that there are communities that are completely influenced by criminal groups, and that are mobilized by them.² This idea of the “social base” of drug trafficking has been mentioned before, and although it is a concept that has been used very loosely, it has never been considered as the direct leadership of mobilized masses, but rather as client groups whom drug trafficking co-opts. through services that the State does not provide in their communities, in what some call a “State absence”.

Unfortunately, in the equation that Grecko and the federal government propose, in which criminal groups, politicians and client groups appear, there is a wrong order. Criminal groups in Mexico are, despite all the information provided by government institutions and the press, extremely mysterious organizations, of which the DEA, the CIA, the FBI and the Mexican security institutions fully know about their leaders, their areas of influence, the material they traffic, their routes, their income, their alliances and rivalries, and they also manage to calculate their supposed fortunes, but for some strange reason, they continue to operate and increase their power despite the fact that thousands of their followers die every year. members in confrontations with the army and the police, where the fatality rate of the Mexican armed forces is greater than 85%, and that despite the fact that they regularly boast a weapons power that sometimes exceeds the army, they are constantly repelled by the self-defense groups and community police officers who use weapons that are extremely old and in poor condition, as is the case of the Guerrero Indigenous and Popular Council - Zapatista Army (CIPOG-EZ), or the Regional Coordinator of Community Authorities - Community Police (CRAC-PC).³

If the Ardillos were already causing terror in Chilpancingo through drug blockades, vehicle fires and the murder of people, how would a mobilization of peasants armed only with sticks and stones help them, who ended up negotiating the construction of roads in a village in full view of all? If they are supposed to be a heavily armed group that the authorities cannot dismantle, wouldn't this mobilization mean a sign of weakness in terms of their military power?

Finally, the Organization of Commissioners of Guerrero is a front organization of caciques linked to the PRI and

the PRD, which functions as a clientelist apparatus to keep peasants affiliated with their parties and subject to their political control. Throughout the country there are these types of organizations that, under the names of peasant, worker and democratic groups (such as Peasant Torch, the National Peasant Confederation, the Revolutionary Confederation of Workers and Peasants, etc.) hide their corporatist nature, at the service of the regional bourgeoisie through government institutions and “charro” unions. Although it is completely true that PRI and PRD have ties to organized crime, like the rest of the political parties, it does not mean that these criminal groups are the ones who directly mobilize peasant masses to achieve their ends, since for this they have their weapons and their ties with the government and the bourgeoisie, but, in any case, it is the PRI and PRD who use their clientelist apparatus to hit their rival, Morena, politically. The difference between one thing and the other must be clearly understood, otherwise the door will be opened for the criminalization of protest. If already in these times the Obrador government has used its communication capacity to attack movements of women, relatives of disappeared persons and rural normalistas, insinuating that they are tools of the opposition parties, validating the narrative of drug trafficking that makes political marches would be very dangerous. for the mass movement in Mexico, especially in the context of the increase in military power that the country is suffering in these times.

The government of the State of Guerrero is also led by the Morena party of López Obrador, and although Evelyn Salgado is formally the governor, her father, Félix Salgado, is the cacique behind her. Félix Salgado is one of the many cases of politicians from the PRI who, after the party's neoliberal turn, founded the PRD in 1989, and who, given the wave of popularity of the obradorismo, decided to join Morena in 2018, although Evelyn continued to work in the PRI until 2020. Félix was a candidate to govern Guerrero in 2021, but despite the fact that he was denounced for sexual assault by several women, he had to resign from the race due to an administrative fault in the electoral process, to which his daughter entered as substitute. The links of the now senator Félix Salgado with criminal groups in Guerrero are already known since he was mayor of Acapulco between 2006 and 2008, and that he was also the in-law of Joaquín Alonso Piedra, a noted member of the Beltrán Leyva Cartel, that is, that the Governor of Guerrero was, until 2021, the daughter-in-law of a drug trafficker.⁴

This is why we refuse to think that the government of Morena in Guerrero is an innocent victim of criminal groups, when its representatives in the government have been family members of criminal groups in the State. Finally, drug trafficking, the war on drugs and all that it implies, continues to be a bloody calculation by the Mexican national bourgeoisie and US imperialism to maintain po-

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litical control of the region, as well as accelerate the cycles of capitalist accumulation through of violence, death and terror, no matter which party of the bourgeoisie is in government.

In order to really combat drug trafficking, organized crime, militarization and paramilitarization that the country is suffering from 2007 to date, it is necessary to replicate throughout the country the efforts of the self-defense groups and community police that through assembly processes and the use of weapons They have been able to keep these criminal groups at bay, but in addition to firearms, machetes, or any instrument that can be used for self-defense, it is necessary to arm ourselves with a revolutionary program that allows us to organize to overthrow the bourgeoisie that exploits us. , oppresses us and subjects us to the conditions of war that we experience every day. We must also stop trusting that the bourgeois state, with its institutions, its army, its police and its corruption, will solve this problem, since the power of these criminal groups could not be understood without the constant and widespread complicity of the authorities. of government with them, and we must be clear that if the war against drugs is precisely a state policy imposed by imperialism and the ruling class, the State is an accomplice and perpetrator of all the crimes that this war has brought against the oppressed of Mexico and the Latin American region.

For a national movement against war and militarization!

For the organization of self-defense groups and community police throughout the country!

For a worker, peasant and indigenous government!

Footnotes

PRI is the bureaucratic bonapartist party that took power after the Mexican Revolution was interrupted and betrayed by a faction of opportunist caudillos. It governed Mexico for almost 80 years and has been the model for all Mexican bourgeois parties so far, including the PRD, a reformist party that was formed in the late 80's that quickly bureaucratized and degenerated, and Morena, the party in power that was built by AMLO.

See on this: Témoris Grecko: 'Los Ardillos' buscan meter mano en el Frente Amplio y presionan a Morena, 14 July 2023, <https://www.milenio.com/estados/ardillos-buscan-meter-mano-frente-amplio-presionan-morena>; from the same author: Atrapan 'Los Rojos' y 'Los Ardillos' a Chilpancingo en disputa político-criminal, 28 July 2023, <https://www.telediario.mx/nacional/los-rojos-y-los-ardillos-crecen-en-poder-politico-en-chilpancingo>. Témoris Grecko is a journalist who has stood out for his work as reporter in Syria in past years, and who has collaborated in clarifying the case of the disappearance of 43 students from the Ayotzinapa rural normal school. He has also dedicated himself to divulging data on the inter-imperialist rivalry between the United States, China and Russia, and has taken a position defending Ukraine against the Russian invasion. However, despite the fact that he regularly denounces the contradictions of the current government in Mexico, he sometimes gives it too much credit, as in this case.

We recommend the analysis carried out by the Agrupación de Lucha Socialista in 2019 on this issue (<https://agrupacion-deluchasocialistablog.wordpress.com/2019/12/27/la-crisis-de-seguridad-y-violencia-de-la-4t-como-la-enfrentamos/>). We also recommend Dawn Marie Paley's books "Drug War Capitalism" and "Guerra Neoliberal" on this, as well as Oswaldo Zavala's books "Drug Cartels do not Exist" and "The War in Words".

See on this: Ver sobre esto en: Anabel Hernández: Guerrero, "la plaza" de la familia Salgado y el narco, 03 May 2021, <https://www.dw.com/es/guerrero-la-plaza-de-la-familia-salgado-y-el-narco/a-57411329>

Books of the RCIT

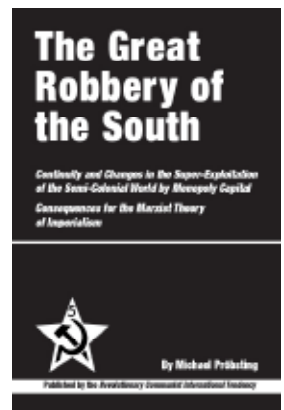
Michael Pröbsting: The Great Robbery of the South Continuity and Changes in the Super-Exploitation of the Semi-Colonial World by Monopoly Capital. Consequences for the Marxist Theory of Imperialism

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

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

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

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



Brazil: Lula Government's Tax Reform Could Make Working People Pay More Taxes

By João Evangelista, *Corrente Comunista Revolucionária*, Brazilian section of RCIT, August 05, 2023

The Lula Government (PT), through Economy Minister *Fernando Haddad*, has just approved the first stage of its tax reform. It is a reform that intends to unify the consumption tax, VAT. Such a model already exists in several countries, such as Australia, Canada, the nations of the European Union and emerging ones, such as India.

This reform passed in the Chamber of Deputies, with broad approval, including the support of congressmen from the various right-wing parties, direct representatives of the national bourgeoisie who joined the left bloc, PT, PCdoB and PSOL. This proposal must now go to the Federal Senate with the aim of being approved by the end of the year.

The government admits that the VAT proposed by this reform will be at least 25%. However, the *Institute of Economic and Applied Research (Ipea)*, in a recent study, calculates that the rate may reach 28%. The essential point is that by levying taxes on consumption, instead of on large fortunes, it will be the workers and the poorest people who will bear the burden. This reform will not really change the unfair Brazilian tax system, in which the richest do not pay taxes.

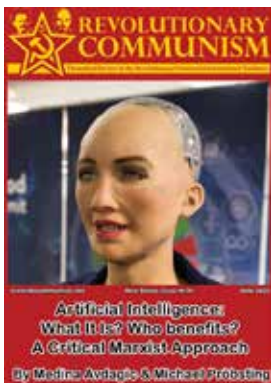
A recent report by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) indicates that Brazil is the country that collects the least taxes on income and profits, reaching only 5.9% of Gross Domestic Product (GDP), well below the OECD average of 11.5% of GDP. But at the

same time, it is a leader in the taxation of goods and services, and in 2019, the amounts collected represented 15.9% of GDP.

We at CCR maintain that the class that truly produces wealth is the working class, as Karl Marx has already clarified in his analysis of the surplus value, in which workers work much more than is necessary for their survival, generating enormous profits for their employers and, therefore, it is they, in fact, who support the state and guarantee the profits of the bosses and banks. It is therefore necessary, as we have already said, to tax the great fortunes.

Minister Haddad is already commenting on sending another project for the second half of the year in which he plans to tax large fortunes, and also tax the distribution of dividends by companies to shareholders (today there is no taxation) and investments by millionaires in offshore companies abroad, the so-called tax havens. This has been tried before, including with right-wing governments, without success.

The classes of employees – the proletariat and the middle class – who once again will pay the bill, should not expect the senators, political representatives of the rich, to vote in our favor, we need to defeat this tax reform and mobilize so that it is the rich, the great fortunes that has to pay the bill, with strongly progressive taxes on big capital, so that Brazil does not continue to be this tax haven of the bourgeoisie and this tax hell against the exploited.



Publications of the RCIT

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A Critical Marxist Approach

By Medina Avdagić and Michael Pröbsting, June 2023

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A RCIT Pamphlet, 24 pages, A4 Format

What the RCIT Stands for

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

No future without socialism!

No socialism without a revolution!

No revolution without a revolutionary party!

