

REVOLUTIONARY

INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF THE REVOLUTIONARY



LIBERATION

COMMUNIST INTERNATIONAL TENDENCY



www.thecommunists.net

Issue Nr.155

March 2024

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Workers and Oppressed Unite!

English-Language Journal of the Revolutionary Communist International Tendency (RCIT), No. 155, March 2024

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Picture on the cover: A street in Kyiv following Russian missile strikes on 10 October 2022 (Source: Wikipedia, [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Russian_invasion_of_Ukraine#/media/File:Kyiv_after_Russian_shelling,_2022-10-10_\(073\).webp](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Russian_invasion_of_Ukraine#/media/File:Kyiv_after_Russian_shelling,_2022-10-10_(073).webp))

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.

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

Argentina: Struggle against Milei Government Advances

Despite repression and adjustment plan, the government is increasingly weaker

By Juan Giglio, *Convergencia Socialista* (Argentine section of the RCIT), 02.02.2024

Yesterday, the police, gendarmerie and prefecture harshly repressed the left, which, without the CGT and Peronism, demonstrated for the second consecutive day against the Milei adjustment law and the capitalist opposition. Despite the phenomenal deployment of repressive forces, the socialist organizations did not retreat and remained in Congress until the late hours of the night. The excessive repression, which is an characteristic symptom of the government's astonishing weakness in implementing its adjustment plan, was repudiated in all mass media, even those that support the ruling party, such as TN. The people, as a whole, witnessed that, faced with this reality, the revolutionary left is the only guarantee of a consistent struggle against the Adjustment Plan.

The comrades of *Convergencia Socialista* were on the front line of combat against the attacks by the uniformed men, demonstrating great bravery, which was vindicated by other left-wing militants, who also faced repression. This context contributes to the construction of a unitary morality and struggle that will forge, from now on, the unity of the most consistent revolutionaries.

The Milei Plan has become completely blurred because in the negotiation with other forces of the bosses it lost a good part of its main articles. In the end it will be imposed since the bourgeoisie, as a whole, needs to have anti-worker and anti-popular policies. However, its implementation

will take place in a framework in which the government and the entire regime will be in a very bad position in the face of the resistance, which the left will have the possibility of leading.

For this, it will be necessary to promote the construction and expansion of hundreds of assemblies, in workplaces and neighbourhoods, together with regional coordinations and a large national coordination, or Coordinating Center, that unifies the struggles and prepares the *Argentina* (a phrase for popular uprising in Argentina, Ed.) that is needed for overthrowing the ruling elite and to impose a fundamental way out. We must turn the country into a great assembly, of a foundational nature, in which the people decide what "model" is needed to get out of the crisis.

There, we socialists will propose to break with imperialism, stop paying the debts that tie Argentina to the yoke of the Great Powers, expropriate large companies and put them to work under workers' control, organize a Plan of Works and Services that gives work for millions and guarantee an increase in the quality of life of the whole, expropriate and nationalize banking and foreign trade. For these measures to be effective, it will be necessary to establish a workers' and popular government, controlled and defended by grassroots assemblies and popular self-defence organizations.

Argentina: Mobilizations against Milei's Adjustment Laws

By *Convergencia Socialista* (Argentine section of the RCIT), 03.02.2024

This week, a package of adjustment laws proposed by the right-wing government of Javier Milei, began to be debated in the Argentine parliament. This package aims at taking away workers' rights as well as granting extraordinary powers to the president so that he can dispense with parliament.

In face of these attacks, the left mobilized for three consecutive days, challenging the government's repressive

protocol and exercising self-defense, in constant clashes with the police and other security forces.

Next week, the debate will continue in parliament and the left calls for new demonstrations.

From *Convergencia Socialista*, Argentine section of the RCIT, we actively participate on the front line during all the days, and we will continue in the fight until the adjustment laws fall and Milei also falls.



Comrades of *Convergencia Socialista* at the demonstration in Buenos Aires (01.02.2024)

We must build a new Argentinazo!

A plan of struggle to end the Milei government and the IMF plans

By *Convergencia Socialista* (Argentine Section of the RCIT), February 2024

Since he assumed power, Milei has tried to deepen the austerity plan and the anti-democratic attacks against the working class and the popular masses, which previous governments, Peronists, Macristas and others, had been carrying out. To achieve this, he faces all kinds of difficulties, since he does not have a majority in parliament, he lacks the support of various sectors of the state apparatus and his party does not have trade union bureaucrats with influence. However, there is no reason to underestimate the enemy, since Milei and his government will do everything in their power to make the masses pay for the crisis of their capitalist system.

We must defeat his plans and end his rule. How can it be achieved? By organizing an active national general strike, another *Argentinazo* (a phrase for popular uprising in Argentina, Ed.), which must last as long as necessary until victory is achieved. Of course, we do not have to wait passively until such a national general strike occurs, but rather we need to prepare for that struggle. *Convergencia Socialista* supports all forms of mass resistance – from demonstrations, local strikes to general strikes for a limited period. Its militants will participate in the organization of such actions, which although limited, can be preliminary steps in the preparation of the national general strike to bring down the government.

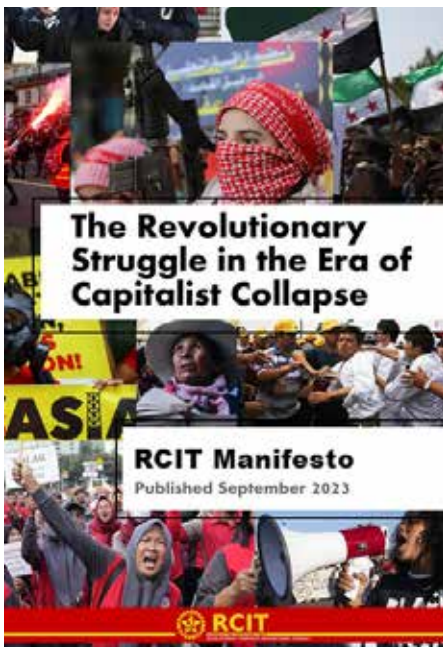
The workers and the popular masses will only be able to put an end to Milei and its adjustment policies if they trust no one but themselves. They cannot trust any faction of the Peronist party, which governed in recent years by imposing adjustment measures and handing the country over to the large imperialist monopolies, nor can they trust the leaders of the trade union federations – CGT and CTA – made up of traitor bureaucrats who defend their own privileges and those of the employer cliques. We must build a strong opposition within the unions that can remove them, turning the unions into true instruments in the service of the struggle, for which they must function democratically.

The government can only be defeated if the working and popular bases *organize themselves independently in their workplaces and neighbourhoods, through assemblies that discuss and resolve how to fight for their demands and for an alternative economic plan*. In these assemblies it will be necessary to elect delegates – controlled and revocable by the bases – who, in addition, must coordinate actions with other assemblies and coordinations at the regional and national level. In this way we can begin to build a true and efficient *Coordination Center for the Resistance*.

Thousands of workers and poor people, organized in their assemblies, have to take the organization of resistance against the government into their own hands. In these democratic organizations, it will be necessary to discuss what type of country is needed to get out of the crisis: the one proposed by the capitalists – which both the ruling party and the bourgeois opposition defend – or the one proposed by the socialist organizations, to achieve a fundamental change, through the only kind of government capable of really challenging capitalism: that of the working class.

For this, Argentina must become a *great popular assembly*, which has a founding and constituent character, where all the people discuss and decide their future, which cannot be left in the hands of a few gangsters, who decide everything within the four walls of Congress or in the Casa Rosada (the presidential palace in Buenos Aires, Ed.). To impose such a democratic solution, we must throw them all out with an active general strike, another *Argentinazo*.

The construction, development and expansion of these new organizations will help, through worker and popular pressure, to force some sectors of the trade union bureaucracy to launch some measures of struggle, which, although limited, will be important, because they will serve to paralyze sectors of industry, transport, education or services. In that sense, the activists have to promote that the trade union bases demand that they, in assemblies and other instances related to their respective unions, move from words to actions.



New Program of the RCIT

The Revolutionary Struggle in the Era of Capitalist Collapse

Adopted at the IV. World Congress of the RCIT in September 2023

- * Introductory Note
- * An Era of Catastrophes, Wars and Revolutionary Struggles
- * Wars of Oppression and Wars of Liberation
- * Capitalist Civilization Threats and the Struggle to Save Humanity
- * Capitalist World Economy and the Struggle for a Decent Living Standard
- * Their War of Ideas and Ours
- * The Struggle for Power to Open the Road to a Socialist Future

A RCIT Pamphlet, 20 pages, A5 Format

Furthermore, these bureaucratic leaders will be forced to put themselves at the forefront of the struggle, so as not to lose the leadership of their bases against the new unionism and the left. Meanwhile, in these unions, the combative organizations must organize groups and lists that propose replacing the treacherous leaders, in order to recover the unions for the struggle.

As long as there is no alternative leadership supported by the masses, socialists must intervene boldly within the unions, proposing to workers to demand action, such as national demonstrations, partial and general strikes. At the same time, we must denounce the bureaucratic leadership for its inconsistency, explaining to the bases that they will only organize limited struggles due to pressure from the workers or in defence of their bureaucratic interests, or because of a combination of both factors. They will never be faithful servants of the workers, that is why the task of the revolutionaries is to help establish a new workers' leadership which is consistently militant and democratic!

** For the immediate increase in salaries, so that they exceed the cost of the family basket and are readjusted monthly, according to the inflation index.*

** For the repudiation of the payments of the fabulous debt, so that these funds can be used to finance a great plan of works at the service of the reconstruction of the national economy, which gives work to the millions of unemployed and increases the qual-*

ity of life of all, with more factories, schools, railways, hospitals, electricity and gas supply, etc.

** Expropriation and nationalization, under workers' control, of privatized companies, large industries, banks and supermarkets, so that they function at the service of the people and not of the gangsters who profit from the poverty of the masses.*

** Against any attempt to attack the rights won by the women's movement such as free abortion! For the organization of thousands of women's committees that confront and defeat all manifestations of gender violence!*

** For an Argentinazo to end the IMF Adjustment Plan and the Milei government!*

** For the conquest of the second and definitive national independence, breaking ties with the great powers that plunder resources, such as the United States, China, Europe, Russia and others.*

** The country should become a great popular assembly, where all the people discuss, in a democratic way, what model is needed to get out of the crisis.*

** In such democratic space, socialists will propose a rupture with the capitalist system and the implementation of a workers' and popular government based on democratic organizations and self-defence of the masses!*

** Fight for these goals and for the unity of revolutionaries, join our party, Convergencia Socialista and our international organisation – Revolutionary Communist International Tendency (RCIT)!*

Argentina: First Strike against the Milei Government

By Convergencia Socialista (Argentine section of the RCIT), 26.01.2024

On January 24, a strike and mobilization at the parliament was carried out by the Argentine trade unions (CGT), together with a wide range of political and social organizations, among which was the Trotskyist left.

The strike was not really massive, since the bureaucrats who run the union center called for a stoppage for only 12 hours, starting at noon on the 24th. However, the demonstration was really massive, according to the bourgeois media, attended between 250,000 and 400,000 people in one of the largest mobilizations in recent years.

This strike occurs just 45 days into Milei's government and was preceded by several mobilizations and protests throughout the country.

From *Convergencia Socialista*, Argentine section of the CCRI, we participated in the mobilization by raising the slogans of workers' and popular assemblies throughout the country and to build a general strike until Milei and all the employers' representatives leave.

"We must promote the organization of thousands of workers and popular assemblies and a Coordinating Center of the Resistance, which launches the Argentinazo that will be necessary to overthrow the government and impose a profound democratic solution: Transforming the country into a great assembly, of constituent character, in which the people decide what model is needed to get out of the crisis! There, we socialists will propose ours, that of the workers and socialist revolution." (Convergencia Socialista 26/01/2024)



Comrades of Convergencia Socialista at the demonstration in Buenos Aires (24.01.2024)

**Website of *Convergencia Socialista* (RCIT Section in Argentina):
convergenciadecombate.blogspot.com**

Nigeria: Storm Clouds Hover About the Tinubu Administration

Statement of the Revolutionary Socialist Vanguard (RSV), Nigerian Section of the RCIT, 17.02.2024

The masses may soon take the Tinubu administration by storm. Spontaneous outbreaks of protest is now a daily occurrence in this or that part of Nigeria in response to the callous laissez-faire policy that has intensified the impoverishment of the people. From its very inception at the inauguration the administration had imposed audacious austerity policies against the working masses and oppressed, starting with the abrupt end of subsidy on Petroleum products with a curt announcement that "subsidy is gone". Then followed the flagrant floating of the naira predicated on the ludicrous excuse that local money changers were the main cause for the loss in the value of the naira, thus the naira must be further devalued.

Before Nigerians could recover from this double-malady the Student Loan Act was promulgated with the most insane conditions to be fulfilled before any eligible student can obtain the loan. The whole scheme has now been clearly seen as a ploy to hike fees in tertiary institutions since more tertiary institutions and colleges of higher learning are still increasing their school and accommodation fees. Then there's the increase in value added taxes for Automotive Gas Oil (like diesel) and other petroleum products. The rounds of economic terrorism from the Tinubu administration in less than a year of its existence are countless.

All these have led to unprecedented hardship for the people. The combination of these inimical attacks on the masses has led food prices to sky-rocket; medicine prices to quadruple and fuel prices to jump on a quarterly bases. At present residents of parts of major cities like Lagos face long winding queues to get fuel even at the exorbitant rates of over 600 naira/litre. A bag of rice formally 28,000 naira at the beginning of Tinubu's administration now goes for 77,000-80,000 naira. A measure of Garri, a staple food made out of cassava, which sold for 366.99 naira in May 2023 now sells at over 1000 naira while the same measure of kidney beans now goes for 1200 naira from 685 naira.

One does not have to be an expert dietician/nutritionist to predict how lacking of essential nutrients will be the meals of a whole generation of children because if grains and cereals have now become unaffordable how much more proteinous food like fish, beef, eggs and chicken.

The invective inflation in the prices of food and other utilities have followed the nose-dive of the naira. The naira-dollar rate is now 1500 naira/dollar rising from 460 naira/dollar in the last 9 months. Yet neither the removal of subsidy on petroleum products nor the hiked tax on AGO and the increased school fees has been used by the Tinubu government to pay the outstanding allowances and salaries of ASUU and other university staff. The administration has equally failed to raise the minimum wage beyond the stubborn 30,000 naira it has remained before 2014.

The chain of protests began in Minna, Niger state, where a group of market women started a march unto the popular Minna-Bida road to occupy Kpakungu Roundabout. Then the contagion moved to Kano, Ogun, Osun and lastly Lagos. Even Nigerian students abroad have lamented the devaluation of their savings with every fall in the Naira's value.

The ruling class is spooked. They can see a revolutionary conflagration coming. Never before have loyalists and supporters of an administration been under immense pressure that they are forced to come out on social media platforms to vituperate and denounce the Tinubu government.

The women who started/led the protests in Minna have been invited by the police. In a frantic frenzy to save itself, the Tinubu administration has embarked on a series of face-saving missions such as approving the release 45,000 tonnes of grain. The governor of Niger state has banned all bulk sales of food out of the state but like the paradigm of capitalism, of which the administration is an extension, the methods to save itself increase the risk of its destruction.

This is shown in the disposition of the administration to increasingly threaten a ban on social media. Also, the administration has given directives to International Money



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

Transfer Organisations (IMTO's) to halt the transfer of funds to Nigerians in dollars and choose naira. This disastrous policy has every potential to fan the embers of public unrest especially among the youths who now rely on free-lance IT jobs for people in the West and get paid in hard-currency that are more stable than the naira. The way to strengthen the naira through foreign exchange proceedings is to demand that the country pay for imports with the naira but the Tinubu administration is too much in servitude to Western imperialism to make such a demand.

However, the way forward to a permanent end to the hegemony of the dollar in Nigeria is a domestically controlled economy where resources are processed from their raw form to make finished products in home-based industries. This remains possible through ending the imperialist grip on the area now known as Nigeria by dismantling the neo-colonial capitalist entity called Nigeria. For this, the ruling class must be replaced with a government of workers and poor peasants and the oppressed ethnic nationalities must be free. For instance, it is impossible to produce sufficient food through agriculture if the land grab and ethnic cleansing continues in the southward direction.

Some analysts have pointed out that the outbreak/occurrence of protests in the north is a result of northern ethnic nationalities' resentment for a southern president. Others fault the influence of the national question on the impending civil unrest using southern counterparts of the protests. The truth is while the national question may have accelerated the outbreak of random demonstrations in the north it may have delayed it in the south.

The inextricable links between the national question, the economic crises, and past and future protests are again confirmed by the fact that even now protests against terrorism have not stopped. Even before southerners and middle beltans began protesting against Fulani attacks, northerners had already protested the reckless bombing of civilians by the Nigerian military.

In the final analysis, the Tinubu administration is trapped in the quadrangle of neo-colonial subjugation of the peoples in Nigeria that is why the minister for power is threatening the removal of subsidies from electricity according to the directive of the IMF. Tinubu's recent presidential address also rejected price regulation on food.

We reject any attempts by petty-bourgeois activists and opposition figures to utilise the protests to endorse any politician. Future protests must be against the execution of the inimical neo-liberal policies of the Tinubu government cum the total ouster of the neo-colonial regime. To be replaced by an anti-imperialist government formed by the working class and poor from the regions, that will start the process of freeing the oppressed peoples of Nigeria from the neo-colonial structure of Nigeria for true freedom and independence on a socialist basis.

** Restore Subsidy on Fuel and other Petroleum Products! Repair and Make Operational All Government Owned Refineries! No to the Removal of Power Subsidies!*

** Immediate Price Regulation on Food Items! For an Open-Border Regulation Policy Commensurate with the Quantity of Local Food Production! Form Armed Self Defence Militias to Keep Killer Herdsmen from Native Farming Communities!*

** Down With the Student Loan Act! For Immediate Reversal of All Hiked School Fees! Pay All Outstanding Salaries and Allowances of All Teaching and Non-Teaching Staff! For Free and Quality Education Funded by the Government!*

** Destroy the Dominance of the Dollar Through Local Production! For Regional and Local Resource Control! Put the Economic Mainstay Under Regional Control of the Workers and Poor Peasants!*

** For An Indefinite General Strike to Bring Down the Tinubu Regime! End the Neo-Liberal Siege of World Bank and IMF on West Africa! End the neo-colonial Entity Called Nigeria and Free All Oppressed Ethnic Nationalities!*

Anti-War Protest in Tel Aviv

By Adam Smith, Internationalist Socialist League (RCIT Section in Israel/Occupied Palestine), 14.2.2024

An anti-war demonstration was organized on Tuesday by the "Radical Block" group. This time there was no police next to the protesters (but it also meant there were some Zionist provocateurs with the Israeli flag as one can see in the pictures below).

As usual, the rally was led by Hadash affiliated groups (Hadash is a part of the Israeli Communist Party). The slogan "From the River to the Sea, Palestine will be free" was raised, as well as "From the River to the Sea, Freedom and Equality". The protest was organized because of the concern regarding the invasion of the Rafah territory in Gaza, which is a step in the direction of the new and ongoing Nakba.

Down with the Zionist War and Genocide!

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



Website of the Internationalist Socialist League (RCIT Section in Israel / Occupied Palestine): <https://the-isleague.com>

After the ICJ Ruling, the Witch-Hunt against UNRWA started...

Or why it is time for worldwide general strikes for Palestine

By Medina Avdagić (Gunić), Revolutionary Communist International Tendency (RCIT), 01 February 2024

The ruling of the International Court of Justice (ICJ) from 26 January 2024 was historic in many ways.¹ The motion of South Africa to declare the ongoing murder of the Palestinians in Gaza a genocide (respectively an attempted genocide) by Apartheid State Israel was in fact confirmed by the read-out summary, which Judge Joan E. Donoghue presented. She took the time to explain those allegations argued by South Africa which have been taken as the foundation for the rule, repeating the obvious indicators of the ongoing genocide. Based on the global popular interest in a just sentence against Israel, the ruling was read out in the most simple and understandable way possible for bourgeois jurisdiction. At the same time, thousands of activists rallied outside the court, waving Palestinian flags and raised slogans for a ceasefire.

It is the very first time that the ICJ has ruled against Israel. It is furthermore the very first time that an institution dominated by Western imperialism has officially indicated the possibility of genocide against our Palestinian brothers and sisters. Moreso, they reached the conclusion on a provisional base after a few weeks. The court's decision is a victory to the solidarity movement for Palestine, but a limited one. It is neither an effective way to stop the war nor will it prevent anything, especially not genocide. Just look on what happened to the Bosnian people to understand the impotence of ICJ rulings.

A migrant from Bosnia and Herzegovina myself, the ruling on *provisional protective measures* is well known to me as there was also such a court decision by the ICJ in April and September 1993 during the slaughter of the Bosnian people by Serbia in the war from 1992 to 1995. The little power that such a ruling has was proven in 1995, when the massacre of Srebrenica was committed by Serbian chauvinists – the biggest massacre in Europe since the end of World War II. Moreso, the massacre of Srebrenica was shielded and even indirectly supported by UN blue helmets. The limitations of the victory for the Palestinian cause are more than *painfully* clear.

However, the story does not end here. Only one day after the ICJ ruling, the government of the United States, the most loyal backer of Zionists chauvinism and Apartheid, started a smear campaign against the *United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East* (UNRWA) like never before.

It started with an unproven allegation that 12 employees of the UNRWA have participated on the attacks of 7 October 2023 which were led by Hamas. Immediately, like the loyal foot soldiers they are, not only have the United States stopped their payments to the UNRWA but also Britain, Australia, Japan, Germany, Finland, the Netherlands, Italy and Austria. Like a bloodhound on a promising track, those deeply loyal Zionist backers of Western imperialism have now followed this promising strategy to minimize, distract, camouflage and in the end completely lever out the message send out by the ICJ.² Now, those consummate hypocrites are accusing the UNRWA that even 10% of their staff are organized supporters of Hamas.³ But it

does not end here.

Israel, this inhuman and genocidal butcher of the Palestinian people claims that at least 190 UNRWA members are active fighters of Hamas respectively Islamic Jihad.⁴ At this point it is safe to say that further claims and scandals will be fabricated in the next days or even hours.

Manoeuvres of Western imperialist powers

The manoeuvre of the imperialists is so crystal-clear as it is primitive. First, they want to turn the wheel around and send the message to the global public that even when their own organs (like the ICJ) have to admit the atrocities against the Palestinians, the Western imperialist propaganda machinery is ready to clean up the mess. Like a Tasmanian devil, they are hysterically hissing at the face of the oppressed worldwide: Look here, we (still) have all the power, we control everything including what you are allowed to know, even allowed to think – don't dare you believe anything else!

Second, they are obeying to the wish of their friend Israel who was clearly offended by the rule of the ICJ. To quote Israeli's security minister on the decision of the International Court of Justice: "*Hague Shmague*".⁵ Israel Katz, Minister of Foreign Affairs, even stated: "*We have been warning for years: @UNRWA perpetuates the refugee issue, obstructs peace, and serves as a civilian arm of Hamas in Gaza. (...) Under my leadership, the @IsraelMFA aims to promoting a policy ensuring that @UNRWA will not be a part of the day after, addressing other contributing factors. We will work to garner bipartisan support in the US, the European Union, and other nations globally for this policy aimed at halting UNRWA's activities in Gaza.*"⁶ Clearly, the formulation of *the refugee issue being perpetuated* shows that Israel's hatred against the UNRWA is based on the latter's assistance of keeping Palestinians alive in Gaza, making it more difficult for the Apartheid state to conduct another Nakba.

Third, not only do the Western imperialists want to stand by their allied Apartheid state, but they are also happy to cut the already very limited financial support to the Palestinian civilians. Even when Western propaganda claim that they do everything possible to protect civilians in Gaza, the truth is that they only oppose a Nakba because of fear that it might create too much of a turmoil in the Middle East. There is no moral or humanitarian motif, and how could it be?! After all, it was Western imperialism that financed and actively orchestrated the first Nakba to begin with.

Finally, cutting the UNRWA funds immediately after the ICJ decision also sends a message from the imperialist Western governments to the international imperialist structures (first and foremost the United Nations) not to forget which wing of the ruling class truly holds the power. The Biden Administration and the EU governments (as well as the Kishida Administration and the Canadian government) are reminding the United Nations and all other affiliated imperialist organs that they are nothing but sym-

bolic structures, empty shells only existing to create the aura of bourgeois democracy on a global scale. Especially attacking the UNRWA only 24 hours after the ICJ rule is a deliberate decision to let no doubts cast on this message.

Support the defence of Gaza by any means necessary

Revolutionaries must take a clear stand in this situation. Our understanding of UNRWA funds follows a similar logic to our understanding of deliveries of weapons to just resistance struggle. Even when material goods are delivered by imperialist countries respectively their organs, be it humanitarian aid, be it weapons, revolutionaries support utilizing those goods for the just cause (in this case the Palestinian liberation). This does not mean to rely on help or support of imperialists and especially not to nurture any illusions in them. Quite the opposite, any just liberation movement is inextricably linked with anti-imperialism.

We therefore defend attempts to keep the UNRWA funds flowing like the calls of UN staffers against Zionist attacks. However, we do not call upon the mercy of imperialists. Instead, it is the task of the international Palestinian movement to organize rallies and strikes, up to a general strike for Palestine to force the governments to break all relations with Israel. In addition, the labour movement worldwide has not only to organize respectively support the boycott campaign against Israel but also a campaign for funds for Palestine – both humanitarian aid and weapon deliveries.

Powerful (general) strikes and boycotts include both industrial and transport workers stopping deliveries to Israel and redistributing them to Gaza. For workers in imperi-

alist countries, it also means to fight against the enemy at home. Last but not least, it means to fight for a single state from the River to the Sea – a red Palestine that becomes home again for all Palestinians who want to come back to their mother country and all Jews who are willing to give up the privileges that the Apartheid state offered them. This would be a state based on equality and freedom for all.

Footnotes

1 Readers of this article are recommended to also have a look on the analysis by my comrades from the RCIT: Michael Pröbsting: Heaven Helps Those Who Help Themselves. On the ICJ ruling on South Africa's genocide case against Israel. By Michael Pröbsting, 27 January 2024, <https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/africa-and-middle-east/on-the-icj-ruling-on-south-africa-s-genocide-case-against-israel/> Yossi Schwartz: Critical support for the injunction of the ICJ, 26 January 2024, <https://the-isleague.com/critical-support-for-the-injunction-of-the-icj/>

2 Sophie Tanno, Hira Humayun, Richard Roth and Heather Chen: What we know about Israel's allegations against UN staffers in Gaza, CNN, January 28, 2024, <https://edition.cnn.com/2024/01/27/middleeast/unrwa-israel-amas-october-7-allegations-intl/index.html>

3 See the recent article of the Wall Street Journal: Intelligence: Carrie Keller-Lynn and David Luhnow: Reveals Details of U.N. Agency Staff's Links to Oct. 7 Attack. Around 10% of Palestinian aid agency's 12,000 staff in Gaza have links to militants, according to intelligence dossier. January 29, 2024, <https://www.wsj.com/world/middle-east/at-least-12-u-n-agency-employees-involved-in-oct-7-attacks-intelligence-reports-say-a7de8f36>

4 Al Jazeera: Israeli intelligence accuses UNRWA staff of kidnap, seizing body. Israeli intelligence dossier alleges that a dozen UN agency employees were involved in the October 7 attack on Israel, 29 January 2024, <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2024/1/29/israeli-intelligence-accuses-unrwa-staff-of-kidnap-seizing-body>

5 X (formerly known as Twitter) account of Ben Gvir, 26 January 2024 at 1:53pm, <https://twitter.com/itamarbengvir/status/1750864446807794046>

6 X (formerly known as Twitter) account of Israel Katz, 27 January 2024, at 9:01am, https://twitter.com/Israel_katz/status/1751153470617379008

Austria: Demonstration against Israel's Genocide in Gaza

Report (with Photos and Videos) from a Rally in Vienna on 20 January 2024, Austrian Section of the RCIT

More than 700 people demonstrated in the inner city of Vienna to show their protest against the ongoing genocide of Israel in Gaza. The march was organized by the *Action Committee for Palestine*.

There were several speakers from the BDS movement as well as from the Palestinian Community. Michael Pröbsting, International Secretary of the RCIT, was also asked to address the demonstration. He emphasised that South Africa's genocide case against Israel at the International Court of Justice did show the sheer scale of systematic and

planned war crimes against the Palestinian people. Michael added that despite their military strength, Israel and their Western supporters, are largely isolated in the world. Furthermore, he stressed that as the war is expanding to the Red Sea, one must not be neutral. We stand on the side of the resistance in Palestine and Yemen and against imperialism and Zionism.

See photos and video clips here: https://www.thecommunists.net/rcit/rcit-activities-in-2024-part-1/#anker_7



Demonstration in Solidarity with Palestine (Vienna, 19 January 2024); Michael Pröbsting speaks (right)

Heaven Helps Those Who Help Themselves

On the ICJ ruling on South Africa's genocide case against Israel

By Michael Pröbsting, Revolutionary Communist International Tendency (RCIT), 27 January 2024

The ruling of the International Court of Justice (ICJ) on South Africa's genocide case against Israel is a limited success for the Palestinian people and those supporting its liberation struggle. (1)

It is a success not only because of the provisional measures adopted by the ICJ but, even more, because of the very nature of this institution. The ICJ is not a democratic court under the control of the masses and the oppressed peoples. It is elected by the United Nations – both by the General Assembly as well as the Security Council – which in turn is dominated by imperialist Great Powers. This imperialist domination is also reflected in the fact that the court has 15 judges – symbolically, this is the same number as the members of the UN Security Council – and among these are nearly always judges from its five permanent and veto-wielding member states (U.S., UK, France, China and Russia).

Hence, the ICJ does not rule on the basis of abstract legal or moral principles but on the basis of the interests of the capitalist governments around the globe and, in particular, of the imperialist Great Powers.

However, these governments are sometimes not united but rather divided – capitalism is a system based on competition and rivalry between classes and states. Furthermore, they do not operate within a vacuum and in situations where huge liberation struggles and mass protests take place – as it is currently the case with the unprecedented global pro-Palestine solidarity movement – the governments and even such institutions like the ICJ can come under pressure of the oppressed.

It is such a contradictory web of interests which has determined yesterday's ruling of the ICJ. It did not order a ceasefire – as the Palestinians and all opponents of the Israeli genocide in Gaza had hoped for. Clearly, the influence of Western imperialists – staunch backers of the Zionist settler state – was strong enough to prevent such a decision which would have been a catastrophe for the Netanyahu government.

Nevertheless, the court's ruling represents a considerable success for the pro-Palestine movement as it supports – in a mitigated way – several of its most important demands.

First and foremost, the court accepted nearly unanimously – Judge Sebutinde, nominated by the pro-imperialist Ugandan dictatorship was the only one consistently voting against all provisions – South Africa's accusation that Israel commits a genocide in Gaza is "plausible". "In the

Court's view, the facts and circumstances mentioned above are sufficient to conclude that at least some of the rights claimed by South Africa and for which it is seeking protection are plausible. This is the case with respect to the right of the Palestinians in Gaza to be protected from acts of genocide and related prohibited acts identified in Article III, and the right of South Africa to seek Israel's compliance with the latter's obligations under the Convention." (§ 54)

Furthermore, it ruled that Israel must "prevent and punish" all acts constituting such genocide. "The State of Israel shall, in accordance with its obligations under the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, in relation to Palestinians in Gaza, take all measures within its power to prevent the commission of all acts within the scope of Article II of this Convention, in particular: (a) killing members of the group; (b) causing serious bodily or mental harm to members of the group; (c) deliberately inflicting on the group conditions of life calculated to bring about its physical destruction in whole or in part; and (d) imposing measures intended to prevent births within the group. (...) The State of Israel shall ensure with immediate effect that its military does not commit any acts described in point 1 above." (§ 86)

In other words, the ICJ ruled that Israel must stop its indiscriminate killing, expelling, and starving out of the Palestinians in Gaza.

Likewise, the court ruled that Israel must "prevent and punish (...) incitement to commit genocide". "The State of Israel shall take all measures within its power to prevent and punish the direct and public incitement to commit genocide in relation to members of the Palestinian group in the Gaza Strip."

In addition, the ICJ orders the Zionist state to "enable the provision of urgently needed basic services and humanitarian assistance" to the Palestinian people. "The State of Israel shall take immediate and effective measures to enable the provision of urgently needed basic services and humanitarian assistance to address the adverse conditions of life faced by Palestinians in the Gaza Strip."

Finally, the court also compelled Israel to "submit a report to the Court on all measures taken to give effect to this Order within one month."

It is evident that Israel can not implement these provisions without accepting a ceasefire. In other words, Israel will inevitably violate all these provisions which, in turn, will massively increase pressure by the world public on Netanyahu and his last remaining friends in Western capitals.

The Gaza War 2023

See all relevant RCIT documents on our website:

<https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/africa-and-middle-east/compilation-of-articles-on-the-gaza-uprising-2023/>

It is hardly surprising that Israel's government – in contrast to most other countries in the world – is enraged about the ICJ's ruling. Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu slammed the decision as "outrageous". "Defence" Minister Gallant said in a statement that "those who seek justice, will not find it on leather seats in the Hague." Even the liberal opposition leader Lapid said: "The Hague Court should have rejected South Africa's bogus petition outright." (2)

My comrade Yossi Schwartz in Israel / Occupied Palestine has rightly made the following judgement of the courts' ruling. "The injunctions by the ICJ in Hague is a diplomatic victory for the Palestinians even though the Court did not issue an injunction for a total cease fire. However, the injunctions that were issued will make it more difficult for Israel to continue with the massacres in Gaza as it was ordered to provide in one month the information what has been done to protect the lives of the Palestinians. The court did not order the release of the captive Israelis." (3)

Indeed, the ICJ ruling creates further obstacles for Israel's genocidal war and will encourage the global mass movement in solidarity with the Palestinian people. At the same time, it is clear that the court in itself is impotent, and Israel will ignore its ruling, i.e. it will continue its massacre in Gaza.

There is a popular saying which exists, in one form or another, in many parts of the world: *Heaven Helps Those Who Help Themselves*. And so it is!

We must not wait for the ICJ, the UN or the Great Powers to stop Israel's genocide. It is only us, it is only the popular masses which can defeat the Zionist monster! The heroic liberation fighters in Gaza, the courageous brothers from the Houthis in Yemen, the global solidarity movement – together we must, we can, and we will defeat the colonial *Herrenmenschen* in Tel Aviv and their Western imperialist backers!

Unity – Struggle – Victory

Footnotes

1) International Court of Justice: Application of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide in the Gaza Strip (South Africa v. Israel), Order, 26 January 2024. The paragraphs (§) cited in this article refer to this document.

2) For more quotes and sources see the article by my comrade Yossi Schwartz: Critical Support for the Injunction of the ICJ, 26.01.2024, <https://the-isleague.com/critical-support-for-the-injunction-of-the-icj/>

3) Ibid

Austria: Pro-Israel Forces Lay Criminal Complaint against Michael Pröbsting

Report from the RKO BEFREIUNG (Austrian Section of the RCIT), 29 January 2024

Several pro-Israel forces in Austria have laid a criminal complaint against Michael Pröbsting, the International Secretary of the RCIT. This criminal complaint is based on "suspicion of incitement to commit terrorist offenses and approval of terrorist offenses in accordance with Paragraph 282a, Section 2 of the Criminal Code."

Michael has visited Palestine twice, is a long-time solidarity activist and has been a regular speaker at pro-Palestine demonstrations in Austria since many years.

The reason for the criminal complaint is a paragraph in the RCIT's statement which we issued on 7 October 2023, and which has been distributed as a leaflet in German and Arabic language at demonstrations in Vienna: "The RCIT reiterates that as long as the Zionist state exists, the Palestinians will continue suffering from state terrorism! This is why we stand for the socialist perspective of a democratic and red Palestine. We support the struggle for the destruction of the Zionist state and the right to return for all Palestinian refugees." ("This is the Time to Expel the Occupiers!", <https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/africa-and-middle-east/fifth-gaza-war-support-the-heroic-palestinian-resistance/>)

As we did report at that time, this leaflet did cause a public scandal as a tabloid published a hysterical article and a liberal city councillor called authorities to act against us. (See: Austria: Tabloid Attacks RCIT for "Open Call for Violence against Israel", <https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/africa-and-middle-east/austria-tabloid-attacks-rcit-for-open-call-for-violence-against-israel/>)

In consequence of the criminal complaint, Michael was summoned to the headquarters of the police in Vienna where he was asked about his political views about the

Gaza War and the Palestine question in general as well as about his political activities. He restated our positions which we have elaborated in various RCIT publications as well as in speeches and media interviews.

The public prosecution department must decide now if it will open a court case.

The criminal complaint against Michael Pröbsting is part of series of attempts to silence the voices of solidarity with Palestine. But whatever is the outcome of this case – we refuse to become silent! We will continue to speak out the truth and to support Palestine and all oppressed peoples!



Our American Jewish Brothers and Sisters who Oppose the Zionist Apartheid State and the Genocide of the Palestinians

By Yossi Schwartz, Internationalist Socialist League (RCIT Section in Israel/Occupied Palestine), 06.02.2024

The genocide of the Gazan Palestinians by the Zionist monster has led to the largest opposition movement to the white house that supports the genocide since the war of Vietnam. Growing number of young Jews are part of this movement. They are our brothers and sisters.

During the war of Vietnam and the civil right movement many Jews were on the side of the oppressed against the barbarism of French and American imperialism.

Jewish people for many years have faced both overt and more subtle antisemitism here in the United States and a long history of murderous persecution in Europe. Many American Jews have thus identified with the struggles of Black Americans against Jim Crow and racial injustice and embraced the Civil Rights Movement as part of a broader fight for justice and equality. As Dr. Martin Luther King told the American Jewish Congress in 1958:

"My people were brought to America in chains. Your people were driven here to escape the chains fashioned for them in Europe. Our unity is born of our common struggle for centuries, not only to rid ourselves of bondage, but to make oppression of any people by others an impossibility" [1]

Jewish Americans also provided important support at key junctures in the Civil Rights Movement. Fully half of the young people who flooded into Mississippi during the Freedom Summer of 1964 were Jewish. Among them were Andrew Goodman and Michael Schwerner, who were murdered along with African American activist James Chaney because of their efforts to register Black voters. Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel served as an advisor to Dr. King and marched with him from Montgomery to Selma in 1964. That year, 17 rabbis were arrested with Dr.

King in St. Augustine, Florida, after a challenge to racial segregation in public accommodations.

Reflecting that common ground, some Jewish Americans played significant roles in the Civil Rights Movement. For example, Jack Greenberg, whose parents fled antisemitic pogroms in Europe, succeeded Thurgood Marshall as Director-Counsel of the NAACP Legal Defense Fund, serving for 23 years. Greenberg argued *Brown v. Board of Education* as Marshall's co-counsel, as well as many other landmark Supreme Court cases challenging segregation, employment discrimination, and the death penalty. When this protest declined the Zionist were able to control the American Jews. However, the genocide of the Palestinians is awaking this spirit of the 1954-1968. Lela Tolajian is a member of the Students for Justice in Palestine (SJP) writes today in Al Jazeera.

"The suppression of pro-Palestinian voices is not fighting anti-Semitism because there is nothing anti-Semitic about opposing genocide. On December 5, 2023, I joined fellow Jewish university students outside the United States Congress to protest against a resolution conflating criticism of Israel with anti-Semitism. Conflating anti-Semitism with criticism of a modern apartheid state is dangerous historical revisionism. It ignores the fact that since the conception of Zionism, there has always existed strong and diverse Jewish opposition to it. For decades, progressive Jewish movements have held Zionism to be a dangerous form of nationalism, with some Holocaust survivors openly denouncing Zionist policies.

Like countless other Jews, I was brought up to believe in extending solidarity, combating oppression and supremacy, and standing up for the sanctity of human life. The Torah states that all people are made B'tselem Elohim (in the image of God), making

Books of the RCIT

Yossi Schwartz: The Zionist Wars

A History of the Zionist Movement and Imperialist Wars

In *The Zionist Wars* Yossi Schwartz gives an overview about the process of Zionist colonialization of Palestine as well as the resistance of the indigenous Arab population. He deals in detail with the popular struggles of the Palestinians against their expulsion by the Zionists. *The Zionist Wars* elaborates in detail the character of Israel's military campaigns in 1948 and the following decades which resulted in the expulsion of large parts of the Palestinian population. These wars were also crucial to implement the imperialist subjugation of the Arab countries.

However, as Yossi Schwartz elaborates, the Zionist state has passed its peak already some time ago which has been demonstrated by its failed military campaigns in Lebanon as well as in Gaza.

In *The Zionist Wars* the author also discusses in much detail the program of the communist movement on the Palestinian question. He shows the adaptation and finally capitulation of Stalinism to the Zionist project – culminating in massive arms shipments for the Israeli forces during the War of 1948.

In this book Yossi Schwartz elaborates the analyses and conclusions of Leon Trotsky and the Fourth International for the libera-

tion of Palestine. He also discusses the strength and weakness of his successors in dealing with the Zionist state and the Arab liberation struggle against it.

In *The Zionist Wars* Yossi Schwartz defends the national liberation struggle of the Palestinian people and outlines a socialist perspective.

The book contains an introduction and 20 chapters (136 pages) and includes 2 Tables and 4 Maps. The author of the book is Yossi Schwartz, a leading member of the Revolutionary Communist International Tendency and its section in Israel / Occupied Palestine.

You can find the contents and download the book for free at <https://www.thecommunists.net/theory/the-zionist-wars/>

THE ZIONIST WARS

A HISTORY OF THE ZIONIST MOVEMENT AND IMPERIALIST WARS

WRITTEN BY YOSSE SCHWARTZ

WWW.THECOMMUNISTS.NET

PUBLISHED BY REVOLUTIONARY COMMUNIST INTERNATIONAL TENDENCY (RCIT)

PRINTED BY REVOLUTIONARY COMMUNIST INTERNATIONAL TENDENCY (RCIT)



each life sacred. The Talmud teaches that saving a single life is to save the whole world, commanding Jews everywhere to fight against the loss of life anywhere. These teachings drive the love I have for my faith and culture ... and the heartbreak I feel whenever I see the destruction Zionism has wrought.

The Israeli army has killed more than 27,000 Palestinians since October 7, including more than 11,000 children. Of the tens of thousands of bombs dropped on Gaza – one of the most densely populated areas in the world – nearly half were “unguided”. Israel has killed Palestinians indiscriminately in illegal attacks on hospitals, United Nations-run school shelters, ambulances, and civilian evacuation routes. Entire neighborhoods in areas such

as Gaza City, with a higher population density than New York City, have been flattened. [2]

Destroy the Zionist racist control over the Jews!
The anti-Zionist Jews are our brothers and sisters!
Down with the Imperialists West and East!
For Palestine red and free from the river to the sea!

Endnotes:

[1] <https://www.justice.gov/opa/blog/justice-department-recognizes-jewish-american-heritage-month#:~:text=Jewish%20Americans%20also%20provided%20important,Summer%20of%201964%20were%20Jewish>

[2] <https://www.aljazeera.com/opinions/2024/2/4/we-jewish-students-must-not-be-silent-on-the-stern>

Is Hamas Ready to Give Up on the Struggle for One State from the River to the Sea?

By Yossi Schwartz, Internationalist Socialist League (RCIT Section in Israel/Occupied Palestine), 14.02.2024

There are rumors that Hamas is ready to join the PLO and form a joint government with the PA alongside Israel. According to this rumor Hamas demands 3 points for such a betrayal.

The three points included that, first, the war in Gaza came to an end, and a political horizon was established for a two-state solution. Second, Gaza should be rebuilt with the leadership of a technocratic government. Third, the internal Palestinian situation should be monitored, reconciliation between the Palestinian factions should take place, and Hamas should join the PLO with a broader, unified Palestinian-Arab vision.

A Qatari source conveyed to Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas that Hamas has agreed to form a technocratic government in Gaza after the war, according to a Tuesday report from Sky News Arabia citing a Palestinian source in Ramallah.

We do not know whether this rumor is true but the RCIT has supported Hamas as long as it fights Israel, but we never have given it political support because we are aware that bourgeois and petit-bourgeois are likely to betray the masses. As revolutionary Marxists we act according to the theory and strategy of the permanent revolution. The democratic and the national liberation to really win the struggle must be led by a revolutionary party of the working class in alliance with the Fellahin that will connect the national and the democratic struggle to the socialist revolution. That is why we always say Palestine red and free from the river to the sea! A Palestinian state on 20% of Palestine alongside Israel will act as a police force for Israel and western imperialism.

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

Books of the RCIT

Yossi Schwartz: Palestine and Zionism

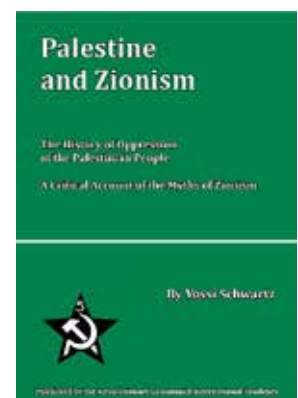
The History of Oppression of the Palestinian People. A Critical Account of the Myths of Zionism

In *Palestine and Zionism* Yossi Schwartz provides a critical analysis of numerous Zionist myths about the Jews as well as about the Palestinians. He demonstrates that the Zionist claim that Palestine is the historic homeland of the Jews lacks any serious basis. *Palestine and Zionism* shows that the history of Zionism in the 20th century is a history of colonialism in the service of the Great Powers and directed against the native population – the Arabs. In *Palestine and Zionism* Yossi Schwartz deals with key events – the “Nakba” in 1948, the wars in 1956, 1967 and 1973, more recent events like the Lebanon War, etc. – which were decisive for the expulsion of most Palestinians from their homeland. Yossi Schwartz also shows that the Palestinian people have heroically resisted against the occupation resulting in two Intifadas as well as the successful defense of Gaza against the Israeli aggression in three wars (2008/09, 2012, 2014). The author also analysis the shameful betrayal by the PLO leadership by signing the Oslo Agreement in 1993. In *Palestine and Zionism* Yossi Schwartz defends the right of national self-determination for the Palestinian people and outlines

a socialist perspective. He emphasizes that the only solution is the right of millions of Palestinian refugees to return to their homeland and to replace the Zionist entity with one democratic state from the river to the sea – a *Free Red Palestine* with equal civil rights to the Arabs and the Israeli Jews.

The book contains an introduction and 7 chapters (112 pages) and includes 7 Tables and 3 Maps. The author of the book is Yossi Schwartz, a leading member of the Revolutionary Communist International Tendency and its section in Israel / Occupied Palestine..

You can find the contents and download the book for free at <https://www.thecommunists.net/theory/palestine-and-zionism/>



Imperialist EU to Send Warships to Red Sea to Fight the Houthis

US, UK and European forces - out of the Middle East! Defeat Israel! Support the Palestinian and Yemeni resistance!

Statement of the RKOB (Austrian section of the Revolutionary Communist International Tendency), 18 January 2024

1. According to reports from Reuters and Politico, the European Union (EU) is preparing a military mission “in a broader area of operation, from the Red Sea to the Gulf.” Its official goal is to “protect freedom of navigation” along the crucial route leading to the Suez Canal that connects Europe with Asia. The mission would build on an existing French-led surveillance mission, called operation AGENOR, in which nine European countries have participated (Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, the Netherlands, Norway and Portugal). The new EU military mission shall include at least three anti-air destroyers or frigates for the operation, but diplomats say that it is still unclear who exactly will provide what. It is planned to implement this plan by no later than 19 February. Spain is opposed to the new mission in the Red Sea and will not participate.

2. The background of this decision is the massive decline of maritime trade in the Red Sea and Suez Canal since November 2023. This has been caused by a series of courageous attacks by the Yemeni Houthis (officially called *Ansar Allah*) which are directed both against the territory of Israel as well as against Israel-linked cargo ships. These are actions in protest against the Israeli genocide in Gaza and in solidarity with the Palestinian resistance.

3. These attacks on ships – which have not killed or injured anyone until now – have been highly effective as they resulted in a collapse of Israel’s maritime trade in the Red Sea with revenues of Israel’s port of Eilat dropping by more than 80%. As a result, four of the world’s five largest container shipping firms have either paused or diverted their Red Sea operations, and shipping via the Red Sea has declined from 500,000 containers per day in November to about 200,000 currently.

4. This has also major repercussions for Europe since 40% of its trade with Asia and the Middle East passes through the Red Sea. This is particularly relevant for its oil and gas trade as the EU has become more dependent on such imports from the Middle East after it massively reduced its imports from Russia because of its sanction policy. EU trade commissioner Valdis Dombrovskis already warned that the current crisis in the Red Sea puts “a risk for the European economy.”

5. The decision of the EU is motivated by the following interests:

a) The European imperialists want – in collaboration with the U.S. and Britain – to take control over the Red Sea in order to stop disruptions of their maritime trade and to secure their commercial interests.

b) The EU mission shall aid Israel as it would also safeguard its shipping trade. Israel has always been a strategic ally of European imperialism which is why Berlin, Paris and Rome have lent unlimited support to the Zionist state and its genocidal war against the Palestinian people.

c) Furthermore, this mission would increase the EU’s role as an independent imperialist power and as a “global player” in world politics, i.e. it would help to reduce its

dependence on the U.S.

6. It is clear that the EU naval force is not a “peace-keeping” mission. It is rather a military mission aimed at attacking the Houthis – the most important force in Yemen which is fully committed to support the heroic Palestinian resistance against the Zionist invasion. In other words, the EU naval mission serves to wage war in the Middle East in support of the Israeli Terror and Apartheid state – it represents an aggression against the Palestinian and the Yemeni people. When the US and Britain began to launch military strikes against the Houthis last week, we spoke about the *transformation of the conflict from a Zionist War on Gaza to an Israeli-American War against Arab peoples*. The EU naval mission deepens this transformation so that we can speak about an *Israeli-Western War against Arab peoples*.

7. The Austrian section of the *Revolutionary Communist International Tendency* (RCIT) calls the workers and popular mass organisations in Europe to strictly oppose the EU military mission in the Red Sea. It is a reactionary mission aimed at supporting the commercial interests of Europe’s monopolies as well as the economic interests of the Zionist monster. It represents an aggression against the oppressed people – in Yemen and, indirectly, in Palestine.

8. We reiterate the RCIT’s position of unconditional support for the heroic Palestinian resistance. In any confrontation the Houthis and EU (or US/UK) naval forces, we side with the Yemeni resistance. We also fully side with all other forces fighting the Israeli or the Western imperialists. In all these conflicts we advocate the *military victory of the Palestinian and pro-Palestinian forces and the defeat of the Zionist and imperialist enemies*.

Victory to the Palestinian resistance! Defeat Israel!

In any confrontation: Support the Houthis and other resistance forces against Israel and the Western imperialists!

No EU warships to the Red Sea! Expel the U.S.-led naval force from the Red Sea! Close all imperialist military bases in the Middle East!

For a global boycott movement against the Terror and Apartheid state Israel!

* * * * *

We refer readers to a special page on our website where all RCIT documents on the 2023 Gaza War are compiled, <https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/africa-and-middle-east/compilation-of-articles-on-the-gaza-uprising-2023/>.

For our latest statement on the solidarity actions of the Houthis in the Red Sea see: From Zionist War on Gaza to Israeli-American War against Arab Peoples. Stop the genocide of the Palestinian people! Defeat Israel! Kick the US/UK forces out of the Middle East! Victory to the resistance! 16 January 2024, <https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/africa-and-middle-east/from-zionist-war-on-gaza-to-israeli-american-war-against-arab-peoples/>

Iranian Missile Strikes in Syria, Iraq and Pakistan: A Reactionary Aggression

Statement of the Revolutionary Communist International Tendency (RCIT), 18 January 2024

1. The Mullah regime in Iran has launched missiles strikes in Idlib (Syria), northern Iraq and Pakistan, resulting in a number of deaths and injuries. Teheran claims to have hit a "Mossad headquarter" in Erbil (Iraq) as well as various "terrorist organizations". The regime says these strikes would be in retaliation for the barbarian terrorist attack in Kerman (Iran) a few days before which killed at least 89 people and for which Daesh (ISIS) has claimed responsibility.

2. This has provoked outrage both in Iraq and Pakistan as well as among the Anti-Assad rebels in Syria. The governments in Iraq and Pakistan recalled their ambassadors and Islamabad responded with counter-strikes in Iran. This development has resulted in a serious crisis of Iran's relations with important neighbouring countries and carry the risk of further escalation or even a war (in the case of Pakistan which is a nuclear power).

3. We are not in a position to know the real identity of all targets which have been hit by Iranian missiles. It is true that the bourgeois government in the autonomous Kurdish province in Northern Iraq has a long history of collaboration with the Israeli state. However, we don't know if the target was really Israeli-linked. But in other cases, it is clear that the targets of the Iranian missiles strikes where not linked with Israel, the US or Daesh. It is well-known that the US as well as Daesh control areas in Syria, but these are not in north-western Idlib but rather in eastern resp. central provinces of Syria. The targets in Pakistan seem to have been linked to *Jaish al-Adl* – a militant nationalist group fighting against the oppression of the Baloch minority in Iran. Likewise did the Pakistani strikes hit targets linked to Balochi nationalist guerrillas – the *Balochistan Liberation Army* and the *Balochistan Liberation Front* – as the Balochis are also oppressed in Pakistan.

4. In other words, Iran's missiles strikes – contrary to their fraudulent rhetoric of the regime – have nothing to do Israel, the U.S. or Daseh. Teheran rather exploits the popular outrage at home in order to strike militant groups opposed to the Mullah regime and to demonstrate its military strength as a regional power.

5. The Revolutionary Communist International Tendency

(RCIT) condemns the reactionary aggression of Iran. These acts contain not an inch of anti-imperialism or anti-Zionism but rather demonstrate the chauvinist desire of a regional power to expand its sphere of influence – although Iran is not an imperialist power but rather an advanced and industrialised capitalist semi-colony. We also denounce the heinous terror attacks of Daesh in Kerman.

6. We reiterate our support for the liberation struggle of the workers, women and national minorities in Iran who suffer from exploitation and oppression by the regime. Socialists in Iran fight for the revolutionary overthrow of the regime and its replacement by workers and poor peasants' government based on popular councils and militias. Likewise, we continue our support for the rebels in Syria fighting against the tyranny of Assad, supported by Russian imperialism.

7. Iran's missiles strikes reflect not only the reactionary nature of the Mullah regime but also its coward character. The regime repeats day after day the slogans "*Death to America!*" and "*Death to Israel!*" However, instead of striking U.S. military bases in Iraq or Israeli-linked ships – as the Houthis are doing so courageously – the Mullahs target much weaker targets. This is particularly shameful in the current situation as Israel wages a genocidal war against the Palestinian people with the support of U.S. and European imperialism. Furthermore, the Western powers are now also attacking the Houthis in Yemen. Still, the chicken Mullahs don't dare to attack the Zionist monster and the *Great Satan!*

8. Finally, the RCIT also reiterates its unconditional support for the anti-colonial struggle of the heroic Palestinian resistance as well as the Yemeni Houthis. Likewise, we fully side with other forces fighting the Israeli or the Western imperialists. Such an approach should be also applied in case the Iranian regime finds the courage to confront the Zionist enemy or its Western allies. In all these conflicts we advocate the *military victory of the Palestinian and pro-Palestinian forces and the defeat of the Zionist and imperialist enemies.*

International Bureau of the RCIT



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

Ukraine War: Two Years after the Invasion

By Alexey Sedov, *Socialist Tendency* (RCIT Section in Russia), 24.02.2024

Preface: On the second anniversary of the beginning of the Ukraine War, we published the English-language translation of an article by comrade Alexey Sedov from the *Socialist Tendency*, the RCIT's section in Russia. We are particularly proud that our Russian comrades, operating "in the heart of the beast", have taken a consistent anti-imperialist approach against Putin's war of aggression since its beginning.

It is the political and moral duty of socialists all over the world to defend the Ukraine against the Putin's invasion. However, it demands particular courage and steadfastness from revolutionary communists to take such a position and to defend it publicly in the centre of "Ruskij Mir", i.e. in imperialist Russia. Bolsheviks are tested in decisive situations. Wars, counterrevolutionary blows and revolutionary upheavals are the most important of such tests. Our comrades have passed this test with honours and the RCIT is proud to have them in its ranks!

The *Revolutionary Communist International Tendency* (RCIT) has recognised the *dual character* of this conflict from the very beginning. It is a reactionary war of aggression by Russia and, therefore, a just war of national defence by the Ukraine. 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 impossible to support economic sanctions or similar Great Power measures.

Furthermore, we oppose the subordination of the Ukraine to Western imperialism and fight for the replacement of the Zelensky regime by a workers government. The RCIT has summarised such an approach in the slogan: *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!*

On this programmatic basis, we have recently established fraternal relations with *Spalakh* – a group of young activists in the Ukraine. (See <https://www.thecommunists.net/rcit/fraternal-relations-between-spalakh-ukraine-and-rcit/>)

The RCIT has combined such a position with practical solidarity work. In the first months after the beginning of the war, we (co-)organised three international convoys bringing humanitarian aid to the Ukraine. We also participated with delegates at a conference initiated by the *International Labour Network for Solidarity and Struggles* on May Day 2022 in Lviv. Furthermore, we played an active role in solidarity rallies in various countries. (For reports see <https://www.thecommunists.net/rcit/international-workers-aid/>)

Finally, 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 Turn-

ing 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/>

Two years ago, Putin's imperialist machine invaded Ukraine, bringing death, destruction, colonization and occupation.

People have been dying for two years – young Ukrainian soldiers, men, women, children. People are losing property and shelter, the country is experiencing a humanitarian, economic and demographic crisis.

In two years, Russia has experienced an unprecedented increase in censorship, the mobilization of hundreds of thousands of men to the front, the exodus of hundreds of thousands of citizens abroad, attacks on their cities, a military mutiny, as well as the murders and imprisonments of key figures of the Russian opposition.

Two years of deaths, personal tragedies, broken contacts, loss of meaning and disappointment.

Over these two years, the Russian ruling elite was able to rally its forces around President Putin ahead of the upcoming elections, while the Ukrainian ruling elite, on the contrary, has split: President Zelensky, who traditionally relies on the Ukrainian national bureaucracy, dismissed Commander-in-Chief Zaluzhny – whose staff are mainly relied on the Western political and military elite, replacing him with General Syrsky, known for his "meat" assaults and greater loyalty to the political leadership.

All this time, the ruling class is playing a dirty game behind the scenes and behind the backs of the working masses.

The bankruptcy of social-imperialism and abstentionism

And for two years, opportunists and sectarians have been attacking revolutionary Marxists, sputtering at Lenin's theory of imperialism and practicing intellectual balancing act with the aim of promoting absenteeism or, worse, the direct ideology of the "Russian world". Everything is used: from denying the imperialist nature of Russia to attracting world-system theory from authors of varying degrees of adequacy. The standard arguments, defeated by the Bolsheviks more than a hundred years ago, are again in use. Among them are theses about the impossibility of a national liberation war under imperialism, the impossibility of communists supporting the bourgeois leadership of oppressed countries in their struggle for liberation, conspiracy theories about a proxy war between the geopolitical West and East, and so on and so forth.

All this is often supported by petty-bourgeois pacifist vulgarities or, conversely, by ordinary cannibalism.

The position of the "*Socialist Tendency*", as a section of the

RCIT in Russia, has not changed and has only been confirmed over the past two years. In February 2022, we gave an interview to Ukrainian social revolutionaries, in which we defined the nature of the war as dual: the primary element was and is the war of national defence of Ukraine against Russian colonizing imperialism, while the secondary element is the economic and political confrontation between the imperialist camps.

What is the difference between a Marxist and an opportunist-compromiser and a sectarian? The opportunist always supports the bourgeois government in its legitimate struggle for defence, without properly criticizing the ruling class, suffering from tailism and conciliation. The sectarian ignores such a legitimate struggle, referring to the incorrect (bourgeois/petty-bourgeois/nationalist/Islamist) leadership of the masses.

A Marxist, on the other hand, supports the people's struggle against the occupiers and oppressors, without identifying with the reactionary leadership, expanding his or her influence on the masses in order to lead such a legitimate struggle, replacing the wrong leadership.

We Marxists still remain friends of the working masses and oppressed peoples. We, both these last two years and before, believe that the correct theory will make its way through the thorns to the stars, no matter what stands in its way.

We reaffirm our support for the resistance of oppressed nations and the working class of the world.

Against all imperialists! Down with Russia, China, USA and EU!

Down with the colonialists! Glory to Ukraine!

Forward, working class! Socialism or death!

Russia: On the Death of Navalny & the Imprisonment of Kagarlitsky

Statement by Socialist Tendency (RCIT Section in Russia), 16.02.2024

Preface of the RCIT: The following article has been translated from the website of *Socialist Tendency*, the Section of the RCIT in Russia. As our comrades in Russia state, the murder of Alexei Navalny and the draconic sentence against Boris Kagarlitsky reveal once more the extraordinary bonapartist nature of the Putin regime. While we had and have strong political disagreements with Navalny and Kagarlitsky, only Stalinist and Pseudo-Trotskyist cynics are able to deny their sympathy and support for these victims of the reactionary dictatorship.

It is clear that the current situation of a cruel authoritarian regime makes revolutionary work in Russia extremely difficult and dangerous. We are proud that our comrades in *Socialist Tendency* are able to continue their work under these extraordinary conditions. We can only say that every dark night is followed by dawn. In fact, the brutality of the regime is an indirect reflection of its insecure state, its fear that the accelerating political and social contradictions could easily result in domestic crisis and revolutionary explosions.

Under such circumstances, revolutionaries have to continue working relentlessly but also carefully in order to prepare the workers vanguard for the coming tumultuous events.

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The last days in Russia have been particularly rich in negative events: on 13 February, the military court of appeal changed the sentence of Boris Kagarlitsky (recognized as a foreign agent in the Russian Federation) from a fine to imprisonment for 5 years. And on 16 February, Alexei Navalny (listed as an extremist and terrorist) died in the Polar Wolf correctional colony in the village of Kharp, according to a report from the Federal Penitentiary Service.

Thus ended the two-month period of "thaw", which Russian oppositionists were celebrating on YouTube screens. Both Kagarlitsky and Navalny did not have the same po-

litical views as us. Kagarlitsky is a social democrat, a supporter of the world-system theory and, to one degree or another, an advocate of Russian imperialism. Boris openly supported the Russia-organized "uprising" of pro-Russian forces in the Donetsk and Lugansk regions of Ukraine in 2014. He held meetings with Russian fascists and was the organizer of a "school" of pro-Russian pro-imperialist activists. The *Rabkor* website, of which he is the editor-in-chief, published articles in support of the occupation of Crimea by Russia. To one degree or another, he was the justifier and instigator of the Russian-Ukrainian war in 2014, the logical continuation of which was the full-scale invasion of Ukraine by Russian troops on 24 February 2022. However, Kagarlitsky found the strength to oppose this invasion, unfortunately, without admitting the error of his positions 8 years earlier. Navalny is a nationalist, right-wing liberal and populist. One of his last statements was, by the way, in defense of Kagarlitsky.

Nevertheless, we sympathize with these two undeniably legendary figures of the Russian opposition movement. Primarily due to the fact that the criminal prosecution against them is unfair by all human standards and even from the point of view of Russian legislation it is controversial and purely politically motivated.

Before these elections, Russian security forces tried to clear the country's political field, and they more than succeeded. The main critic of the Putin regime is dead, left and right activists are effectively pushed to the underground or semi-underground. All political movements have been destroyed, their leaders were either forced to emigrate abroad, are in prison on political charges, or died under mysterious circumstances.

Bonapartist repressions and the purge of any political dissent are gaining momentum and have no intention of slowing down.

Relatives of Navalny and Kagarlitsky - patience and courage. The remaining Russian opposition must not give up. Russia - freedom.

Ukraine: Money for Pavements or for the Army?

By Perets Petro, Spalakh (Ukraine), 23 January 2024

Preface of the RCIT

The following article of comrade Perets Petro gives a useful insight into some of the important issues of the political situation in the Ukraine. The author is a member of Spalakh – a revolutionary socialist organisation in the Ukraine with which the RCIT has recently established fraternal relations. (<https://www.thecommunists.net/rcit/fraternal-relations-between-spalakh-ukraine-and-rcit/>)

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Recently, Ukrainian society has been permeated by antagonism and confrontation between the people and administrations. This is manifested through rallies against the spending of budget funds on such things as premiums for paving. It is interesting that even the heads of administrations themselves often speak in support of such protests, despite the fact that these are directed against them, which creates a caricature and even more confusing situation. In the end, the apogee of this conflicts was the detonation of a village council in Zakarpattia by deputy Batryn with a grenade. These are well-known news that shook the whole country. It is impossible to ignore this kind of social conflict, so we will try to analyse it in the general context.

The currently prevailing understanding of the situation in the information field

First of all, in the cobblestones, which act as a collective image of all budget expenditures, the protesters put the meaning of unnecessary expenditures compared to military ones. However, this general image has a name - public good. Its benefit is available to everyone, and its use is free, that is, it does not require money in exchange for it. Thus, the public good cannot be produced by private companies, because it does not bring income, therefore only by the state. We cannot imagine a comfortable life without such public ones, and some of them are indispensable and

necessary. Among them are not only cobblestones, but also roads in general, along with lighting and so on.

But, as the average citizen will rightly object: not all the goods that are created bring benefits but go to corruption schemes. Knowing that corruption is the abuse of official position for the purpose of personal enrichment, such a citizen, under the influence of liberal ideology, will make a hasty conclusion: if someone gets rich at the expense of the state, then the role of the state should be minimized by reducing taxes and reducing the functions of the state to legal ones.

Unfortunately, such a statement of the problem does not offer a solution. Within the framework of the existing system, even the maximum reduction of the regulatory apparatus and its personnel will not change the situation. The root cause of corruption is the relationship between officials and entrepreneurs. Officials have a desire to earn as much as entrepreneurs, but unlike them, they do not exploit workers to join the process of robbing the people. Hence, they use their official position, that is, they sell their own interests and their function of access to redistribution for money to capitalists. Therefore, let's look not at how funds are redistributed, but at whose expense they are taken and who benefits from the distribution.

The contradictions between the classes are provoking these protests

The obvious questions would seem, at the expense of whom? The people pay taxes. Well, who cares - money would go to the people for arming the army, if it were not for parasite officials.

But not only the worker pays tax, but also the capitalist, oligarch, big businessman, call it whatever you want. Despite the fact that the tax system puts pressure on both classes, it is the capitalist who easily evades them due to his connections and privileges, and this brings the most total damage to the entire people and the country. So, for

Imperialism and War Today (New Book in Korean Language)

The Korean section of the RCIT has published a new book titled *Imperialism and War Today*. The book has 235 pages and includes both articles written by our Korean comrades as well as translations of other RCIT documents.

At the following link, you can read the contents of the book in English and Korean language as well as download the book as a PDF: https://www.thecommunists.net/rcit/rcit-activities-in-2023-part-4/#anker_13

You can order the book from our comrades here: <https://blog.wrp-korea.org/2023/01/blog-post.html>



example, everyone knows that more than hundreds of billions of dollars are located offshore in Cyprus, Oman, and the UAE. But this is not the only example of capital outflow from Ukraine.

It is here that we see that behind these rallies is the real problem, the antagonism between the worker and the capitalist. First of all, the capitalist and partially the official benefit from the redistribution, while the people pay for all this.

Unfortunately, people do not see this truth. Their righteous anger against officials and corruption, on the contrary, is turned by liberal ideologues from telegram channels into an attack on themselves. This drives the situation into a vicious circle for the workers, where they seek rights not for themselves, but for the capitalists.

There is a way out

So, what is the solution to this situation? Can someone make all the oligarchs pay taxes even more and then everything will be fine? No, only bourgeois populists, politicians and bureaucrats can speak with such slogans.

We are moving beyond this narrow debate between the proponents of increased tax regulation and the proponents of the minimum tax rate and the free market. All this is limited only to the disputes of institutionalists, Keynesians and neoliberals. There is only one way out of this situation - taking control over the economy by the working people themselves, introducing a planned economy.

In order to stop the outflow of capital from Ukraine, it is necessary to nationalize strategic enterprises under workers control, primarily agro-industry, energy and Ukroboronprom. Yes, precisely those that Zelenskyi's predatory neoliberal government is trying so hard to privatize. It is on them that the West sets its sights on robbing our country. This is how [Robert F. Kennedy Jr.](#), candidate for the

presidency of the U.S., spoke about this issue:

"Few people understand what the war in Ukraine means for big business. It's not just about the supply of weapons and contracts for reconstruction. Big farmland of the Ukraine – some of the most fertile in the world – is up for grabs, and American companies like BlackRock are in the front lines."

Already in May 2023, the government "corporatized" Ukroboronprom, under pressure from the West, from a state-owned enterprise [into a joint-stock company](#). With the privatization of Ukroboronprom and the outflow of capital from Ukraine, it is hardly possible to protect independence and to repel Russian imperialism, when the West itself does not produce enough artillery shells necessary for war.

When the key sectors of the economy are nationalised and under control of the working people, they can produce according to the needs of the country and its population – and not in the interests of oligarchs and corrupted bureaucrats!

At the same time, on the contrary, as long as our enterprises are in the hands of corrupt bureaucrats, their resources will be stolen, and no citizen will be ready to jump into the car to protect the parasites who protect their children from war abroad. Only a planned economy, the transformation of the national liberation war into a people's war will be a guarantee of independence!

At the same time, mass gatherings and donations are a unique social phenomenon that opened up to us in this war and testifies to its popular character. It shows the consciousness of the people, it also shows their ability to single-handedly take control of the economy. But, unfortunately, donations are, at the same time, retribution not only for corruption, but also for the theft of the people by capitalists and large entrepreneurs. Therefore, the capitalists must pay!



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

