



REVOLUTIONARY COMMUNISM

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ONE WORLD - ONE STRUGGLE - ONE REVOLUTION



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Brazil: For a Revolutionary Constituent Assembly !

* Syria: Defeat the Imperialist Intervention!

* Palestine: The Case of Azaria

* General Strike in French Guiana

* Elections in France

* Brexit and Crisis of British Imperialism

* "Workers'" Immigration Control?

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Defeat the Imperialist Invasion in Syria! Victory to the Revolution!

Down with the American and Russian interventions! No to the imperialist plan to divide Syria! Down with the butcher Assad and his imperialist allies!

Statement of the Revolutionary Communist International Tendency, 13.03.2017

President Trump has signed orders to deploy another 400 US marines to Syria. This will increase the number of American special-forces ground troops in Syria to approximately 1,000, who are backed by the devastating force of the US Air Force. This relatively small number does not reflect the real strength of the US intervention, since the US troops on the ground are equipped with heavy arms, especially light tanks, mortars and other artillery. In addition to the US intervention, we have witnessed during the past year and a half the brutal intervention of Russian imperialism in support of the Assadist army, which peaked in the occupation of Free Eastern Aleppo and is now mostly focused on the province of Idlib which is still defended by various Syrian rebel forces.

The Stalinist and Castro-Chavista left' adaptation towards imperialism

Since the outbreak of the Syrian Revolution in 2011, a huge proportion of the reformist left, especially the Stalinists, have continually slandered the uprising as a CIA-conspiracy. They have claimed that the various Syrian rebels, who represent the aspiration of the Syrian popular masses to overthrow the Assad dictatorship, were simply "agents of imperialism." As proof for this contention they have repeatedly stated that the Assad regime was suppos-

edly "anti-imperialist," and that western imperialism lent mostly rhetorical support to the Syrian revolution while trying to influence it by arming some rebel groups, as well as buying off some rebel commanders in exile.

In light of Trump's new deployment of ground troops to Syria, we can now clearly see that these slanderous lies of the reformist left have no actual basis in reality. Rather, there is a consensus among the imperialist Great Powers – including both the US and Russia – that the Assadist state needs to survive, as it is the only means to guarantee the ongoing oppression and exploitation of the Syrian workers and peasants. (1) Therefore, the goal of the so called "peace-talks" in Astrachan is to force the Syrian opposition to succumb to the central demand of the regional and imperialist powers: complete capitulation.

Support the Kurdish struggle for national self-determination! No to the subordination of the PYD/YPG to US Imperialism!

Another part of the left has been highly uncritical of the Kurdish YPG militia and their party, the PYD, claiming that it is a supposed progressive alternative to Daesh/IS, the Assad regime, and the Syrian rebels who represent the revolution of the Syrian popular masses. However, in fact, the PYD has established an autocratic, basically one-party



Protest rally of Syriens against the US bombing of Raqqa in front of the US embassy in Vienna on 30.3.2017

rule in the areas which it controls. It also regularly collaborates with the Assad regime and has even undertaken a number of sectarian assaults against the Arab-Sunni population, which it camouflages by claiming to be fighting against Daesh/IS. Furthermore, the PYD/YPG leadership is deeply pro-imperialist, openly collaborating with the US military. It's no coincidence that American ground troops, as well as the US Air Force, is fighting alongside them, increasingly tightening imperialist control over them.

It is vital that Kurdish revolutionaries learn from the past and understand that, sooner or later, the imperialist Great Powers will betray them, as they have always done in the past. A free and really independent Kurdistan cannot be established with the help of the US Marine Corps. Even if a Kurdish state were to emerge as a result of the wars in Syria and Iraq, it will be a mere colony of the US and consequently draw the hatred of the other peoples in the region.

What is necessary for Kurdish revolutionaries is to conduct an independent struggle for a free, red Kurdistan, meaning that the imperialist troops have to be kicked out. This is especially germane now, as most of the Kurdish areas in Syria have been liberated from Daesh/IS, and the YPG, with the support of American marines, is now mostly advancing into Arab-majority areas.

Defeat the imperialist powers!

The RCIT, together with all consistent anti-imperialists, stands for the defeat of all imperialist troops in Syria. We do not support their crusade "against terrorism." Although Daesh/IS is a brutal, arch-reactionary Islamist force, which actively stabbed the struggle against the Assad regime in the back, we totally oppose the war of Trump, Putin and Assad against them. We support the military struggle of those forces which are doing the actually fighting to defeat and drive out the imperialist invaders.

Only an independent struggle of the oppressed peoples in the region against Daesh/IS can ensure a progressive outcome, one that will involve the defeat of this counter-revolutionary threat. This is why the struggle of numerous

Syrian rebels against Daesh deserves the support of consistent revolutionaries.

We stand for the total defeat of the biggest murderers of all, who are the US, Russian and European imperialists who bear the responsibility for the death of millions! We call upon all forces defending the Syrian Revolution to direct their weapons against the troops of imperialism, but at the same time to continue the struggle against Assad while also defending the popular masses against the Daesh/IS butchers!

* *Down with imperialism! Defeat the intervention of the US, EU and Russia!*

* *Victory to the Syrian Revolution! For a multinational, independent Syria led by the workers and peasants – free of sectarianism, foreign occupation and dictatorship!*

* *For mass mobilizations and strikes of workers, migrants and youth in the US, Europe and Russia to stop their imperialist aggression and colonization of the peoples of the Middle East!*

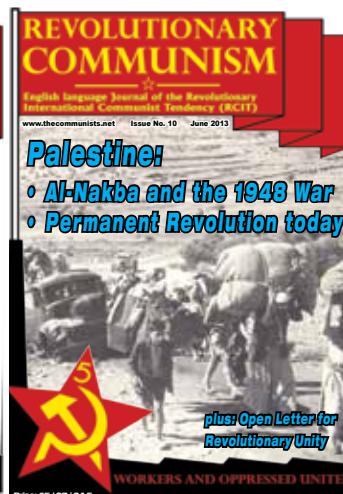
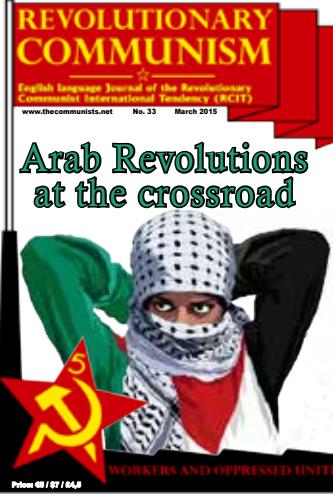
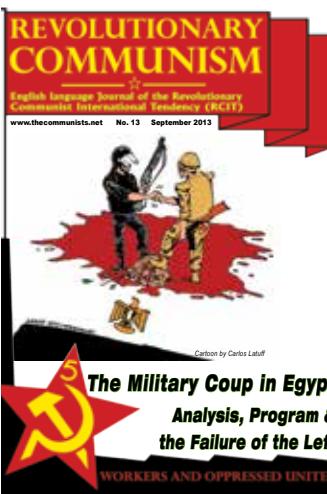
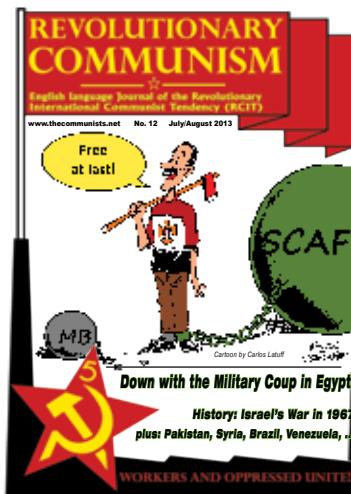
International Secretariat of the RCIT

Footnotes

(1) This recently intensified collaboration between the imperialist great powers against the Syrian Revolution – irrespective of their rivalry – has been reflected in meetings between the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff US General Joseph Dunford and his Russian counterpart Valery Gerasimov on 16 February (in Baku) and on 7 March (in Antalya). (See Joe Macaron: The Sheriff of Manbij: US makes debut in the Syrian War, 11 March 2017, <http://www.aljazeera.com/indepth/opinion/2017/03/sheriff-manbij-debut-syrian-war-170311075055718.html>)

Another example for the direct collaboration between US imperialism and its Kurdish allies with the Assad regime is the recent development around the northern city of Manbij. Reuters, as well as many other news agency, reported: "Syrian government forces have taken over positions from a U.S.-backed militia in the northern city of Manbij on part of a frontline with Turkish-backed rebel forces, in line with a deal brokered by Russia, the militia's spokesman said on Monday." (Reuters: Syrian government forces take over positions from U.S.-backed militia in northern Syria: militia spokesman, Mar 6, 2017, <http://www.reuters.com/article/us-mideast-crisis-syria-manbij-idUSKBN16D25L>)

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Report: Rally against the US Bombing of Raqqa (Syria)

For the Revival of the Syrian Revolution! Down with the Dictatorship of Assad and the Imperialist Aggression! !

Report about a rally in Vienna on the 30th March 2017 by the Austrian Section of the RCIT, 01.04.2017

Since the beginning of the Arab Revolution in 2011 we have seen a number of heroic uprisings and resistance struggles against dictatorships and their imperialist allies in the Arab world. The political situation in Syria and the perspectives of the Syrian Revolution are one of the crucial issues for the whole strategy of the Arab Revolution. Every honest revolutionary has to support the heroic resistance of the Syrian people, especially after the fall of Aleppo and the massive counter-revolutionary mobilization of the imperialists and their lackeys. The RCIT stands with the Syrian people against the Assad dictatorship since the very beginning of the uprisings and has participated in numerous solidarity activities.

The Austrian section of the RCIT supported a rally of the Syrian community in Vienna on 30 March. This rally was organized in protest against the massacre of civilians in Raqqa by the US air force. We participated in the protest which took place in front of the US Embassy. Michael Pröbsting, the RCIT's International Secretary, gave a vivid speech which was also translated into Arab by a Syrian brother.

"American and Russian bombs are killing hundreds and thousands of people in Syria as well as in Iraq. We say: Stop

the bombing! Stop the terror against the Syrian people!" said comrade Pröbsting. He also put emphasis on the necessity of international solidarity organized by the oppressed themselves. This is very important as an alternative to the so-called humanitarian aid by the imperialists who are in reality just trying to get economic, military and political control over the region.

Hama, Aleppo, and Damascus – the Syrian people continue their resistance and we continue our solidarity with our Syrian brothers and sisters. Long live the Syrian Revolution! Ling Live International Solidarity!

To view pictures and videos of the rally and the speech of Michael Pröbsting, scroll down to the end of the German language report: <https://www.rkob.net/wer-wir-sind-1/rkob-aktiv-bei/kundgebung-syrien-30-maerz>

Another video report about the rally (including an interview with Michael Pröbsting in English language) has been published by the Syrian journalist Ahmed Morad on his Facebook page "Be With Me A Reporter": <https://www.facebook.com/BWMAR/videos/1296317033778425/> (the interview can be viewed from minute 13.30-17:37)



Michael Pröbsting at an interview during a protest rally of Syrians against the US bombing of Raqqa in Vienna on 30.3.2017

Israel / Occupied Palestine: The Case of Azaria Demonstrates the Zionist Definition of "Justice"

For a Red Democratic Palestine from the River to the Sea!

Internationalist Socialist League (Section of the RCIT in Israel/Occupied Palestine), 7.3.2017

1 1 months ago on March 24, 2016, in the Tel Rumeida neighborhood of Hebron, Abdel Fattah al-Sharif, a Palestinian youth, stabbed an Israeli soldier of the occupation force. He was shot and wounded. No medical attention was offered after he was immobilized by the gunfire. While he was lying bleeding on the ground he was shot again in the head by Elor Azaria, a sergeant medic of the Israeli Oppression Forces.

This was a cold blooded murder that was captured on camera by a human rights activist. Azaria was arrested and was charged not of murder, but of manslaughter. He was found guilty by a military court in Tel-Aviv. The court stated that his defense was based on lies.

Firstly, he claimed that al-Sharif was lying there dead. Then he claimed that his victim was a threat, that he had a knife. But that knife was some considerable distance away. Then Azaria said al-Sharif may have been wearing a suicide vest and that's why he responded the way he did. But this was 11 minutes after al-Sharif had been shot by other soldiers and was left neutralized on the ground, bleeding. He was bleeding on the ground as the ambulance staff was attending to the Israeli soldier who had minor wounds. (1)

Azaria smiled as he got sentenced to a year and a half in prison. This is worse than a caricature of justice, it is a message that killing Palestinians is not very nice but not too bad. In Israel when a Jew kills a Jew, he is likely to get 10-12 years in jail. When an Arab kills a Jew, he is likely to get 20 years, when a Jew kills an Arab, he is likely to get 18 months and is likely to get pardoned and maybe serve a one year sentence.

Two thirds of the Israelis, according to polls, sympathize with Azaria and a vocal minority calls him a hero. According to the Israeli mass media, Azaria killed a Terrorist.

In January this year the police killed Yacoub Abu al-Qi-

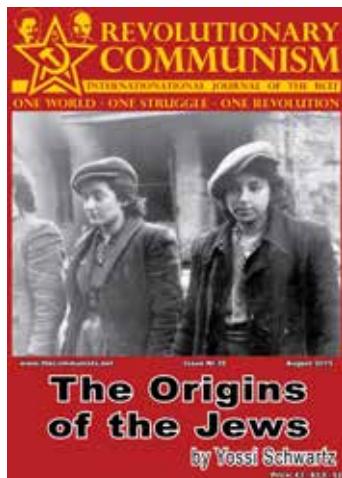
yan, a teacher in the Bedouin village of Umm al-Hiran. The police was there for the demolition of homes in the Negev village. According to police, the civilian who was killed, was a terrorist who deliberately ran over and killed a policeman, 37-year-old Erez Levi, and injured another.

Within hours after the incident occurred, Gilad Erdan the Minister of Public Security had said: "This was a grave incident for our forces and for the whole country. A terrorist associated with the Islamic Movement sped toward our forces with the intention of killing as many police officers as possible before the start of the eviction. Since then, I have been hearing more and more calls of incitement that are distorting the picture of what really happened. I call upon the Knesset members from the Joint List: 'Stop the incitement'. (2)

By now it is clear that the police fired at Yacoub Abu al-Qiyan's car before it hit two officers and because of it he lost control after being shot. The Video footage of the incident, taken from a police helicopter, shows at least one police officer opened fire on the driver as the car was moving slowly. An officer to the front and right of the car runs towards it and appears to shoot at least three times from several yards away.

On February 1st the Israeli police evacuated settlers from a West Bank outpost. The settlement was built on Palestinian private properties. The Israeli Supreme Court ruled that the stealing of proven private land is illegal and the government was forced to remove the settlers.

The Israeli police wearing no helmets and carrying no weapons evacuate the settlers very gently. At the same time far right Zionist youngsters smashed tiles, gathered rusty metal bars and large rocks to erect makeshift barricades to slow their advance. Some protesters threw rocks at police , while others set fire to tires and trash piles. Ac-



NEW RCIT PUBLICATION!

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

tivists gathered in homes, praying, singing religious songs and dancing.

So the question to ask is who is a terrorist? Is a Palestinian Bedouin whose house the Israeli government demolished a terrorist or the police who killed him, in cold blood? Is a Palestinian youth who had enough with the daily oppression and attacked the army of the occupation a terrorist or the Israeli army and in particular Sergeant Azaria who killed him in cold blood? Are the Palestinians whose land has been stolen the terrorists or the settlers who are stealing the Palestinian lands?

During the British rule and in particular after the World War II the Zionists wanted to force the British to open the gates of Palestine to European Jews, and opposed the White Paper of 1939, which outlined the government policies which placed restrictions on Jewish immigration and land purchases.

The government declared the intention of giving independence to Palestine, with an Arab majority, within ten years. The Zionist and in particular the Irgun of Begin and Lehi of Stern attacked British targets including British soldiers. Yet in the Zionist books these actions were not terrorist activities but justified revolt.

From a revolutionary working class perspective the Zionist military activities could not be supported because their aim was not to remove colonialist occupation, but to prevent the independence of the native Palestinian majority in order to build a Colonialist settler society that its logic led to the Nakba—the ethnic cleansing of the Palestinians.

No wonder that the Zionists definition of terror is not the normal understanding of terror as activities against uninvolved civilian population but any action that defies the Zionist supremacy. A person who fights an occupation of his country by colonialists is not a terrorist but freedom fighter. A person who kills in cold blood a wounded immobilized person who lies on the ground is not a hero, but a murderer and those who sees him as a hero and those who call to pardon him and first of all Binyamin Netanyahu are racist freedom haters.

Needless to say Azaria is a product of settler society not different from South Africa during the Apartheid regime. Those who rule this country are much guiltier than Sergeant Azaria Elor. The military court that sentenced him to 18 months after the found him guilty of killing with intention to kill is responsible for sending the message that murdering Arabs is an accepted policy in Israel.

This is the real Israel that will continue to kill Palestinians as long as it will exist. A different society must replace the Zionist Apartheid regime. A society that will be a real democracy not only politically, but socially.

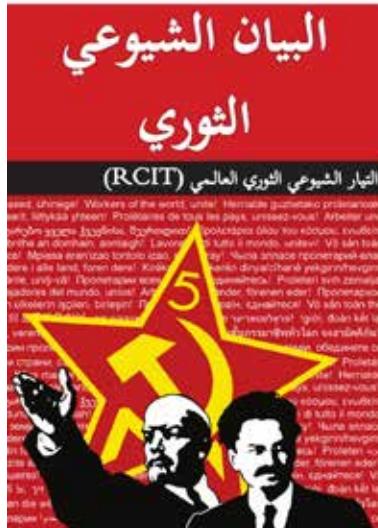
For a Red Democratic Palestine!

Footnotes

(1) Al Jazeera: <https://goo.gl/FCKYEJ>

(2) Almog Ben Zikri, "Israeli Public Security Minister Backtracks on Whether Cop's Killing by Bedouin Was Terror" Haaretz Feb 22, 2017 <http://www.haaretz.com/israel-news/.premium-1.773123>

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Brazil: Army troops in the streets as the Temer Government advances its attacks against the workers

No to the slogan “Bring back Rousseff”!

What is the practical use of the slogan “Out with Temer”?

**Everyone, participate in the 15 March general strike against the pension reform!
For a National Revolutionary Constituent Assembly convened by the workers!**

Corrente Comunista Revolucionária (Section of the RCIT in Brasil), 4 March 2017

¶ The Fascists find their human material mainly in the petty bourgeoisie. The latter has been entirely ruined by big capital. There is no way out for it in the present social order, but it knows of no other. Its dissatisfaction, indignation and despair are diverted by the Fascists away from big capital and against the workers. It may be said that Fascism is the act of placing the petty bourgeoisie at the disposal of its most bitter enemies. In this way big capital ruins the middle classes and then with the help of hired Fascist demagogues incites the despairing petty bourgeois against the workers.

*The bourgeois régime can be preserved only by such murderous means as these. For how long? Until it is overthrown by proletarian revolution.” Leon Trotsky, *Whither France?* (1934)*

The journalist Ricardo Kotscho wrote in his blog early in January that the decision of the government to put armed forces in them streets of the states of Espírito Santo and Rio de Janeiro, and the recently ordered censorship on the content of private talks between the wife of the President Michel Temer and her brother that supposedly can compromise her husband, these are sufficient in themselves to declare that Brazil is living in a state of emergency.

“Censorship of newspapers, something that hasn’t happened since the military dictatorship, and troops (of the army and the National Guard) in the streets to ensure public safety; what else is missing for a return to 1964?” Between the reality and fantasy in which the facts are trampled and denied, images from the past threaten the future of our democracy,” wrote Kotcho. In Brasilia, at the request of President Temer, a judge prohibited Brazil’s largest newspapers, Folha and O Globo, from publishing information about the attempt by a hacker to blackmail the president’s wife, Marcela Temer. Censorship on newspapers is something we have not seen since the end of the military dictatorship.

Meanwhile, since the beginning of January, violent outbreaks in Brazil’s prisons have resulted in more than 200 deaths (actually probably many more, as official figures may not correspond to reality). In addition, the country’s economic, social and political bankruptcy, the most glaring examples have bee in the states of Rio de Janeiro , Rio Grande do Sul, and Espírito Santo, where public workers have resisted government proposals in the streets. Among these angry workers are police who participated in protests against cuts in their salaries and pensions, and an ever lengthening delay in receiving their salaries since December. In this context, the Temer government decided to make the armed forces available to face any possible “disorder” in Brazil.

In response to this step, we paraphrase the journalist cited above and ask “With troops on the streets to ensure public safety, what else is missing for us to return to 1964?” And to

this we respond in kind, as he did, “*Images from the past threaten the future of our democracy,*”

One of the Brazil’s major writers, the publicist Raduán Nassarm, received in São Paulo in mid-February the 2016 Camões Prize which is granted every year by the governments of Brazil and Portugal to an important writer of the Portuguese language. In his firm, but friendly, speech Nasar took the opportunity to speak out against the government of Michel Temer, referring to it as “repressive.” What was supposed to be a tribute to the work or this writer was transformed by him into as a small but powerful act of protest. After expressing his thanks for the prize awarded by a unanimous vote of the members of the jury from Brazil and Portugal, the writer said that nowadays “*unfortunately, nothing is so beautiful in our Brazil*” and added that “*we live in dark, dark times.*” In his speech made reference to a number of recent episodes in Brazilian national politics, like the “*invasion of the headquarters of the Party of the Workers-PT [by fascist gangs] in São Paulo,*” the “*invasion (by military police) of high schools in many states [during the second half of 2016]*” and “*violence against democratic opposition demonstrating in the streets.*”

In mid-December of the year last, the newspaper *Estado de São Paulo* published an article written by a general of the army and former Chief of Personal of the Ministry of Defense, Romulo Bini Pereira, in which he wrote that “*in the event that the country’s economic and political crises enter stages which make Brazil ungovernable and which are inconsistent with the desires and expectations of society, entirely disrupting the existing democratic system, the armed forces may be forced to intervene in defense of the state and the institutions .*”

According to the attorney Lucio França, an activist and leading member of the group *Torture Never Again*, the simple stationing of the military to conduct a new intervention is illegal. “*This is completely unconstitutional; it is a Putsch. They cannot defend military intervention in a democratic state, since that would be repeating what was done in 1964.*”

Former President Dilma Rousseff (PT), who was ousted from office in April 2016 by an institutionalized coup, defended her government and those of her PT predecessor, Lula da Silva, in a lengthy interview with the web site Sul21 (<http://www.sul21.com.br/>), saying that “*the second stage of the coup has the potential of being far more reactionary and repressive.*” She also criticized not only the dismantling of social policies, but the growing process of privatization which serves the interests of American and European Union imperialism. At one point in the interview, she admitted that the rapprochement of her and Lula’s governments the blocs of Russia and China in the context of the BRICS alignment played a decisive role as a catalyst for

the institutionalized coup. She said: "In the case of Brazil, there is also an interest of having control of our geopolitical alignment." A lot of people considered illegitimate the multilateral stance we adopted, which resulted in the emergence of the BRICS, a very significant group which brought together China, Russia, India, South Africa and Brazil and led to the founding of a BRICS bank. It is important to remember that one of the main international policies of the Obama administration was the containment of China, and it still is," (under Trump).

We in the CCR anticipated that, in response to the government attacks, during the first half of 2017, there would be a large popular mobilization against so-called *Pension Reform* and the new *Labor Laws* sponsored by the illegitimate government of Michel Temer. The recent unrest in the city of Rio de Janeiro, where for four months the public sector workers have not received their salaries, in resistance to the privatization reforms and the slashing of worker rights by the state governor (a member of the PMDB), put the city on a warpath resulting in clashes with riot police that lasted several weeks, manifestly a sign of things to come. At the same time, there was the outbreak of a mutiny by the police in the state of Espírito Santo against the shrinking of their real wages (for four years their salaries have not been incremented at all). More than 4,000 of the state's police officers refused to patrol the streets, causing an unprecedented security crisis. As a result, for at least three days, the population of the state capital, Vitoria, as well as the peripheral countryside refused to leave their homes. In response, the state government asked the federal government to send in the National Guard and Brazilian army forces to maintain order.

The crisis in the prison system in the north of the country, in which more than 200 died, as well as the security crisis last month in the states of Espírito Santo and Rio de Janeiro, with more than 140 dead, together further encouraged sectors of the middle class, who helped make last year's institutional coup concrete, to move on from there an request the return of military rule. According to the newspaper *A Gazeta* from the state of Espírito Santo "a political group linked to the Deputy Jair Bolsonaro (PSC-RJ) constituted

the first line of communication and logistics for the disturbances by the state police in the beginning of this month (February), along with a team of experts in social networks." In the picket lines of the striking policemen were posters with conservative and reactionary slogans like "For the return of the military!", "Out with them all! [the politicians], "For an end to corruption!"

For several years, a congressman in the Chamber of Deputies, Jair Bolsonaro, from Christian Social Party (PSC), has been the most visible face of Brazilian fascism. His agenda is not only conservative in the sense that he's against abortion, against human rights, against minorities, against women, etc., but he openly favors the torture and execution of political opponents and the expulsion of immigrants. During the vote in the Chamber of Deputies for the impeachment of President Dilma Rousseff, Bolsonaro honored the memory of the most infamous torturer during Brazil's military dictatorship, Colonel Carlos Brilhantet Ustra. The late Ustra was at the time of the dictatorship one of those professional soldiers who actually took part in the torture of Dilma Rousseff, then a guerrilla in the militant group *Comando de Libertação Nacional – COLINA*. In a recent poll for the presidential elections still scheduled for 2018, Lula da Silva took first place with 30.5% of the vote. But ranking second was Bolsonaro who received 11.3%, running ahead of traditional politicians like the Governor of São Paulo, Geraldo Alckmin, of the PSDB and Marina da Silva.

We of the CCR view in police officers and their establishment the armed wing of the bourgeoisie for repressing the demands of workers, and for which there is strong evidence of involvement in the deaths of youths in poor suburbs and outlying regions. Therefore, we do not support policemen in their strikes. Furthermore, we view the support given to the strike of policemen by the majority sector of the leadership of the CUT, as well as of the Morenoite PSTU and the "left of the PSOL," as being both opportunistic and very dangerous. Such positions only mislead the workers' vanguard into supporting the repression apparatus of the state. Instead, the crucial task of revolution-



João Evangelista (left, leader of the Brazil Section of the RCIT) before his speech at a demonstration in São Paulo on 28.3.2017

aries is to *advance the political independence* of the working class from the bourgeois state. Therefore, a central slogan for revolutionaries during the current period of increasing repression, as well as the surge of criminality and insecurity in the streets (due in large part to the police strikes) should be: *For self-defense committees of the workers and poor to defend the neighborhoods against the police, the military, and criminal gangs!*

The public's growing demoralization with and distrust of traditional politicians (products of corruption scandals and media pressure) can result in events similar to what happened in Egypt in 2013, when the elected government of President Mohammed Morsi was overthrown by the military headed by al-Sisi.

In the current political crisis in the country we in the CCR do not advocate the slogan "Bring Back Rousseff!" as one of the conditions for ending the institutional coup which usurped the power of the Workers Party (PT). This slogan, which is supported by reformists, we entirely reject because it constitutes support for Dilma Rousseff's popular front government. While we in the CCR certainly opposed last year's institutional coup, at the same time we always rejected expressing any political support for this government. Instead, we consistently called upon mass organizations of the working class and the oppressed to break with the popular front.

What is necessary now is for the PT to denounce, without any reservations, any future alliance with sectors of the bourgeoisie, including in the judiciary branch, and furthermore commit itself to cancel completely and entirely any structural reforms (whether for pensions, in labor laws, for education, in matters of privatization, etc.), including those instituted by the governments of the PT (Lula, and Dilma, between 2003 and 2016) as well as those introduced by the PSDB (under President Cardoso from 1995 to 2003). While we are certainly aware that the bureaucracy of the PT is totally incapable of this task, it is crucial that the revolutionaries put these demands before the PT leadership, which will at the same time bring about our engaging in discussions with the PT's rank and file supporters, who are often rooted in the CUT, MST and other popular mass

organizations. Adhering to these very demands we make can *only* be done by a true revolutionary workers' party!

Yet another current popular slogan is "*Temer Out!*" While this slogan is quite correct in expressing opposition to the present government which came to power via an institutional coup, it is not sufficient. Rather, it is vital to tie this slogan with ones calling for organized mass struggle against the pension reform and other attacks. We want to bring Temer down via a general strike, and not by choosing another political figure via the reactionary Congress. Under the present law, the choice of a new President of the Republic must be done by indirect elections held in the National Congress. Clearly, any president elected by a mostly conservative, ultra-reactionary Congress would in no way be beneficial for the workers and the oppressed. Quite the contrary, we in the CCR advocate calling for the convocation of a Revolutionary National Constituent Assembly, one that would be convened and controlled by the workers and the oppressed via their organizations along with the social movements, being totally independent of the bourgeoisie and its parties.

* *For mass mobilizations and a general strike to stop the attacks of the Temer government! No to the slogan "Bring Back Rousseff!"*

* *For a Revolutionary National Constituent Assembly convened and organized by the workers and the oppressed!*

* *For mass mobilizations against the pro-austerity offensive of the far right! For the setting up of action committees in factories, unions, neighborhoods, slums and outlying regions in defense of our rights and against the government of putchists!! For self-defense committees of the workers and poor to defend the neighborhoods against the police, the military, and criminal gangs!*

* *For a working class government in alliance with the peasants, urban poor and the landless! We can only guarantee our future and our rights if we bring down capitalism, the source of our misery!*

* *Total support for the national strike of 15 March against pension reform!*

* *For a Workers Revolutionary Party, a new World Party of socialist revolution! The Fifth International!*

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What We Stand For

Brazil: Fight against the recession and the proposed pension reform!

Workers shouldn't have to pay for the crisis they didn't create!

Statement of the CCR (Brazilian section of RCIT), 15.2.2017

In the last days of 2016 there were 12.1 million unemployed in Brazil, equivalent to 11.9% of the workforce without jobs during that quarter. These figures were compiled on December 29 by the *Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics* (IBGE) and are similar to those of the previous quarter, when the unemployment rate closed at 11.8%. Relative to the fourth quarter of 2015, this represented was an increase in unemployment of 2.9%.

The Brazilian recession deepened during the third quarter of 2016, manifesting itself in particular in a decrease in investments as well as in the national level of consumption. These facts make even less likely any recovery during 2017, amid rising unemployment.

From January to September 2016, Brazil's GDP dropped by 4% compared to the same period during the previous year. According to the IBGE, this is the largest annual decrease in GDP since 1996. This figure is worse than that projected by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) in a report released in October, which forecasted an annual decrease of 3.3% in gross domestic product for 2016 and a 0.5% increase in 2017.

The *International Labour Organization* (ILO) estimates that, in 2018, the total number of unemployed in Brazil will initially be 1.2 million more than in 2016, with an increase from 12.4 million to 13.6 million, and will ultimately reach a level of 13.8 million.

In absolute terms, Brazil will have the third largest unemployed population among the world's largest economies, surpassed only by China and India – countries which have populations 5-6 times larger than Brazil's! In China, the ILO predicts that the number of unemployed will rise from 37.3 million to 37.6 million in 2016, while in India, the rate of joblessness will rise from 17.7 million to 17.8 million.

The ILO projects the unemployment rate in Brazil this

year at 12.4%, one percentage point above the 2016 level. For 2018, the projection is also 12.4%.

The institutional coup led to the position of president of Brazil Michel Temer (PMDB) who promised an end to corruption and the economic crisis. Neither of these has been achieved. Six government ministers have thus far had to leave their offices due to allegations of corruption, while another 16 are currently being investigated; meanwhile, unemployment continues to grow.

According to *Dieese* (Department of Statistics and Socioeconomic Studies), the main factors behind the current economic malaise involve a combination of the political crisis with a fall in public and private investments while at the same time a recessive economic policy responsible for the increase of unemployment and the fall in demand and public revenue from taxation.

The Secretary of Administration and Finance of the CUT, Quintino Severo, explains the negative impacts that the grey, non-taxed (informal) economy causes in the country. "When informality increases, precariousness increases and we have to be careful that this does not end up reinforcing the (false) thesis of the necessity for labor reform and increased outsourcing. We need to fight the argument that unemployment is fought by withdrawing [workers'] rights."

Last February 9, in São Paulo, 23 national representatives of the CUT and representatives of 14 labor sectors met with the executive director of the trade union center to present their campaign against the Pension Reform.

Under the slogan "React now or die working," the CUT intends to initiate a movement that will take to the streets of the country to preserve the historical rights won by the working class. The national president of the Central, Wagner Freitas, warned that "The pension reform planned by the Temer government, is directly linked to the coup that toppled President Dilma Rousseff."



Mass demonstrations of teachers in São Paulo on 28.3.2017

According to Vagner, the current unelected government "Needs to make these reforms to pay the price of those who financed the coup and the pension reform is part of this project to place a freeze on primary spending for 20 years. The proposal is not just to reform pensions but to end them, with the banks then filling the role by selling private pension plans. We are discussing with the other central unions that we should not try to make amendments to this reform but rather defeat it," said Vagner Freitas.

The National Confederation of Education Workers (CNTE) reports that the union decided to call for a national day of strike of the sector on March 15. The strike, decided upon at a congress held between the January 12-15, must have as its main demand combating the pension reform proposed by the Temer government and the government's full compliance with the National Minimum Wage Law by the Ministry of Education.

The CNTE considers the national strike "inevitable" due to the consequences of the current government's having been installed by means of a coup which "confronts the democratic rule of law"; also "attacks income distribution policies, replacing them with outsourcing and privatization; and promotes the "freezing" of public spending, thereby undermining growth."

We in the CCR unequivocally maintain that the proposed pension reform and labor reform cannot be defeated by negotiations with the ultraconservative national congress or negotiations with right-wing parties. Any negotiation between the reformist bureaucracies which constitute the leaderships of the social movements and central trade union will, in practice, result in some kind of defeat for the working class. For this reason, the CCR maintains the entire pension reform project must be totally defeated without any worker concessions. However, this can only

be achieved by mobilizing the workers with their own specifically class-based method of struggle -- a general strike. And such a general strike must not be limited to only public sector workers, but should involve all workers in factories, in commercial businesses, as well as the peasants in the countryside.

* For a public works program to combat growing unemployment!

* Down with the pension reform!

* For a general strike against the putchist regime! For mass mobilizations against the far-right pro-austerity offensive! For the creation of committees of action in factories, unions, neighborhoods, favelas and outlying regions in defense of our rights and against the putchist government!

* For a working-class government in alliance with the urban poor and the landless! We can only guarantee our future and our rights if we bring down capitalism, the source of our misery!

* All support for the national education workers' strike on March 15!

* For a revolutionary workers' party -a new world-wide party for socialist revolution!

1* The Inter-union Department of Statistics and Socioeconomic Studies (DIEESE) is a research, advisory and education institution of the Brazilian trade union movement.

The origin of the DIEESE dates back to December 22, 1955, when 20 union leaders from São Paulo decided to create an organ for technical advice to workers, as well as to carry out research and education activities related to the world of work.

<https://www.thecomunists.net/worldwide/latin-america/out-law-regime-of-brazil/>

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Books of the RCIT

Michael Pröbsting: Marxism and the United Front Tactic Today

The Struggle for Proletarian Hegemony in the Liberation Movement and the United Front Tactic Today.

The RCIT is proud to announce the publication of a new English-language book – MARXISM AND THE UNITED FRONT TACTIC TODAY. The book's subtitle is: The Struggle for Proletarian Hegemony in the Liberation Movement and the United Front Tactic Today. On the Application of the Marxist United Front Tactic in Semi-Colonial and Imperialist Countries in the Present Period. It contains eight chapters plus an appendix (172 pages) and includes 9 tables and 5 figures. The author of the book is Michael Pröbsting who serves as the International Secretary of the RCIT.

The following paragraphs are the back cover text of the book which give an overview of its content.

The united front tactic is a crucial instrument for revolutionaries under today's circumstances in which the mass organizations of the working class and the oppressed are dominated by social democratic, Stalinist and petty-bourgeois-populist forces.

The purpose of this document is both to summarize the main ideas of the Marxist united front tactic while at the same time explaining its development and modification which have become necessary due to political changes which have transpired in the

working class liberation movement since the tactic's original formulation.

In this book we initially summarize the main characteristics of the united front tactic and elaborate the approach of the Marxist classics to this issue. We then outline important social developments in the working class and the popular masses as well as in their political formations in recent decades. From there we will discuss how the united front tactic should be applied in light of a number of new developments (the rise of petty-bourgeois populist parties, the decline of the classic reformist parties, the role of national minorities and migrants in imperialist countries, etc.). The eight chapters of the book are accompanied by nine tables and five figures.

**Marxism and
the United Front
Tactic Today**

*The Struggle for Proletarian Hegemony
in the Liberation Movement
in Semi-Colonial and Imperialist Countries
in the present Period*



By Michael Pröbsting

Published by the Revolutionary Communist Internationalist tendency

Solidarity with the General Strike in French Guiana!

For a Red Democratic Palestine from the River to the Sea!

Statement of the Revolutionary Communist International Tendency, 29.03.2017

The RCIT states its full solidarity to the struggle of the French Guyanese people. For about two weeks, various mass popular organizations have been protesting to demand security, access to drinking water or electricity, better health care, transport and an increase in wages, with improvements to the quality of public service. The 37 unions united in the *l'Union des Travailleurs Guyanais* (UTG, the trade union federation of Guyanese workers) have joined the movement and unanimously voted to support a general strike. Currently the population and the various actors of the social movement are blocking all roads of the cities in the littoral (Cayenne, Kourou, Saint Laurent of the Maroni), and the commercial port, the Guiana Space Center, the Prefecture, etc. All schools of the coast are closed, all the shops in the town of Cayenne declined their curtain, air flights are cancelled, and the rocket that was planned to take off last Tuesday has been postponed.

French Guiana is a small Latin American country with 250,000 inhabitants. It is a colony of French imperialism and possesses strategic importance as it is home to the *Guiana Space Centre*, a space-travel base, which allows France as well as the European Union to regularly send military and civilian satellites into the outer space.

The public unrest is the result of the neglect of this French department by Paris for decades. On the one hand, the state invests billions of Euros to launch rockets every month, on the other hand, there is a lack of money for health, education, etc. The medical-chirurgical center of Kourou is even planned for sale to private investors. There is no money for public services, for peasants, carriers, etc. Guyana today has an unemployment rate of 22% of workers of which nearly the half are young people. The country's poverty rate is estimated at more than 60%. Antoine Karam, Senator for Guyana, stated that "nearly 30 percent of the population does not have access to either drinkable water or to electricity, but on the other hand we have a space station."

In contrast, France has an official unemployment rate of 9.7%. This reflects the economic, political and social subordination which French imperialism has imposed on its colony.

Unfortunately, a group called "500 Brothers" plays an influential role in the protests. Marching in the streets of Cayenne dressed in black and wearing ski masks,

they shout right-wing slogans calling to fight against delinquency and advocates "*the eradication of squatters*", i.e. against the increasing number of migrants coming from North Brazil and Venezuela. Their spokesman named Mickaël Mancée stated that "*A dead thief is a thief who does not steal anymore*" and "*if petty criminals want war, we will wage it.*"

France's "socialist" government of Hollande agreed to send an inter-ministerial mission composed of high-ranking administrators to try to find a compromise only after the people successfully blocked the entrance of the Kourou Spaceport and thus prevented the launching of rocket to space on 25 March.

However, any illusions would be mistaken. These representatives of the French government have nothing to offer the working class of Guyana. They only want to control the unrest of the people and guarantee the exploitation and the profits.

It is crucial that the working class does not rely on the leadership of the *500 Brothers* and the trade union bureaucracy. *Committees of action* should be built in all workplaces and neighborhoods and their delegates should meet for a *national congress of struggle* to lead the general strike as well as any negotiations with the authorities. It is also necessary to create *committees of self-defense* against the state repression as well as potential attacks by the right-wing groups.

Socialists in mainland France should call for solidarity of the French unions and workers parties with their brothers and sisters in Guiana.

The RCIT unconditionally supports the right of national self-determination of the Guiana people and advocates an independent workers and peasant republic as part of a socialist federation of Latin America and the Caribbean.

To counter the influence of the reformist Socialist Party as well as the right-wing *500 Brothers* and to outline a socialist perspective for the struggle, it is urgent to build a revolutionary workers party as part of a world revolutionary party. The RCIT calls on all authentic revolutionaries to unite on the basis of a revolutionary platform in order to create an *international revolutionary organization* as a first step towards the creation of such a world party.

International Secretariat of the RCIT

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Elections in France under Conditions of a State in Emergency

Down with the racists of Front National!

No vote for the reformists Hamon and Mélenchon!

Critical support for the NPA and LO candidates! Fight for a new workers party!

By Johannes Moraga, Revolutionary Communist International Tendency, 30.03.2017

For the past five years Francois Hollande and his *Parti socialiste* (PS, Socialist Party) has ruled France. Now we are amid new elections. The PS and Hollande utilized their presidency to push for many anti-democratic and anti-social attacks on the workers and oppressed of France as well as for many assaults on various oppressed people abroad. This reactionary policy which put France under the state of emergency until July 2017 (and which might be again extended) repelled many workers who put their naïve hopes into Hollande's leftwing rhetoric at the last elections. As a result they will not vote for the PS and their new candidate Benoit Hamon this time.

Given the lack of a revolutionary party which could have presented a credible alternative to these disillusioned workers, many of them unfortunately looked for another "radical" alternative and hence got caught in the net of racist rightwing populism which was woven by the Marine Le Pen's *Front National* (FN). Hence, the FN could become the strongest party in the first round of elections because of the failure of the French left, the economic crisis and the international rise of rightwing populists.

The racist demagogic with which they try to poison the working class is the logical conclusion of French chauvinism and secularism that is promoted by the mass media as well as by the candidates of the capitalists, the conservative François Fillon and the neo-liberal Emmanuel Macron. Clearly, no worker or oppressed with any political understanding about his or her role in the society could give their vote to the candidates of the bosses, Le Pen, Fillon and Macron!

But we can neither support the "social democrats" of the PS who have clearly shown in the last five years that they are neither social nor democratic! However it

is an interesting development that a number of top PS-bureaucrats shifted their support to Emmanuel Macron and his new political liberal movement "*En Marche!*" and not to the rhetorically more leftwing candidate of their own party. Macron owes his popularity also to the lack of support given to the conservatives' madman Fillon who has shown that he is deeply corrupt by "employing" his wife and daughters for basically no work and paying them with taxpayer's money!

Which road will Europe take?

According to the current polls, it seems likely that Le Pen and Macron will reach the second round in the presidential elections. In such a scenario revolutionaries will support neither of these candidates because they are only different bourgeois sides of the same reactionary coin! This would be a similar scenario like the second round of the French presidential elections in 2002 between Chirac and Le Pen the father or between Hillary Clinton and Donald Trump in the recent US elections. In such situations revolutionaries can't give any electoral support to either side but call instead for abstention.

However we need to acknowledge that Macron and Le Pen represent different factions in the French capitalist class. A Macron presidency would deepen the project of an imperialist EU state under the hegemony of Germany imperialism with France as a junior partner. A Le Pen presidency, on the other hand, could lead to the end of the EU as we know it! As in the case of the Brexit referendum, workers have no side to take here – instead we need to organize an alternative of working class struggle and international solidarity!

The French left

At the first look Jean-Luc Mélenchon and his *La France*

Two Pamphlets on the EU and Brexit

- * **Marxism, European Union and Brexit**
- * **The British Left and the EU-Referendum**

*Written by Michael Pröbsting
(International Secretary of the RCIT)*

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insoumise (FI, Unsubmissive France) seems to be a reasonable alternative on the ballot paper – but not on the second one! Mélenchon moved rapidly to the right since his last electoral campaign. He did not even consult with the rank and file of his *Parti de Gauche* but simply founded a new movement directly under his personal control. In addition he and his friends from the “*Communist Party*” supported the state of emergency and the imperialist occupation in Mali and Central Africa. It is very clear that Mélenchon is the prototype of a social-imperialist, justifying reactionary imperialist policy with socialist or “unsubmissive” phrases!

The *Revolutionary Communist International Tendency* (RCIT) calls upon workers and oppressed in France to give their vote to the centrists candidates of the *Nouveau Parti anticapitaliste* (NPA) and the *Lutte Ouvrière* (LO) – Philippe Poutou and Nathalie Arthaud. Although these parties have serious political weaknesses, they represent significant sectors of the workers vanguard. They will receive the votes of hundreds of thousands of revolutionary workers, youth and oppressed who have been active in the demonstrations in solidarity with Theo who was assaulted and raped by the racist police or in the militant mass protests against the *El Khomri* law last year. The RCIT calls upon genuine revolutionaries in France to campaign for the formation of a new workers party. Such a party has to be built as part of a new Workers’ International. As a first step we call the rank and file of the NPA and LO to force their leaderships to create a joint electoral platform and to appeal to the supporters of Hamon and Mélenchon for joint struggle. Marxists would

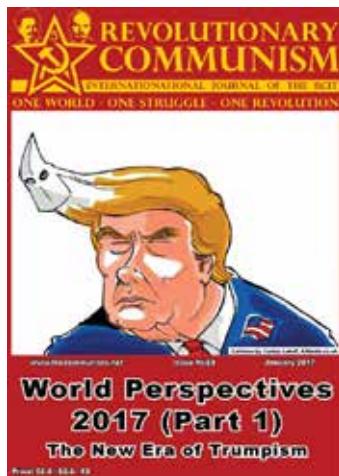
advocate a revolutionary platform for such a new workers party. (1)

Revolutionaries must actively fight against the fetishism of the French “left” for the reactionary bourgeois “secularism” which is directed against the rights of the millions of impoverished Muslim migrants. Especially the LO has an infamous history of ignoring the fight against racism and for the liberation of migrants under the economicistic pretext that “all workers are equal”. French socialists need to prove that they defend the oppressed full-heartedly and don’t show any arrogance towards them.

It is also important that revolutionaries fight for an authentic socialist perspective for the movement of the workers and oppressed to combat the existing leadership of the working class and especially the trade union bureaucracy.

A revolutionary platform must also include a consistent anti-imperialist stance which not only says “no” to the various assaults of French imperialism on the peoples of Africa and the Middle East, but which is also openly in favor of defeating the French imperialist military machine! We call upon all revolutionaries in France to work together with the RCIT and to join us in building an *international revolutionary organization* as a first step towards the creation of a world revolutionary party!

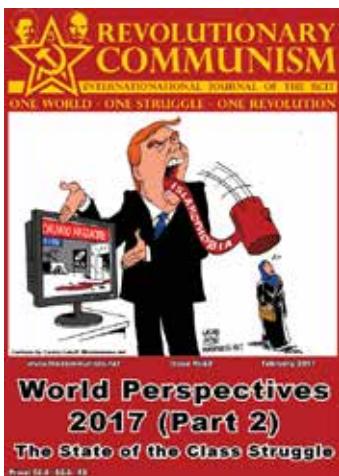
(1) See more at <https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/europe/france-theo-protests/>; [https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/europe/el-khomri-law/](https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/europe/france-el-khomri-law/); <https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/europe/articles-on-paris-attacks/>



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EU Politicians Call for Banning of Turkish Politicians

**No to the Stirring Up of Chauvinist Hatred against Turkey
by European Bourgeois Politicians! Defend Migrants against Imperialist Racism!
No Support for Erdoğan's Constitutional Reforms!**

Statement of the Austrian and German Sections of the Revolutionary Communist International Tendency, 7 March 2017

1. Austrian Chancellor Christian Kern has called for a European Union-wide ban on campaign appearances by Turkish politicians. German and Dutch politicians have raised similar calls to ban politicians from Turkey's governing AKP party from holding rallies of Turkish migrants in their respective countries. In two German cities, pro-Erdoğan rallies have already been cancelled by local German authorities. These are just the latest outbursts of chauvinist agitation by leading EU politicians – be they right-wing populists, conservatives or social democrats (including the German *Linkspartei* which calls for a tourist boycott of Turkey) – against Turkey and Turkish migrants.

2. The Austrian and German sections of the *Revolutionary Communist International Tendency* (RCIT) denounce this policy as reactionary and imperialist chauvinism! It is an anti-democratic policy to forbid rallies of the AKP – the strongest party among Turkish migrants – and to forbid Turkish politicians from participating in such rallies. Furthermore, it is characteristic of the EU's anti-migrant chauvinism that, while such calls are made for banning Turkish parties from holding rallies among Turkish migrants in European countries, right-wing racists like Strache, the AfD, France's Le Pen, etc., are free to hold and speak at rallies – not only in their native countries but in any other EU country as well. This demonstrates clearly that right-wing racists who campaign for the hegemony of the native "white race" are welcome in the EU to agitate as they like, while Turkish politicians who have a strong following among Turkish migrants are not.

3. Contrary to what is hypocritically claimed, the motivation for the EU's campaign against Turkey and its government is *not* their concern for democracy and human rights. Rather it is intended to pressure the Erdoğan regime into complying even more than it has until now with the EU's demands to keep refugees from entering Europe. Furthermore, the EU is angered that the Turkish government feels itself free to act too independently in its foreign policy, and is willing to collaborate not only with the US and EU but also with Russian imperialism. In short, the

EU denounces the Turkish government not for its undemocratic character, but because it is not acting sufficiently as a loyal regional guardian for the imperialist EU. Look how courteous the EU deals with the military dictatorship in Egypt – a regime which is hundred times more authoritarian than Erdoğan's! Last but not least, the campaign against Turkey is part of the European ruling class's Islamophobic racist campaign which has been going on for years with the goal of poisoning the consciousness of the white working class, to rally the confused white middle class, and to ideologically justify the oppression of Muslim migrants – among whom the Turks constitute the biggest sector in central Europe.

4. Of course, the RCIT's defense of Turkish politicians and the right of pro-AKP migrant organizations to hold rallies in the EU must not be confused with our having any political sympathy with them. Quite the contrary, we sharply denounce the Erdoğan government as a Bonapartist regime which increasingly limits democratic rights in Turkey and which brutally oppresses the Kurdish minority. Similarly, the RCIT denounces the regime in Ankara for its cooperation with the EU in helping it to keep refugees out of the EU. We strongly oppose Erdoğan's constitutional reforms – without giving any support for the AKP's reactionary opponents like the Kemalist CHP or the CIA-supported Gülen network. The RCIT entirely support the Kurdish people's right for national self-determination – including the right to constitute their own state.

To read the RCIT's analysis of the imperialist EU's policy, click here:

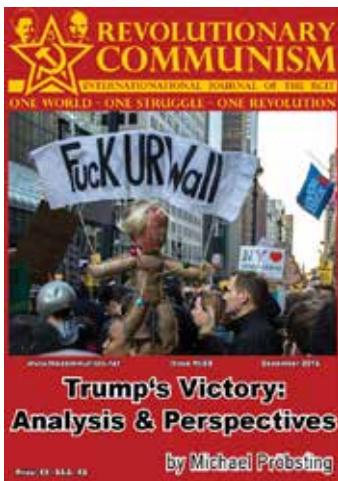
RCIT: Increasing Instability and Militarization in the European Union. On the Tasks of Revolutionaries in the New Political Phase which has Opened in Europe after the Terrorist Attack in Paris, <https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/europe/militarism-in-eu/>

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Action Program for Turkey by Sınıf Savaşı (Section of the RCIT in Turkey): <https://www.thecommunists.net/theory/program-turkey/>

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NEW RCIT PUBLICATION!



The Meaning, Consequences and Lessons of Trump's Victory

By Michael Pröbsting, November 2016

Introduction * I. The Election Outcome * II. Where is the Trump Administration Heading? * III. Global Consequences: The Beginning of a New Era * IV. Lessons and Perspectives for the Struggle * V. Summary Theses * Footnotes

A RCIT Pamphlet, 40 pages, A4 Format

Brexit and the Crisis of British Imperialism

Statement of the RCIT Britain, 08.01.2017

The decision to leave the European Union has caused an immense crisis amongst the ruling class in Britain. Theresa May, who succeeded David Cameron as Prime Minister, is trying to negotiate Brexit amongst a deeply divided and split Tory party. She is desperate to hold her party together while she negotiates terms to leave Europe by activating Article 50.

A section of the ruling class wants to desperately stay in the EU to have access to the single market. Another section wants to get rid of the restrictions of Strasbourg and other European nations. The situation has been complicated by the legal challenge to Brexit which insists that any decision to leave the European Union must be discussed by Parliament.

"The businesswoman at the centre of the legal challenge to ensure parliament is consulted before Theresa May triggers Brexit have said the landmark case was motivated by her fear that the UK faced a "treacherous future". In an interview with the Guardian, Gina Miller said she knew the ruling would leave her unpopular with many EU referendum voters, but believed that the UK had failed itself and the rest of Europe by voting to leave the bloc rather than reform it from within. "I was never binary remain or leave. I was very much of the sentiment, and still am, that it was about remain, reform and review," Miller said. "The UK actually has a very powerful place in Europe ... and we have

not just let ourselves down but I think the whole of Europe down by not taking up that challenge." [1]

Theresa May has argued that she can trigger Article 50 without the approval of Parliament. The court case found in favour of those who wanted Parliament to decide the terms of Brexit. The Government is challenging the decision and has gone to the Supreme Court, but May could find that decision going against her.

"Theresa May is heading for an 11-0 defeat when the Supreme Court justices rule on whether Parliament must approve starting Brexit, a law professor has predicted. Professor Michael Zander QC said the High Court judges who ruled the Prime Minister could not act alone when triggering the Article 50 notice had given a "unanimous and very strong" decision". [2]

Another Referendum on Scottish Independence?

The Brexit referendum clearly showed that there were majorities to remain in Scotland and Northern Ireland. The leave vote was strongest in England and in Wales. Nicola Sturgeon, the leader of the Scottish National Party and the Government in Scotland, is opposed to Brexit. She has said that there is a possibility that there may be a second referendum for separation in Scotland. The SNP government is committed to remaining part of the European Union.

Books of the RCIT

Michael Pröbsting: Building the Revolutionary Party in Theory and Practice

Looking Back and Ahead after 25 Years of Organized Struggle for Bolshevism

The RCIT is proud to announce the publication of a book called *BUILDING THE REVOLUTIONARY PARTY IN THEORY AND PRACTICE*. The book's subtitle is: *Looking Back and Ahead after 25 Years of organized Struggle for Bolshevism*. The book is in English-language. It contains four chapters on 148 pages and includes 42 pictures. The author of the book is Michael Pröbsting who serves as the International Secretary of the RCIT.

The following paragraphs are the back cover text of the book which give an overview of its content.

A few months ago, our movement commemorated its 25th anniversary. In the summer of 1989 our predecessor organization, the League for a Revolutionary Communist International (LRCI) was founded as a democratic-centralist international tendency based on an elaborated program. The *Revolutionary Communist International Tendency* (RCIT) continues the revolutionary tradition of the LRCI. Below we give an overview of our history, an evaluation of its achievements as well as mistakes, and a summary of the lessons for the struggles ahead. This book summarizes our theoretical and practical experience of the past

25 years.

In Chapter I we outline a summary of the Bolshevik-Communists' theoretical conception of the role of the revolutionary party and its relation to the working class. In Chapter II we elaborate on the essential characteristics of revolutionary party respective of the pre-party organization. In Chapter III we deal with the history of our movement – the RCIT and its predecessor organization. Finally, in Chapter IV we outline the main lessons of our 25 years of organized struggle for building a Bolshevik party and their meaning for our future work.

You can find the contents and download the book for free at <http://www.thecomunists.net/theory/rcit-party-building/> ■

**Building the
Revolutionary Party
in Theory
and Practice**

*Looking Back and Ahead after
25 Years of organized Struggle for Bolshevism*



By Michael Pröbsting

Published by the Revolutionary Communist International Tendency

"The First Minister has already said a new independence referendum is "highly likely" in order to protect Scotland's place in the EU. Speaking to the Sunday Herald, Sturgeon hailed her invitation to the European Green Party event as a coming together of progressive parties seeking to protect Scotland's EU status. She said: "I'm delighted to be speaking at the EGP Council in Glasgow next week. With the challenges currently facing Europe, it's particularly significant that the Greens have chosen to hold this event in Scotland for the very first time. "Rarely has there been a more critical time for progressive parties to stand together and work together in common cause." "As the Tories conspire to drag the UK out of the EU and further to the right, Scotland can show unity and solidarity with those across Europe who share our commitment to protect those fundamental rights and freedoms which extend beyond borders." [3]

The Labour Party is also divided

The Labour Party with the left reformist Jeremy Corbyn as leader is deeply split. Although Corbyn is nominally leader, the control of the party remains in the hands of the Blairites who as well as controlling the Parliamentary Labour party are in charge of the bureaucratic structures as well. Tony Blair, ex-Labour leader and indicted war criminal, has returned to lead the attack on Corbyn and his supporters in Momentum.

A motion brought forward by the SNP in Parliament to investigate Blair's role in Iraq was heavily defeated with over 150 Labour MP's joining the Tories to defeat any suggestion that Blair has anything to answer on Iraq.

"The SNP had called for a parliamentary probe into Blair's public statements while prime minister in the moments leading up to the 2003 invasion of Iraq, and those given in private with then-US President George Bush. It comes after the publication of the Chilcot report into the Iraq War in July. The motion, headed by the SNP's Alex Salmond, was presented on Wednesday (30 November). It stated: "This House recognises that the Chilcot Inquiry provided substantial evidence of misleading information being presented by the then Prime Minister and others on the MPs have voted against a motion accusing Tony Blair of misleading parliament in the lead-up to the Iraq War and calling for a fresh investigation. The motion, spearheaded by the Scottish National Party (SNP), was overwhelmingly defeated by 439 votes to 70 after strong opposition from Labour and Conservative MPs". [4]

The Blairites through the PLP have attempted two coups against Corbyn but have been roundly defeated. The issue of Brexit has given them the opportunity to remove Corbyn and his supporters. Corbyn has capitulated to the Blairites at every turn even inviting some of them into his shadow cabinet. Blair is now involved in setting up a new centre coalition of pro-Europeans including Tories and Liberal democrats. His aim of course is to try and reverse Brexit.

"Tony Blair has insisted that Labour can recover from its disastrous general election defeat only if it reoccupies the centre ground of British politics, proudly championing a pro-business agenda and bold new ideas to reform public services. As the party attempts to come to terms with a devastating result that saw the Conservatives returned to office for five more years with an unexpected Commons majority, the former prime minister and three-time election winner said Labour has to be "for ambition and aspiration as well as compassion and care". [5]

The recent by election results in Richmond where the Brexiteer Zac Goldsmith stood as an independent was defeated by the Liberal democrat. This showed that Brexit is still very unpopular amongst the youth, the middle class and sections of the working class. It was a humiliating night for the Labour candidate who came third and lost his deposit. In the Sleaford by-election strong Brexit territory Labour came fourth behind UKIP and the Liberal democrats. The Blairites and their attacks on Corbyn over Brexit shows that the party is deeply split and the right of the party want to overturn Brexit and run a second referendum.

Revolutionary Perspective

The role of the main Centrists in Britain the Socialist Party and the Socialist Workers Party remains confused and politically dangerous. They both advocated support for a Leave vote and allied themselves with the most reactionary and racist forces in Britain, although they argued that this was a progressive method .The RCIT in its statement pointed out that these so called 'Marxist' organizations were adapting to the most reactionary forces in British Politics.

We re-emphasise what the RCIT stated in its Open Letter in June last year after the referendum:

"The results of the BREXIT referendum in Britain have ignited a political crisis not only in the UK itself but throughout the entire European continent. On the one hand, the referendum has obviously strengthened reactionary nationalism, as is reflected in the increasing numbers of hate-crimes against migrants in Britain as well as in the surge of the far right in other Western European countries. On the other hand, the vote to remove Britain from the EU has also created confusion, uncertainty and nervousness among the forces of monopoly capital both in Britain and in Europe in general. Shamefully, in the months leading up to last week's historic referendum, large sectors of the left in Britain had called either for the country to LEAVE or REMAIN in the EU. In both cases, the proponents of these diametrically opposed positions were guilty of adapting to one of two imperialist camps. Those who supported LEAVE unabashedly adapted to the reactionary "UK First" imperialist camp dominated by the most extreme right-wing forces like UKIP; those in the left who called for a REMAIN vote no less shamelessly adapted to the pro-EU imperialist camp of the big bourgeoisie and the leadership of the Labour Party. Again, we contend that both strategies were and remain nothing more than variants of social-imperialism.

From the moment that the Cameron government committed itself to holding the referendum on the future of British membership in the EU, the RCIT repeatedly stated the dire importance for revolutionaries to oppose both versions of social-imperialism and instead raise the banner of working class internationalism. This meant and continues to mean that revolutionaries must join forces in order to:

- 1) Unequivocally reject support for both the "UK First" and the "EU First" positions, by abstaining in any such referendums in imperialist countries belonging to the European Union.
- 2) Organize the working class to struggle against the austerity offensive in all countries – whether inside or outside the EU – and come together to fight against the bosses on an international level.
- 3) Battle for Open Borders for all refugees, in addition to equal

rights for all migrants.

4) *Unite the working class in all countries – both inside and outside the EU – in an unrelenting struggle against imperialist wars; specifically: Down with Britain's and the EU's military intervention in Syria, Iraq, Mali etc.!*

5) *Give the highest expression to our struggle for the interests of the international working class by calling for a United Socialist States of Europe.*

Naturally, as Marxists, we combine such a focused program with a socialist perspective which aims to bring about the revolutionary overthrow of all capitalist regimes and the founding of workers' republics" [6]

The ruling class in Germany and France are worried that Brexit could lead to other European Countries taking the same route as Britain. The weaker countries of the Euro Zone like Greece, Portugal, Spain and Italy are in a terminal crisis brought on by the oncoming crash and the contradictions of capitalism. In Spain election results are inconclusive as they are in Ireland where the economies of those countries are driven more and more into crisis and an inability to govern.

The recent election of Donald trump shows that the contradictions between all the imperialist nations will heighten producing more conflicts throughout the world.

The RCIT in Britain calls for the maximum unity amongst revolutionaries and puts forward the following demands

to resolve the crisis of leadership in the working class.

- * *No to racism – fight to form councils of action in defence of migrants and against Islamophobia*
- * *Self-determination for the people of Scotland*
- * *For a Unified Ireland as a 32 county Workers Republic as part of a United Socialist States of Europe*
- * *For workers defence guards to defend communities against police provocation and fascist attacks*
- * *We call on all workers and oppressed to join the RCIT IN BRITAIN and help to build a World Party for Socialist Revolution.*

Footnotes

- 1) <https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2016/nov/03/gina-miller-the-woman-behind-the-article-50-legal-challenge>
- 2) <http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/brexit-legal-challenge-theresa-may-supreme-court-article-50-vote-defeat-unanimous-warning-a7445851.html>
- 3) http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/14930648.Sturgeon_to_rally_European_allies_against_Brexit/?ref=rss
- 4) <http://www.ibtimes.co.uk/mps-overwhelmingly-reject-motion-accusing-tony-blair-misleading-them-over-iraq-war-1594265>
- 5) <https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2015/may/09/tony-blair-labour-return-centre-ground-general-election-defeat>
- 6) <http://www.thecommunists.net/rcit/open-letter-on-brexit/>

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.

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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



By Michael Pröbsting

Published by the Revolutionary Communist International Tendency

Stalinists Attack Contingent of Austrian Section of RCIT at Pro-Refugee Demonstration

Report of the Austrian Section of the RCIT, 21.03.2017

As part of the international day of action in solidarity with refugees, a demonstration was held on 18 March in Vienna despite rain and strong wind. The Austrian section of the RCIT participated in the demonstration together with Syrian, Egyptian, Iraqi, Aswazi and Palestinian migrants and refugees. Our joint contingent was not only well-spirited and militant but also by far the most multi-national at the demonstration.

Unfortunately, the stewardship of the demonstration was dominated by Austrian Stalinists and centrists. The chief steward, Selma Schacht (who is also the deputy chairperson of the ultra-Stalinist "Party of Labor" – a sister group of the Greek KKE), mobilized her stewards in order to prevent our contingent from joining the demonstration. Some stewards from the Austrian section of the Cliffite IST also participated in this attempt. When this failed, Selma Schacht attacked us and tried to take away our front banner which proclaimed the slogans "Open Borders and "Let them Stay!".

Through the disciplined handling of the situation by our own stewards and our entire contingent, we succeeded in joining the demonstration despite this aggression. However, only minutes later our contingent faced an attack by the police who tried to grab a young Syrian refugee marching with us. When we challenged the cops, their commander replied that they had been called by the organizers of the demonstration! While we succeeded in preventing the police from grabbing our young Syrian brother, this incident demonstrates how Stalinists are not

ashamed to call the police against refugees when they don't like their political views. (See pictures and videos on these incidents by visiting the link cited below.)

This physical attack is only the most recent example of the increasing political differences between us and the Stalinists, differences which have accelerated since the beginning of the Arab Revolution and, in particular, with the escalation of the civil war in Syria. The ultra-Stalinist "Party of Labor" takes the side of the genocidal regime of Bashar al-Assad while the RCIT – as well as most Syrian and Arab people – support the popular uprising.

However, this reactionary provocation by the Stalinists will certainly not stop our work in solidarity with the Arab Revolution and for the right of refugees to come to Europe!

To view pictures and videos of the demonstration and the joint contingent of the RCIT's Austrian branch and migrant organizations, click the following link: <https://www.rkob.net/wer-wir-sind-1/rkob-aktiv-bei/int-aktionstag-18-maerz/> (Scroll down to the end of the article)

Another video report about the demonstration as well as about our contingent has been published by the Egyptian journalist Camira Hamdi Marouf: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bJ9CJj2B19Y&feature=youtu.be> (a view of our contingent can be seen from minute 9.40-10:20)

The daily Austrian newspaper "Kronen Zeitung" has published a short video on the demonstration which briefly shows our contingent (go to minute 1:02-1:11): <http://www.krone.at/videos/links-demo-fuer-proletarische-revolution-in-wien-stau-inklusive-video-559958>



Front of our contingent with RCIT, Iraqi, Syrian and Palestinian flags at the pro-refugee demonstration in Vienna on 18.3.2017

The Slogan of “Workers” Immigration Control: A Concession to Social-Chauvinism

By Michael Pröbsting (International Secretary of the RCIT) and Andrew Walton (RCIT Aotearoa / New Zealand), 27.3.2017

In this epoch of global capitalism, we are experiencing a period of decay, war, climate catastrophes and social misery spreading throughout the world exponentially. Hundreds of millions of people are under pressure to flee their homelands. For example, nearly a third (32.1%) of all people in sub-Saharan Africa are willing to move abroad given the misery of life in their homelands. (1)

In the last few decades, millions of people from the South have succeeded in reaching the relatively wealthy regions of North America, Western Europe and Oceania. In the US, the share of migrants among the general population rose from 5.2% (1960) to 12.3% (2000) to more than 14% (2010). In Western Europe, the migrants’ share of the population grew from about 4.6% (1960) to nearly 10% (2010). (2) More than half of the 214 million migrants worldwide are living in these two imperialist regions. (3) According to a study of the *International Institute for Labour Studies*, all told, in the year 2000, 66% of all migrants worked in so-called *high-income countries* and another 14% in *high-middle income countries* – a share which is surely even higher today, nearly two decades after the study was conducted. (4)

This development has caused alarm bells to ring among the ruling classes, as they only desire to allow a controlled migration enter into their states, while precluding an uncontrolled influx of millions of plebeian refugees with no loyalty to the imperialist state, and who originate from regions replete with civil wars and insurrections.

This wave of migration to the West has given rise to ever-increasing chauvinism against migrants – which manifests itself in heightened state control and restrictions on immigration, as well as the emergence and growth of racist parties (which actually includes the phenomenon of the coming to power of Donald Trump). Thus the issue of migration is becoming more and more crucial to the workers movement.

Traditionally, the reformist labour movement supported capitalist immigration control, as the bureaucratic leadership of the unions sought to gradually improve the labour aristocracy’s well being by uniting with the capitalist class against the “foreign” workers coming from poorer countries.

Similarly, Stalinists and even some centrist organizations (like the CWI of Peter Taaffe) have always been hostile to the slogan of “open borders.”

Marxists have always defended the interests of the *international working class*. Hence they refuse to defend the supposed interests of a privileged minority of the proletariat in the rich countries against the vast majority of the world proletariat living in the South. For this reason Marxists have always opposed immigration control by the imperialist states and have supported the right of people to move freely. This is the position which the RCIT has always defended both in its propaganda as well as in its practical work within the workers’ movement and in its solidarity work with refugees. (5)

A Supposedly “Left” Version of Immigration Control

While we have elaborated the Marxist case for open borders on numerous occasions, recently we encountered an ostensibly “left” version of migration control originating with a group which usually takes authentic left-wing positions on issues. We’re referring to an article published by the *Communist Workers Group* in Aotearoa / New Zealand – a group which is united with comrades in the US, Zimbabwe and Brazil in the *“Liaison Committee of Communists.”* (6) Here we will deal with the position expressed in the recent article, as it purports to represent an “anti-capitalist” version of migration control.

In its article, the CWG(A/NZ) discusses – from its perspective – the various problems caused by migration. They include under the category of “migrants” both rich capitalists as well as labour migrants. Their main programmatic conclusion is – as expressed in the article’s headline – is to call for “*workers’ control of migration.*”

While the article deals only with Aotearoa / New Zealand and hence raises the slogan for “*workers’* control of immigration only for that specific country, the entire logic of its arguments suggests that the CWG/LCC would generalize this slogan for other countries facing waves of migration (e.g. Australia, USA, Europe).

Are There “Exceptional” Conditions in New Zealand?

The CWG/LCC tries to justify its support for “*workers’* migration control by referring to the exceptional conditions of New Zealand. They claim that many wealthy Chinese are coming to the island and buying houses has resulted in a steep rise in the cost of housing. Similarly, they point out the high number of foreign students coming to New Zealand to attend university. They also cite the program of New Zealand capitalists to import skilled labour forces in order to increase their profits as the skilled migrants are prepared to work for lower wages.

In fact, New Zealand has always been a land of immigration. Historically, it started as a British settler colony which subjugated and decimated the native Māori population. Subsequently, the country experienced later waves of immigration from Europe as well as from Asia and the Pacific. Today, about 15.6% of the islands’ population is Māori, 12.2% Asian, 7.8% Pacific peoples, and 1.2% have their origin in the Middle East, Latin America and Africa. The highest concentration of non-white population is found in the North Island and in particular in the country’s largest city, Auckland. (7)

However, contrary to the comrades’ assumptions, conditions in New Zealand are not really so exceptional. Many metropolitan areas in the West face similar conditions. One just has to consider the multi-national cities of New York, Los Angeles, London, Paris and many others. Already, in the early years of the 2000s, half of all resident workers in New York were black, Hispanics or

belonged to another national minority. In inner and outer London, respectively 29% and 22%, of the residents were from ethnic minorities in 2000. (8)

Similarly, there are other Western countries where many relatively wealthy people and foreign students migrate to.

An excellent example of this is Austria. Migrants officially constitute 19.4% of the total population, and in Vienna, the capital city, this share is even higher with 38.5%. (If one includes the second and third generation of migrants, this share is even higher.). About 2/3 of these migrants either come from the Balkans, Eastern Europe or Turkey.

As in New Zealand, Austria also faces an influx of many university students and relatively wealthy people from abroad. As a neighbour of Germany sharing the same language and a similar culture, it has become a prime destination for Germans, including some wealthy and super-rich Germans. In fact, the Germans are the biggest "migrant" group, accounting for nearly 200,000 (out of a total population of 8.6 million, i.e., a proportion very similar to that of the Chinese in New Zealand). Tens of thousands of German students come to Austria's universities as the conditions to start study are stricter in Germany (German students constituting about 8.5% of all students). As a result, some Austrian students find it difficult to get accepted to university courses they choose to study. Similarly, numerous German middle class and more wealthy persons purchase houses and land in Austria (either for permanent residence or as a summer home) driving up prices. In other words, the conditions which the CWG(A/NZ) describes as so special to their own country in order to justify their adoption of a chauvinistic slogan of "workers immigration control" are not special at all!

All Version of Immigration Control are Anti-Democratic, Anti-Internationalist and Social-Chauvinistic!

The RCIT considers the slogan of "workers' immigration control" as an *inexcusable concession to social-chauvinism*. Essentially it means that the relatively well off and mostly white working class of New Zealand shall have a veto over the rights of migrants – many of them coming from poorer countries in the Pacific islands and Southeast Asia – to enter the country.

This slogan undermines the international solidarity among workers of different nations. It perpetuates the tensions between workers from richer and those from poorer countries. Thus, it helps to reproduce social-chauvinistic prejudices in the consciousness of the workers in New Zealand. And it helps to consolidate the opinion among workers and oppressed from poorer countries that the workers from the richer countries prefer solidarity with their own, white and relatively rich state, instead of solidarity with the workers and oppressed from the poorer countries.

Another example of the CWG(A/NZ) adaption to the bourgeois ideology is its different standards for migrants and political refugees. While it supports migration control for migrants it calls for "*open the borders to political refugees*." In this way it apes the bourgeois-liberal conception of differentiating between migrants fleeing for a legitimate cause (political refugees) and those who "merely" flee for

material, economic reasons (i.e., to escape the misery in the semi-colonial world caused by imperialism)! While they support open borders for political refugees, they oppose it for "economic" migrants. Such a differentiation is unworthy of revolutionaries and only reveals the hopelessness of this organization's method applied concretely to the conditions existing today!

What does such an attitude mean for people fleeing war (like the refugees from Syria)? Are these political refugees (who should have the right to enter the country) or are these migrants merely fleeing misery (and whose right to enter the country should be decided upon by the mostly white workers of New Zealand)? What would be the consequences of this social-chauvinist position for Europe? Should or shouldn't revolutionaries fight for the right of the millions of refugees from Syria, Afghanistan and other countries to come to Europe or not?

Migration is Not the Cause for Poverty and Unemployment!

Contrary to the myth spread by right-wing populists, migration is *not* the cause of poverty and unemployment! In fact, as we demonstrated in our documents, migrants are super-exploited and contribute *more* to the national wealth of their new country than what they receive. To give only a few examples: in Austria migrants paid €1.6 billion for social service in 2007, but received only €0.4 billion social benefits. Thus, the Austrian state appropriated €1.2 billion and used it for other purposes. (9) This example from the year 2007 is not exception but the rule, as other studies have shown. (10)

Another example of how the capitalists profit from migrants' labour can be seen in Britain. According to the then minister for migration, Liam Byrne, the "British economy" gained about £6 billion in the year 2006. According to the then finance minister of UK, migrants' labour was responsible for 15%-20% of economic growth in Britain in the years 2001-2006. (11) In our studies on migration cited above, we have given many more examples of this form of capitalist super-exploitation.

Yet another demonstration that capitalism's decay – and not migration – is the cause for increasing misery and unemployment is the case of Japan. While this country has very little immigration – its share of immigrants slightly rose from 1% in 1995 to 1.7% in 2007 – unemployment exploded in the same period from little more than 2% to 5.5%. The share of people living beyond the relative poverty line – the proportion of the population living below 50 percent of the national median income – nearly doubled from 8.1% in 1994 to 14.9% in 2005. (12)

Of course, Marxists don't ignore the problems which the capitalists cause by utilizing migrants to increase their profits. The RCIT fights against these problems *not* by limiting the migrants' right to enter New Zealand or other wealthy countries, i.e., a truly revolutionary tendency *concretely* fights tooth and nail against these social problems on the ground, *not* with anti-democratic, social-chauvinist slogans!

To do so, we call for *equal wages for migrants*, i.e., raising their wages to the level of New Zealand workers. We call for a *public employment program* which would include the *building of new homes* so that all can have affordable

housing. Such a program would ensure the ending of unemployment and would be financed by *massive increases in taxation of the rich and the expropriation of the super-rich* (which would naturally include the expropriation of foreign capitalists). Finally, we call on the trade unions in New Zealand to organize the migrants and to fight for equal rights.

The CWG's failure to take a Marxist position on these issues, while calling for "workers'" control of immigration, is manifested in its not raising *any* of these slogans which are vital in the fight against social problems, all of which are intended to build unity between domestic and migrant workers.

The Position of the Communist International

The call for migration control is a breach with the principles of proletarian internationalism and communism. Marxists have always defended the fundamental democratic right of migrants to enter other countries without restrictions. This is what Marx, Engels, Lenin and Trotsky fought for in the past.

Therefore, the CWG's new program for immigration is in clear contradiction to the positions elaborated by the Communist International. These are elaborated in the "*Theses on the Eastern Question*," adopted at the Fourth Congress of the Communist International in 1922. This document unambiguously states:

"In view of the coming danger, the Communist Parties of the imperialist countries – America, Japan, Britain, Australia and Canada – must not merely issue propaganda against the war, but must do everything possible to eliminate the factors that disorganise the workers' movement in their countries and make it easier for the capitalists to exploit national and racial antagonisms.

These factors are the immigration question and the question of cheap coloured labour.

Most of the coloured workers brought from China and India to work on the sugar plantations in the southern part of the Pacific are still recruited under the system of indentured labour. This fact has led to workers in the imperialist countries demanding the introduction of laws against immigration and coloured

labour, both in America and Australia. These restrictive laws deepen the antagonism between coloured and white workers, which divides and weakens the unity of the workers' movement. The Communist Parties of America, Canada and Australia must conduct a vigorous campaign against restrictive immigration laws and must explain to the proletarian masses in these countries that such laws, by inflaming racial hatred, will rebound on them in the long run.

The capitalists are against restrictive laws in the interests of the free importation of cheap coloured labour and with it the lowering of the wages of white workers. The capitalists' intention to take the offensive can be properly dealt with in only one way – the immigrant workers must join the ranks of the existing trade unions of white workers. Simultaneously, the demand must be raised that the coloured workers' pay should be brought up to the same level as the white workers' pay. Such a move on the part of the Communist Parties will expose the intentions of the capitalists and at the same time graphically demonstrate to the coloured workers that the international proletariat has no racial prejudice." (13)

These are the principles which Marxists today have to uphold, instead of adapting to the pressure of the labour bureaucracy and backward trends inside the workers' movement!

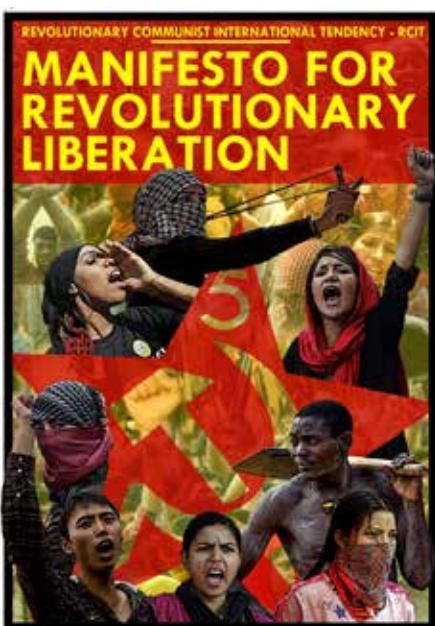
Let's be clear: The RCIT considers the slogan for "workers' control of immigration" as anti-democratic, anti-internationalist and socially-chauvinistic! The communist program on migration must include the slogan "*Open Borders*" which defends the right for all migrants to enter the richer countries.

This is what the RCIT and authentic revolutionaries are fighting for today! Therefore, we call upon all socialists to fight for "*open borders*" and for a program of complete equality for all migrants. Such a Marxist attitude must include the unambiguous condemnation of the slogan for "workers' control of immigration" as anti-democratic, anti-internationalist and social-chauvinist.

Footnotes

(1) ILO: World Employment and Social Outlook – Trends 2017, p. 9

(2) See Rainer Münz/Heinz Fassmann: Migrants in Europe and



NEW RCIT PROGRAM!

Manifesto for Revolutionary Liberation

Adopted at the 1st World Congress of the RCIT in October 2016

Introduction * I. Decaying Capitalism * II. Today's Worldwide Historic Revolutionary Period * III. The Reactionary Offensive of the Ruling Class * IV. A Program for Socialist Revolution to Halt Humanity's Collapse into Barbarism * V. The Crisis of Leadership and the Construction of a Revolutionary World Party * VI. Work in Mass Organizations and the United Front Tactic * VII. The Semi-Colonial South * VIII. The Emerging Imperialist Great Powers of the East: China and Russia * IX. The Old Imperialist Great Powers: The EU, North America and Japan * X. Conclusion

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their Economic Position: Evidence from the European Labour Force Survey and from Other Sources (2004), pp. 5-6 and Carlos Vargas-Silva: Global International Migrant Stock: The UK in International Comparison (2011), www.migrationobservatory.ox.ac.uk, p. 5. The third region where migrants play an important role is the oil-producing states in the Middle East. We have dealt with this specific case elsewhere. See e.g., Michael Pröbsting: Die halbe Revolution. Lehren und Perspektiven des arabischen Aufstandes, in: Der Weg des Revolutionären Kommunismus, Nr. 8 (2011), p. 14, <http://www.thecommunists.net/publications/werk-8>

(3) See United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs: World Economic and Social Survey 2004. International Migration (2004), p. viii and United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division: Trends in International Migrant Stock: The 2008 Revision (2009), p. 1 and 3

(4) Philip L. Martin: Migration and development: Toward sustainable solutions (2004), p. 4

(5) For a more detailed elaboration of the RCIT's position on migration and the internationalist program of revolutionary equality we refer readers to various documents which we have published and which are accessible on our website. See e.g., RCIT: Marxism, Migration and Revolutionary Integration, <https://www.thecommunists.net/oppressed/revolutionary-integration/>; Michael Pröbsting: The Great Robbery of the South, chapter 8.iv) and 14ii), <https://www.thecommunists.net/theory/great-robbery-of-the-south/>; Michael Pröbsting: The British Left and the EU-Referendum: The Many Faces of pro-UK or pro-EU Social-Imperialism, August 2015, Chapter II.2, <https://www.thecommunists.net/theory/british-left-and-eu-referendum/part-5-1/>, RCIT-Program, chapter V: <https://www.thecommunists.net/rcit-manifesto/fight-against-oppression-of-migrants/>, RCIT-Manifesto chapter IV: <https://www.thecommunists.net/rcit-program-2016/chapter-iv/>; and various actual statements and articles here: <https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/europe/articles-on-refugees/>. See also Michael Pröbsting:

Migration and Super-exploitation: Marxist Theory and the Role of Migration in the present Period of Capitalist Decay, in: Critique: Journal of Socialist Theory (Volume 43, Issue 3-4, 2015), pp. 329-346. We have also published a detailed study on migration and the Marxist program in German. See Michael Pröbsting: Marxismus, Migration und revolutionäre Integration (2010); in: Der Weg des Revolutionären Kommunismus, Nr. 7, pp. 38-41, <http://www.thecommunists.net/publications/werk-7>

(6) CWG(A/NZ): Aotearoa.NZ: For Workers' Control of Migration, March 17, 2017, <http://redrave.blogspot.co.at/2017/03/aotearoanz-for-workers-control-of.html>

(7) See: New Zealand in Profile: 2015, http://www.stats.govt.nz/browse_for_stats/snapshots-of-nz/nz-in-profile-2015.aspx

(8) See Peter Dicken: Global Shift. Mapping The Changing Contours Of The World Economy (Sixth Edition), The Guilford Press, New York 2011, p. 496

(9) See Hans Gmundner: Straches Handlangerdienste, KPÖ, 10.11.07, [http://www.kpoe.at/index.php?id=23&tx_ttnews\[tt_news\]=105&tx_ttnews\[backPid\]=2&cHash=7fe484e968](http://www.kpoe.at/index.php?id=23&tx_ttnews[tt_news]=105&tx_ttnews[backPid]=2&cHash=7fe484e968)

(10) See Gudrun Biffl: Die Zuwanderung von Ausländern nach Österreich. Kosten-Nutzen-Überlegungen und Fragen der Sozialtransfers (1997), WIFO, p. 8

(11) House of Lords (Britain): Report - Economic Impact of Migration in UK (2008), p. 22

(12) See Poverty In Japan: Homeless People, Working Poor And Living In Capsule Hotels, <http://factsanddetails.com/japan/cat19/sub120/item640.html>; Gabriele Vogt: Bevölkerungsentwicklung in Japan: Fokus Migration, Berlin-Instituts für Bevölkerung und Entwicklung, 2008, p. 3

(13) Communist International: Theses on the Eastern Question, Fourth Congress of the Communist International, December 1922, in: Jane Degas: The Communist International 1919-1943. Documents. Volume I 1919-1922, pp. 391-392, <http://marxists.org/history/international/comintern/4th-congress/eastern-question.htm>

Books of the RCIT

Michael Pröbsting: Greece - A Modern Semi-Colony

The Contradictory Development of Greek Capitalism, Its Failed Attempts to Become a Minor Imperialist Power, and Its Present Situation as an Advanced Semi-Colonial Country with Specific Features

The RCIT is proud to announce the publication of a new English-language book – GREECE: A MODERN SEMI-COLONY. The book's subtitle is: *The Contradictory Development of Greek Capitalism, Its Failed Attempts to Become a Minor Imperialist Power, and Its Present Situation as an Advanced Semi-Colonial Country with Some Specific Features*. It contains six chapters (144 pages) and includes 12 tables, 35 figures and 4 maps. The author of the book is Michael Pröbsting who serves as the International Secretary of the RCIT.

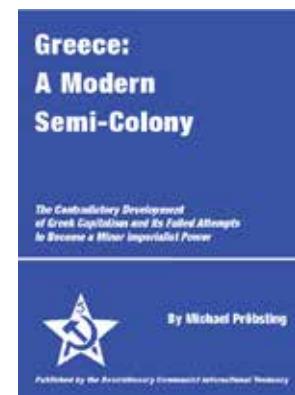
The following paragraphs are the back cover text of the book which gives an overview of its content.

Greece is at the forefront both of the capitalist crisis in Europe as well as of the class struggle. It is hardly an exaggeration to say that what the Arab Revolution has been for the world in the past few years, Greece has been for Europe.

Subsequently, the question of the class character of Greece is of crucial importance both for the domestic as well as for the international workers movement: Is it an imperialist

state, a semi-colonial country or something else, and what are its specific features?

In Chapter I we outline a summary of the Marxists' theoretical conception of imperialist respectively semi-colonial states. In Chapter II we give a brief historical overview of the development of Greek capitalism. In Chapter III we deal with Greece's failed attempt to become a minor imperialist power. In Chapter IV we outline the historic crisis of Greek capitalism from 2008 until today. In Chapter V we elaborate the most important programmatic conclusions and in the last Chapter we present a summary in the form of theses. The book contains 12 Tables, 35 Figures and 4 Maps. ■



A Historical Review of English Art from 1900-1940 (Part 1)

By Laurence Humphries

In this study of British Art I am going to be considering the development of British art after the influences of the Pre-Raphaelite movement which challenged art forms in Britain just before the turn of the century. Frances Spalding gives a very good overview of their influences .

" Ever since John Millais's retrospective at the Grosvenor Gallery in 1886 there had been a revival of interest in Pre-Raphaelitism and Medievalism".[1]

" The study of Modern life which had earlier inspired the Pre-Raphaelites still stirred intermittently .it had fired Walter Sickert (1800-1942) to extol the magic and poetry to be found in everyday urban settings". [2].

Spalding continues with her overview pointing out aspects of British Impressionism which really did not have the more fluid approach of the French.

" Those who continued with the Impressionist style of landscape painting did so with scant regard for the multi-faceted colour and comma-like brushstrokes of true French Impressionism". [3].

" The British were less animated by scientific enquiry than by a love of naturalistic effects of sunshine and breeze as found in the Beach by Laura Knight (1877-1970)". [4].

Spalding comments about many British artists's attraction to the work of Jules Bastien-Le Page.

" They were also inspired by the French artist Jules Bastien Le page whose overall grey tonality derives from the even light created by an overcast Sky. his chief apologist in Britain was George Clausen (1852-1914)". [5].

" One who was aware of their (Impressionism) importance was the critic Frank Rutter".[6].

Spalding continues with her commentary identifying the importance of John Singer Sargent.

" One of the first to send Rutter a cheque was the American artist John Singer Sargent. he had enjoyed a friendship with Monet in the 1880's and on a visit to Givenchy had painted the French artist at his easel out of doors".[7].

In my recent review of American art and especially discussing Sargent I made this comment about their friendship.

Spalding continues her discussion of these early 19th Century painters including of course Lawrence Alma-Tadema (1861-1912).

" Both John and Orpen made a close study of the old masters .They were also skilled draughtsmen adopting a style which in the vivacity with which pose, gesture and drapery are caught ".[9].

" Lawrence Alma-Tadema (1861-1912) excelled in this field domesticity and earned himself immense rewards. his pictures mostly small were finely crafted often in settings that allowed for daring perspectival effects". [10].

Commenting about Sickert . Spalding shows how he travelled to Europe and Venice for inspiration in his Art.

" Between 1908-1905 Walter Sickert had divided his time between Dieppe and Venice painting townscapes and immortalising prostitutes in the San Travaso area of Venice". [11].

All Sickert's subjects are located in Space by the fall of light.

what absorbed him was the flicker of light on the ornate Architecture".[12].

Spalding continues with her History of British art commenting on Lucien Pissaro the great French artist.

" *Lucien Pissaro (1863-1944) specialised in intimate views of rural England, its cottage gardens , copses and Orchards and Membership of the Fitzroy group had little effect on his choice of subject". [13].*

" *For the moment Sickert's chief concern was to rebut the dilettantism and good taste vitiating English art. taste is the death of a Painter , Sickert now declared in Iconoclastic mood". [14].*

Spalding who invests great importance to Sickert and the development of English art comments further.

" *One can sense his example behind Harold Gilman's The Kitchen in which every detail contributes to the stability and coherence of the whole". [15].*

" *When the Fitzroy group transformed itself into the more robust Camden town group Gilman like others began employing stronger and brighter colour". [16].*

Spalding now comes on to discuss Post Impressionism which shows her weakness in this area. I would question her description of what Post Impressionism was. The major Post Impressionists for me who used a scientific approach to art and were Revolutionary in their depictions were Georges Seurat , Paul Signac and Vincent Van Gogh . She fails to mention any of these and tries to use the authority of Paul Gauguin and Edgar degas who are not post Impressionists. Gaugin was a symbolist painter full of his own self importance.

" *There had been a revolt against the major art Institutions . This had taken the form of the allied artists association anony-jury exhibiting salon based on the French example". [17].*

" *The only British artists to have responded to post Impressionism prior to the 1910 exhibitions were Robert Bevan (1865-1925) Roderic O'Connor (1860-1940) JD Ferguson (1874-1961) and SJ Peploe (1871-1935)". [18].*

Describing the 1910 Exhibition where works by Picasso , Cezanne and Gaugin had been displayed she comments that it was Picasso and the Fauve artist Henri Matisse who dominated the exhibition.

" *Whereas in the 1910 show Gaugin Van Gogh and Cezanne had been the chief representatives, The 1912 Exhibition was dominated by the work of Picasso and Matisse". [19].*

" *Post Impressionism taught that painting was not a trick dependent on skill and craftsmanship but a language , the grammar and syntax of which themselves were expressive , line colour ,shape space and rhythmic were now to be assessed ".[20].*

This completes my first part of my exploration of English art from 1900. in part 2 I will explore further the art of artists like Paul Nash, Wyndham Lewis and Ben Nicholson.

FOOTNOTES

- 1) BRITISH ART SINCE 1900 FRANCES SPALDING PG. 13,
- 2) DITTO.PG.15, 3) DITTO.PG.19, 4) DITTO.PG.20, 5) DITTO. PG.20, 6) DITTO.PG.20, 7) DITTO.PG.21, 8) DITTO.PG.22, 9) DITTO.PG.22, 10) DITTO.PG.27-8, 11) DITTO.PG.31, 12) DITTO. PG.31, 13) DITTO.PG.33, 14) DITTO.PG.33, 15) DITTO.PG.34, 16) DITTO.PG.34, 17) DITTO.PG.37-8, 18) DITTO.PG.38, 19) DITTO.PG.38, 20) DITTO.PG.38-40

A Historical Review of English Art from 1900-1940 (Part 1)

By Laurence Humphries

In the second part of my review of English art I will now consider the influence of Vanessa Bell who Frances Spalding considers in her commentary.

" Having previously confirmed herself chiefly to portraits and still-life's she (Bell) now painted the arbitrary configurations created by for example 'a street corner conversation or figures on a beach". [1].

" An important influence on this period was Degas who surprisingly was not represented in either of the two (Post-Impressionist) exhibitions". [2].

What Spalding fails to understand is that Edgar Degas was not a Post-Impressionists but an Impressionist. There was a marked difference between Impressionism and post-Impressionism if you study the works of Seurat , Signac and Van Gogh, the application of paint , the scientific application of the Iconography.

" It was Degas's example that taught Sickert always to look for the unconventional in a pose or setting inn order to obtain new harmonies of colour and design".[3].

" Up to this point Sickert , Gore and others of the Fitzroy street group had been content to send to the twice yearly exhibitions of the New English art club , but this institution alarmed by the threat of post impressionism had turned Reactionary". [4].

Spalding continues her commentary on the importance of Sickert.

" It was Sickert who invented the name of the group (Camden Group) arguing with mock seriousness that the Camden district had been so watered with his tears that something sooner or later sprung from it soil ". [5].

" Its formation coincided with the growing commitment to the ordinary and workaday and to the urban Landscape. Charles Ginner now transformed Brush strokes into small tight regular touches of thick paint with impersonal almost mechanical technique he rendered the prosaic poetry of city life". [6].

Spalding explains the differences between Gilman and Ginner who split from Sickert's group. They called themselves Neo-realists.

" In 1914 Gilman and Ginner drew apart from Sickert's circle and began calling themselves Neo-realists".[7].

" Both (Gilman and Ginner) looked for patterns in their surrounding shapes related to reality but which also conveyed a sense of the artist's emotional response to the subject". [8].

Gilman and Ginner still searched for realism but on occasions they worked in an abstract mode.

" Their insistence on realism did not prevent Gilman from joining forces with the more abstract wing of the avant-garde in the winter of 1913/14 to form the London group". [9].

" Wyndham Lewis (1882-1957), William Roberts (1895-1980) Frederick Etchells (1886-1973) CRW Nevinson (1889-1949) , Edward Wadsworth (1889-1949) and Lawrence Atkinson (1873-1931) called themselves the English Cubists (Vorticisim) reduced their subjects to harsh geometric patterning (CF Mondrian and Van Doesburg) forming energetic compositions out of a conflict of lines and shapes". [10].

The difference between the Vorticists and the Cubists was that the Vorticists were to remain a small insignificant group and would not have the influence on Modernism . Cubism was to be central to a High Modernist tradition as

espoused by Clement Greenberg and others.

" Unlike the French(Cubists) counterparts they were not interested in dissolving form into a spatial continuum but dealt in a more brittle images that rested formally on the picture surface". [11].

" It was Nevininson (futurist) who took the wrong step and alienated the rest of the (Vorticists) English cubists from Futurism". [12].

Vorticism as a movement did not last long some like Lewis argued that it came to an end because of the First Imperialist war in 1914.

" The term Vorticism did not itself come into existence until after Nevinsons's Vital English art had united the rebel artists with indignation and this enabled Lewis to assist his hegemony over them". [13].

" Nevertheless for a short period lasting just over a year a style did exist to which the term Vorticism can be applied. it is spare and architectonic verging on pure abstraction, lines and bars are arranged often around a central nugget of interest (The still centre of the Vortex)". [14].

Lewis and Epstein the leading Vorticists felt that Vorticism was an indicator that Imperialist war would affect Europe once again.

"With hindsight both Lewis and Epstein felt that the aggressive nature of Vorticist art and theory had been in some prophetic of war". [15].

" The slaughter caused by the war created horrifying statistics . What touched the nerve more acutely in the case of the artist Paul Nash (1889-1940) was the destruction wrought upon the countryside". [16].

Nash brings out all the horrors of war it but was Wyndham Lewis who together with Edwards and Frank Dobson tried once again tried to resurrect Vorticism and once again establish an Avant -Garde in England .Unfortunately it would be left to Nicholson and Hepworth and Penrose to establish a truly Avant- Garde between the two wars.

" Nevertheless when Wyndham Lewis brought together certain of the Vorticists Charles Ginner, the sculptor Frank Dobson (1886-1963) and the poster designer Edward Mcnight Kauffer (1890-1954) in an attempt to reformulate the Avant-garde the result was a failure". [17].

" At Dymchurch Nash was visited in 1923 by Ben Nicholson (1894-1982) both painted the coast line but Nicholson instead of adopting the oblique view favoured by Nash confronted the sea straight on Horizontal bands of colour are tied down by the near vertical created by the jelly".[18].

This completes the second part of my review of English art from 1900-1940. in Part 3 I will explore further the contributions of Paul Nash , Ben Nicholson and Barbara Hepworth.

FOOTNOTES

- 1) BRITISH ART SINCE 1900: FRANCES SPALDING PG.41, 2) DITTO.PG.41, 3) DITTO.PG.41, 4) DITTO.PG.42,
- 5) DITTO.PG.43&45, 6) DITTO.PG.45, 7) DITTO.PG.48,
- 8) DITTO.PG.48, 9) DITTO.PG.49, 10) DITTO.PG.49, 11) DITTO.PG.49, 12) DITTO.PG.49, 13) DITTO.PG.51, 14) DITTO.PG.52, 15) DITTO.PG.55, 16) DITTO.PG.58, 17) DITTO.PG.63, 18) DITTO.PG.66

What the RCIT Stands for

The Revolutionary Communist International Tendency (RCIT) is a revolutionary combat organisation fighting for the liberation of the working class and all oppressed. It has national sections in a number of countries. The working class is composed of all those (and their families) who are forced to sell their labor 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, and exploitation are all part of everyday life under capitalism as are the imperialistic oppression of nations, the national oppression of migrants, 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 lead by the working class, for only this class has the collective power to bring down the ruling class and build a socialist society.

The revolution cannot proceed peacefully because a ruling class never has nor ever will voluntarily surrender its power. By necessity, therefore, the road to liberation includes armed rebellion and civil war against the capitalists.

The RCIT is fighting for the establishment of workers' and peasants' republics, where the oppressed organize themselves in councils democratically elected in rank-and-file meetings in factories, neighbourhoods, and schools. These councils, in turn, elect and control the government and all other state authorities, and always retain the right to recall them.

Authentic socialism and communism have nothing to do with the so-called "socialism" that ruled in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe, and which continues to do so in China and Cuba, for example. In these countries, the proletariat was and is dominated and oppressed by a privileged party bureaucracy.

Under capitalism, the RCIT supports all efforts to improve the living conditions of the workers and oppressed, while simultaneously striving to overthrow this system based on economic exploitation of the masses.

Towards these ends, we work from within the trade unions where we advocate class struggle, socialism, and workers' democracy. But trade unions and social democracy are controlled by a bureaucracy perniciously connected with the state and capital via status, high-paying jobs, and other privileges. Thus, the trade union bureaucracy is far from the interests and living conditions of

its members, based as it is on the top, privileged layers of the working class – a labor aristocracy which has no real interest in replacing capitalism. Therefore, the true struggle for the liberation of the working class, the toppling of capitalism and the establishment of socialism, must be based on the broad mass of the proletariat rather than their "representative" from the upper trade union strata.

We also 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. Towards this goal we struggle 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. While the RCIT strives for unity of action with other organizations, we are acutely aware that the policies of social democrats and pseudo-revolutionary groups are dangerous, and ultimately represent an obstacle to the emancipation of the working class, peasants, and the otherwise oppressed.

In wars between imperialist states we take a revolutionary defeatist position: we do not support either side, but rather advocate the transformation of the war into a civil war against the ruling class in each of the warring states. In wars between imperialist powers (or their stooges) and a semi-colonial countries we stand for the defeat of the former and the victory of the oppressed countries.

As communists, we maintain that the struggle against national oppression and all types of social oppression (women, youth, sexual minorities etc.) *must* be lead by the working class, because only the latter is capable of fomenting a revolutionarily change in society. Therefore, we consistently support working class-based revolutionary movements of the socially oppressed, while opposing the leadership of petty-bourgeois forces (feminism, nationalism, Islamism, etc.), who ultimately dance to the tune of the capitalists, and strive to replace them with revolutionary communist leadership.

Only with a revolutionary party fighting as its leadership can the working class be victorious in its struggle for liberation. The establishment of such a party and the execution of a successful revolution, as it was demonstrated by the Bolsheviks in Russia under Lenin and Trotsky remain the models for revolutionary parties and revolutions in the 21st century.

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

No future without socialism!

No socialism without revolution!

No revolution without a revolutionary party!

