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Imperialism and Dictatorships strangle the African peoples!

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- * African Migrants' Slavery in Libya
- * Capitalism & Landslide in Sierra Leone
- * The Hamas-PA Reconciliation Treaty
- * The Gnassingbé Dictatorship in Togo
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English-Language Journal of the Revolutionary Communist International Tendency (RCIT), No. 76, December 2017

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The cartoon on the cover symbolizes the enslavement of the Congolese people by the Belgium king Leopold.
Source: “In The Rubber Coils. Scene - The Congo ‘Free’ State” (1906)
https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Punch_congo_rubber_cartoon.jpg

Revolutionary Communism is the monthly English-language journal published by the *Revolutionary Communist International Tendency* (RCIT). The RCIT has sections and activists in Zambia, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Yemen, Tunisia, Israel / Occupied Palestine, Turkey, Brazil, Mexico, Aotearoa/New Zealand, Britain, Germany, and Austria.

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Editorial: Expansion of our Publications

By Michael Pröbsting, International Secretary of the Revolutionary Communist International Tendency (RCIT), 28.11.2017

Dear readers,
We are glad to announce a change in our hardcopy publication system. The *Revolutionary Communist International Tendency* (RCIT) started with the publication of an international English-language journal six years ago. Initially we were able to publish the *Revolutionary Communism* journal only irregularly. At that time we were a very small group struggling to become a real international tendency. Today, the RCIT has grown substantially both in numbers as well as in geographically spread. Today, we have sections and activists in more than a dozen countries on all continents.

As a result, we have massively increased the number of articles and essays which we publish. The RCIT considers it as one of its crucial tasks to follow the important world political events and to respond to them with serious analysis and revolutionary programmatic answers. Likewise we regularly elaborate more thorough essays and books on central questions which political life pose to the Marxist theory.

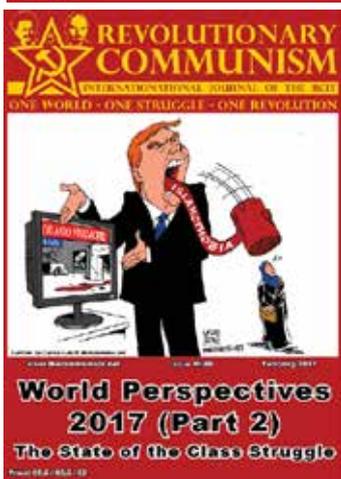
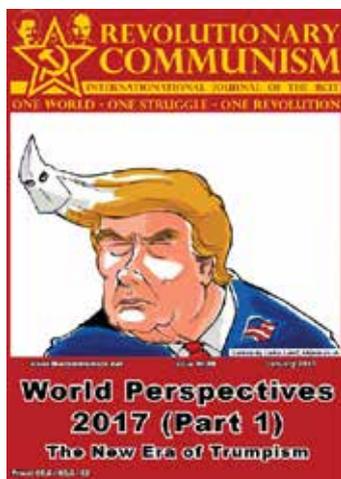
Based on such an understanding, we have produced – with increasing frequency – 75 issues of our international English-language journal since the autumn of 2011.

However, despite the fact that we publish the journal on a monthly basis, we increasingly face the problem that we do not have sufficient space for the increasing number of articles and essays which we produce. Hence, we have increasingly been forced to produce two issues per month or to leave various articles out.

Therefore we have decided to change the RCIT's hardcopy publication system. From now on we will publish two different international English-language publications. On one hand we will continue to publish a journal on a monthly basis. This journal will be called "*Revolutionary Liberation*" and will contain the RCIT's reports, statements and articles on actual political developments.

In addition we will publish a theoretical magazine. This magazine will continue to appear with the name "*Revolutionary Communism*" (*New Series*). It will contain the RCIT's longer, more theoretical articles and essays. It will appear irregularly but we assume that we will be able to publish it several times a year.

We appreciate comments, criticism and feedback from our readers!



NEW RCIT PUBLICATION!

World Perspectives 2017: The Struggle against the Reactionary Offensive in the Era of Trumpism

Introduction * I . A New Political Phase Has Opened: The Reactionary Offensive of the Ruling Class in the Era of Trumpism * II. Some Theoretical Question about the New Political Phase * III. The Great Power Rivalry and Its Consequences for World Politics * IV. The Middle East and the State of the Arab Revolution * V. Class Struggle in the US after Trump's Victory * VI . The Reactionary Offensive of the Ruling Class and the Resistance in Latin America * VII. Imperialist Interference and the Struggle for Democracy in Sub-Saharan Africa * VIII. Europe in the Era of Chauvinism, Militarization and Brexit * IX. Russia: Victorious Outcome of NATO's Cold War * X. China: Strengthened as a Great Power but Before a Serious Recession * XI. The Class Struggle in Asia * XII. Perspectives for Building of the Revolutionary World Party Today * Footnotes

Published as two special issues of RevCom with altogether 56 pages, A4 Format

RCIT AFRICA CONGRESS: Prepare for Mass Revolutionary Struggle!

Report (with Pictures) by Mainda Simataa (RCIT Africa Secretariat), 24.11.2017

A revolutionary storm is brewing all around the world, capitalist governments and their reactionary puppet leaderships and systems are failing. The masses of workers, youths and oppressed are ill-at-ease; and in some cases, already up in arms. Now therefore, revolutionaries have a historic duty, and must prepare to provide the leadership, theoretical and practical basis for this growing tide of discontent, and lead the masses to real economic freedom and political victory, rather than let the reactionary Parties of the elite and corrupt capitalist regimes to mislead and sabotage the revolutionary demands of the working people and the oppressed masses.

In response to this growing revolutionary tendency in many parts of the world, not the least in Africa, the Revolutionary Economic Liberation Association (ELA), the Zambian Section of the RCIT, organized the second RCIT World Congress – the first ever in Africa – in Lusaka (Zambia) together with other international delegates from the RCIT, from 9th to 18th November 2017. The aims were enhance international solidarity and to exchange programmatic notes and ideas on the way revolutionary way forward for the liberation struggle in the epoch of 21st Century decaying capitalism.

Various programmatic documents and strategies for waging the liberation struggle at a national, Pan-African and International stage were discussed. In addition, a three day intensive cadre training program in Marxism

and Socialism was conducted to reinforce the ideological understanding of revolutionary comrades as the vanguard of the oppressed masses. Also, a ground tour to assess the impact of capitalism on the welfare of the most poor and oppressed sections of society was conducted in and around Lusaka during the duration of the Congress.

It was resolved that the success of Socialism and the struggle for liberation of the masses of oppressed peoples in Zambia, Africa and the world at large can only be successful if concerted and coordinated efforts are made by revolutionary movements working from a common revolutionary program of liberation.

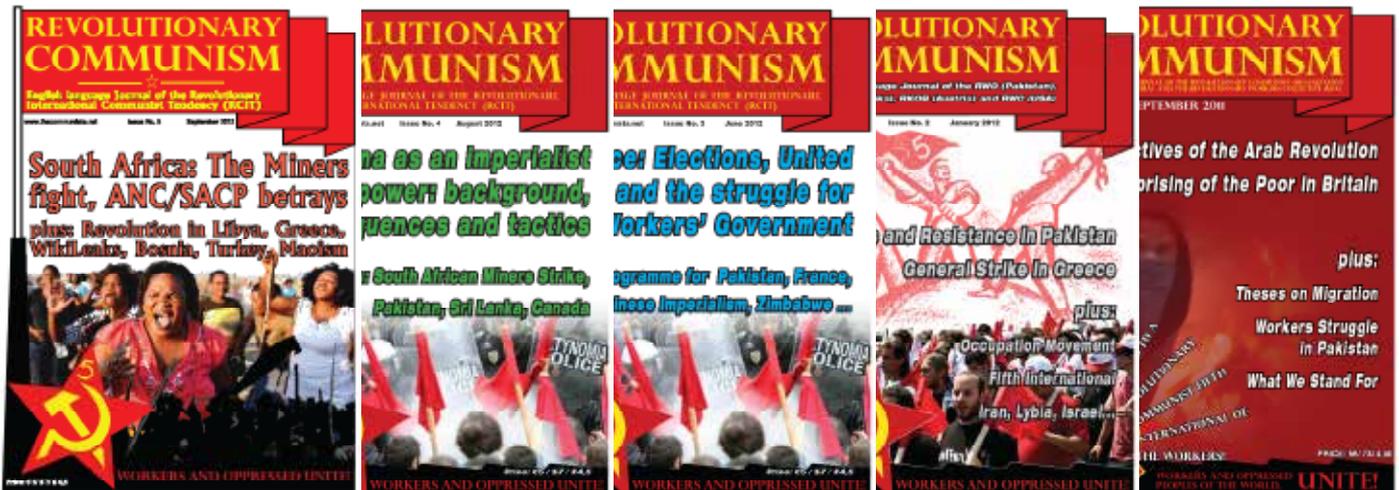
The second part of the RCIT Congress takes place in Mexico this December.

Forward with Socialism!
Abash Capitalism!
Aluta Continua!

The RCIT and ELA Zambia thank for the various greetings sent to our second congress from the following groups/activists:

- Pan-Afrikan Consciousness Renaissance, PACOR (Nigeria)*
- Abdul Karim Bah (Interim Secretary General, Movement for Social Progress [Sierra Leone] and Convener International Alliance for Economic Emancipation in Africa [IAEEA])*
- Marxist group "Class Politics" (Russia)*
- Apu Sarwar (Bangladesh)*
- John Reimann, Oaklandsocialist (USA)*

Order from our contact address past issues of the RCIT's Journal Revolutionary Communism!



Zimbabwe: The Fall of Mugabe – Victory for the Masses or for the Military-ZANU-PF Alliance?

Joint Statement of the Africa Secretariat of the RCIT and the Economic Liberation Association (Zambia), 22.11.2017

1. Zimbabwe's weeks-long political turmoil brought about by the military's siege on political power, and subsequent house-arrest of Zimbabwe's long-time President Robert Mugabe, finally come to an end yesterday on 21st November 2017. The *Zimbabwean Defence Forces* (ZDF) led by General Chiwenga has finally forced Mugabe to resign as President of the nation, and abdicate his leadership of the ruling Party ZANU-PF, a party which he founded and led for 37 years after winning Independence from the British backed Ian Smith settler regime in 1980 via a years-long liberation struggle.

2. Mugabe led Zimbabwe as a dictator, brutally repressing any dissent or opposition against his leadership. His leadership has come to an end, but the repressive regime (ZANU-PF) he built around him remains. The question therefore stands, does the removal of Mugabe from power via a military coup constitute a victory for the working class, peasants and poor and oppressed masses of Zimbabwe, or does it represent a victory and continuation of a faction of the capitalist oppressive ZANU-PF whose preferred successor to Mugabe is Emerson Mnangagwa?

3. The RCIT and ELA hold the view that while the ousting of Mugabe as a dictator is a relief to the masses from long years of oppression, it does not however entail freedom and progressive change for the masses of the Zimbabwean people. The very fact that Mugabe has been deposed from power via a military coup d'état, and not by a mass popular uprising by the people, is evidence enough that the reactionary regime of ZANU-PF is very much in charge and ready to continue and maintain the status quo under another leader of the military favored faction of the ZANU-PF.

4. Therefore, what we see is a classic case of the Zimbabwean military and ZANU-PF political elite alliance capturing political power in the name of saving the people from Mugabe's dictatorship. In reality, the General Chiwenga and Mnangagwa military-political tag-team has usurped the will of the people under the pretext of 'protecting and advancing the revolution', whilst in actual fact, they will still maintain a stronghold on political power under a capitalist economic formation, and will continue to serve the political and economic interests of their own class – those of the political, military, bureaucratic and capitalist elites, and all to the exclusion and detriment of the long-suffering ordinary masses of Zimbabwe.

5. The latest developments are a confirmation of what we said in our last statement of 15th November: "The RCIT states that this military coup represents a power struggle within the ruling elite. Both sides represent different sectors of the capitalist class but none represents the interests of the labouring masses. Likewise, the Mugabe regime is not based on democratic elections or any mass support by the people but hold his power via repression and corruption for years. Therefore socialists in Zimbabwe oppose the coup but neither can they support the thoroughly corrupt Mugabe regime." Those who cheered the coup as an act of "liberation" were equally wrong as those who sided with Mugabe in the name of "anti-imperialism".

6. The RCIT and ELA therefore calls on all the

peoples of Zimbabwe, and all Socialist and progressive formations across the world, not to consider the military coup and installation of the military's choice puppet leader Mnangagwa as a revolution nor victory of the people of Zimbabwe; but rather, to view such a military induced succession as a replacement of one dictator by another! In real terms, there is no change at all because the oppressors have not been overthrown by the people's insurrection!

7. We therefore call upon all oppressed people of Zimbabwe to immediately mount a counter-offensive against the military-political alliance if they are to truly liberate themselves. Such liberation must not be led by the bourgeois opposition party *Movement for Democratic Change* (MDC) or any other reactionary political force in Zimbabwe, but must be led by a revolutionary Party with a Socialist program that will deliver the demands of the working masses, peasants, students, women and youths of Zimbabwe. The workers and poor peasants of Zimbabwe must, in a word, take political power back from the generals, and by any means necessary, and wield it in their own hands for the purpose of serving their own political and economic interests! The ZANU-PF is a spent force, and compromised political entity that is of no value to the modern and historical demands of the masses of Zimbabwe, and is therefore, incapable of inspiring a revolutionary change. What the toiling workers, peasants and oppressed masses need for the true emancipation is one united socialist front with a revolutionary program. Most urgently they need their own revolutionary party as a leadership which serves the interest of the popular masses, and not an elite capitalist cabal that has entrenched itself in the decadent ZANU-PF!

8. The RCIT and ELA repeat to call for the independent organisation and mobilisation of the workers and poor. No support for any faction of ZANU-PF or the MDC! We call the workers and the poor to form action committees in order to independently fight for their demands. Likewise it is urgent to fight for a *Revolutionary Constituent Assembly* as a democratic body which debates and decides on a new constitution and which is composed of delegates who are controllable by those who elected them and who are open to recall by their constituents.

Down with the military-political coup of the General Chiwenga-Mnangagwa faction!

For a Revolutionary Constituent Assembly!

For the nationalisation of the key industries and banks under workers control! For the expropriation of the foreign corporations!

For the nationalization of the land under the control of the rural poor!

For a public employment program in order to abolish unemployment, etc.!

Down with all imperialist sanctions against Zimbabwe!

All Power to the popular masses of Zimbabwe! For a workers and poor peasants government based on workers and popular councils and militias!

Long live the struggle for Socialism and Liberation of all Africa!

Zimbabwe: Down with the Military Coup!

No to the dynastic Mugabe Regime!

For Independent Workers' and Poor Mobilisations!

For Action Committees of the Workers, Poor Peasants and Soldiers!

Statement of the Africa Secretariat of the Revolutionary Communist International Tendency (RCIT), 15.11.2017

1. Since Monday Zimbabwe's army command is carrying out a military coup. They are holding President Robert Mugabe and his family under house arrest. Soldiers seized the state broadcaster and a general appeared on television to announce the takeover. Armored vehicles block roads to the main government offices, parliament and the courts in central Harare. In a televised statement the army command announced that it would target "criminals" in the entourage of Mugabe.

2. This military coup is the latest high point in an ongoing power struggle inside the ruling elite of Zimbabwe which is organised in the ZANU-PF. Mugabe, a 93-year old dictator who rules the country since achieving freedom from colonialism in 1980, has recently sacked Emmerson Mnangagwa, his vice president, who was supposed to become his successor and who has close relations to the military and the veterans of the liberation war. In parallel, hundreds of supporters of Mnangagwa have been purged. This move was intended to enable Mugabe's wife, Grace Mugabe, to become his successor. She represents, together with figures like Finance Minister Ignatius Chombo, the so-called 'G40' faction.

3. The RCIT states that this military coup represents a power struggle within the ruling elite. Both sides represent different sectors of the capitalist class but none represents the interests of the labouring masses. Likewise, the Mugabe regime is not based on democratic elections or any mass support by the people but hold his power via repression and corruption for years. Therefore socialists in Zimbabwe oppose the coup but neither can they support the thoroughly corrupt Mugabe regime.

4. Mugabe came to power 37 years ago when the heroic workers and poor peasants drove out the reactionary British colonialists and the racist Apartheid regime of Ian Smith. But the liberation struggle staked as Mugabe took power and made a compromise with the white settlers and the imperialist great powers. As a result Zimbabwe could not free itself from imperialist domination. Later, when Mugabe expropriated many white settlers in 2000 in order to counter his rapidly declining popularity, Western imperialism issued economic sanctions against Zimbabwe. As a consequence, the country's economy and its people suffered massively. Since then, the regime turned to Chinese imperialism and built close relations with the BRICS bloc, in particular with the corrupt Zuma government of South Africa.

5. The RCIT rejects any characterisation of Mugabe and his regime as "socialist" or "anti-imperialist". It is a government which failed to complete the liberation but rather compromised with the imperialist powers. As a result Zimbabwe experienced neither economic liberation nor authentic political liberation but remained a capitalist neo-colony. It has been ruled by an authoritarian, state capitalist regime which repeatedly repressed all opposition forces. Furthermore, the Mugabe regime has been famous for the extremely decadent and lavish lifestyle while the

mass of the Zimbabwean people are among the poorest of the whole continent.

6. It is currently unclear how the coup will proceed. There are indications that the generals might not want to keep power but rather force Mugabe to withdraw his plans to install his wife as his successor. However, things can easily go out of hand. In any case, the decades-long Mugabe regime is severely weakened and might collapse very soon. The bourgeois MDC, the country's main opposition party, has expressed its support for the army's intervention. There is also a significant part of the population which sympathises with the coup out of hatred against the Mugabe regime.

7. However, the RCIT warns against any illusions in the motivation of the army command. They have been part of the ruling elite for decades. They only serve their own interests and not those of the people.

8. It is crucial to organise and mobilise the workers and poor independently. No support for the putschists nor the Mugabe regime! We call the workers and the poor to form action committees in order to defend themselves against both factions of the ruling class. It is urgent to organize also the soldiers independently from the generals and to build such committees also inside the army.

9. The immediate task must be to stop the coup and to bring down the reactionary Mugabe regime. A central slogan of the struggle must be the call for a *Revolutionary Constituent Assembly*. Such an assembly should be a democratic body with delegates who are controllable by those who elected them and who are open to recall by their constituents. The assembly's role will be to debate and decide on a new constitution. It must not be controlled by the ruling class which would only manipulate it in its interests, but it should be convened and protected by workers' and popular militias against any intimidation of reactionary forces.

10. We warn against any illusions in the bourgeois MDC opposition party which is a tool of the imperialist powers. The workers and poor must combine the struggle in defense of democracy with a socialist program for nationalisation of the key industries and banks under workers control (including the expropriation of the foreign corporations), the nationalization of the land under the control of the rural poor, a public employment program in order to abolish unemployment, etc. In order to carry out such a program, the workers and poor must overthrow the capitalist class and create their own government based on workers and popular councils and militias. Down with all imperialist sanctions against Zimbabwe! The RCIT calls all supporters of such a perspective to join us in building a revolutionary party in Zimbabwe and the whole of Africa. Only via such a party will the working class be able to take power and to open the road for the socialist revolution in Zimbabwe and the whole of Africa! Forward in the international struggle against capitalism and imperialism and for the socialist unification of Africa!

The Coup in Zimbabwe and the Role of Chinese Imperialism

By Michael Pröbsting, International Secretary of the Revolutionary Communist International Tendency (RCIT), 29.11.2017

The recent military coup in Zimbabwe in which the faction around former Vice President Emmerson Mnangagwa succeeded to depose long-time dictator Mugabe and the G40 faction of his wife Grace is a highly instructive episode. It demonstrated, among many other things, that Mugabe, whose capitalist regime has been praised by many pseudo-“Marxists” as “anti-imperialist”, had completely lost popular support. When Mugabe was about to fall, not a single mass rally took place on the streets to express support for him!

A few days ago, *Reuters*, one of the world’s major news agencies, published a special report about the inside story of Mugabe’s downfall. (1) This report is highly interesting as it reveals the rotten nature of the capitalist Mugabe regime. It shows in detail the hatred and maneuvering of the two factions against each other. The report confirms, among other things, the assessment of our comrades in the RCIT’s Africa Secretariat that the coup was not a “popular revolution” but rather “a power struggle within the ruling elite. Both sides represent different sectors of the capitalist class but none represents the interests of the labouring masses. (...) Therefore socialists in Zimbabwe oppose the coup but neither can they support the thoroughly corrupt Mugabe regime.” (2)

The report also confirms another assessment of the RCIT: that China is an emerging imperialist Great Power that played an important role in this coup. (3) As we stated in a past article: “Mugabe became an increasingly unstable ruler which led China as the dominating imperialist power in Zimbabwe to secretly support the coup of Mnangagwa and General Chiwenga.” (4)

The Reuters report supports our thesis with a number of facts. When Mugabe sacked Mnangagwa on 6 November the latter immediately went to China to meet the military chief and later leader of the coup General Constantino Chiwenga. Let us reproduce the paragraphs of the Reuters reports which also draw from internal reports of Mugabe’s intelligence agency CIO.

“From Harare, he [Mnangagwa, Ed.] managed to escape over the border into neighboring Mozambique, where he caught a plane to China, according to one source familiar with his movements. There he met up with Chiwenga, the source said. Reuters could not confirm the account; but an intelligence report from Nov. 13 indicates that Mugabe suspected some of his generals of preparing to overthrow him from China. “A number of generals are now in China ready to plot Mugabe’s ouster with Mnangagwa,” the report said. It was not clear which generals, and whether their travel to China was authorized.

Mugabe’s spies suspected old allies had turned against the aging president. An intelligence report, dated Oct. 30, said Beijing and Moscow both supported regime change out of frustration at Zimbabwe’s economic implosion under Mugabe. “China and Russia are after change,” the report said. “They are after change within ZANU-PF as they are sick and tired of Mugabe’s leadership.” “The two countries are even ready to clandestinely supply arms of war to Mnangagwa to fight Mugabe.” (...)

China has long taken an interest in Zimbabwe, having supported Mugabe’s forces during the liberation struggle. After independence it developed connections there in mining, security and construction. Russia has also had ties to Zimbabwe since

the early 1980s, and in 2014 a Russian consortium entered into a partnership to develop a \$3 billion platinum mining project in the country.

Chiwenga’s trip to China culminated in him meeting Chinese Defense Minister Chang Wanquan in Beijing on Nov. 10. Two sources with knowledge of the talks told Reuters that Chiwenga asked if China would agree not to interfere if he took temporary control in Zimbabwe to remove Mugabe from power. Chang assured him Beijing would not get involved and the two also discussed tactics that might be employed during the de facto coup, the sources said.”

In summary, both Mnangagwa, Zimbabwe new President, as well as General Chiwenga, the organizer of the coup, stayed in China in the days before the coup was launched and discussed their plans with the Beijing’s rulers.

Such a scenario is well known from various coups in the last decades when the plotters visited Washington before launching their operations. Today the U.S. (as well as the European powers) is not the only imperialist Great Powers anymore. This gang of robbers has been joined by Russia and China as new imperialist rivals.

The Reuters report demonstrates once more the correctness of RCIT’s analysis that China and Russia have become major imperialist powers. As we elaborated in a number of studies and pamphlets, they have become major political and military powers. Their monopolies – to different degrees – play a central role on the world market. China’s corporations in particular exercise massive influence in Africa. As the RCIT stated in a Manifesto adopted at its recent Africa Congress:

“China has become the biggest trading partner of Africa and one of its three largest foreign investors on the continent. About 10,000 Chinese corporations operate in Africa. They control about 12% of its total industrial production.” (5)

Unfortunately most Stalinists and semi-Stalinists hotly deny the RCIT’s analysis. They claim, in different variations, that China is still a “socialist” country or that China and Russia are important opponents of “imperialism” (which they wrongly identify only with the U.S.). The misnamed “World Socialist Web Site”, one of several pseudo-Trotskyist cliques which claim the banner of the “Fourth International”, even published a long polemic against the RCIT with the title “Behind the designation of Russia and China as “imperialist”: A case study in theoretical charlatanry”. (6)

At this place it is not necessary to repeat our analysis and our replies to these critiques as they can be read in our numerous studies and pamphlets. (7) Today China is – together with the U.S. – the leading power when it comes to corporations dominating the world market or the number of billionaires. (8) Russia, while economically weaker than China, plays a major role in world politics thanks to its military strength (see e.g. its role in the Syrian civil war). (9)

As a result, those who deny China’s and Russia’s role as imperialist powers and claim that they would be something more progressive than U.S. or European imperialism, inevitably become their defenders. In short, they become – irrespective of their “Marxist” (or

even “Trotskyist”) phrases – social-imperialist supporters of the Great Powers China and Russia. In other words, they stand on the other side of the barricade. Hence, the pseudo-“socialist” lackeys of Putin and Xi are nothing but enemies of all fighters for the liberation of the working class and the oppressed masses.

Footnotes

(1) MacDonald Dzirutwe, Joe Brock, Ed Cropley: Special Report: ‘Traacherous shenanigans’ - The inside story of Mugabe’s downfall, Reuters, November 26, 2017, <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-zimbabwe-politics/zimbabwes-mugabe-glowed-with-relief-after-he-quit-priest-idUSKBN1DQ0BB>

(2) See the following statements and articles which we have published in the past two weeks: RCIT and ELA (Zambia): Zimbabwe: The Fall of Mugabe – Victory for the Masses or for the Military-ZANU-PF Alliance? 22.11.2017, <https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/africa-and-middle-east/zimbabwe-after-the-resignation-of-mugabe/>; RCIT: Zimbabwe: Down with the Military Coup! No to the dynastic Mugabe Regime! For Independent Workers’ and Poor Mobilisations! For Action Committees of the Workers, Poor Peasants and Soldiers to Advance the Struggle against All Factions of the Ruling Elite! 15.11.2017, <https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/africa-and-middle-east/against-mugabe-and-military-coup-in-zimbabwe/>; Michael Pröbsting: The Current Political Crisis in Zimbabwe and the Slogan of the Revolutionary Constituent Assembly, 24 November 2017, <https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/africa-and-middle-east/crisis-in-zimbabwe-and-the-slogan-of-the-revolutionary-constituent-assembly/>

(3) See on this also other reports like e.g. Simon Tisdall: Zimbabwe: was Mugabe’s fall a result of China flexing its muscle? The 21st century’s new global superpower is not just Zimbabwe’s ‘all-weather friend’ and top trade partner, close ties go back to the 1970s liberation era, 17 November 2017, <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2017/nov/17/zimbabwe-was-mugabe-fall-a-result-of-china-flexing-its-muscle>; Tom Phillips: Zimbabwe army chief’s trip to China last week raises questions on coup. General met Chinese military leaders and defence minister in Beijing on eve of move against Robert Mugabe, 16 November 2017, <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2017/nov/16/zimbabwe-army-chief-trip-china-last-week-questions-coup>

(4) Michael Pröbsting: The Current Political Crisis in Zimbabwe and the Slogan of the Revolutionary Constituent Assembly, 24 November 2017, <https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/africa-and-middle-east/crisis-in-zimbabwe-and-the-slogan-of-the-revolutionary-constituent-assembly/>

(5) Manifesto for the Revolutionary Liberation of Black Africa. Economic Freedom and Political Power for the Workers and Oppressed through Socialist Revolution! Document of the 2nd Congress of the Revolutionary Communist International Tendency (RCIT) in Lusaka (Zambia), November 2017. This Manifesto will be published in the next days on the RCIT’s website www.thecommunists.net.

(6) Johannes Stern: Behind the designation of Russia and China as “imperialist”: A case study in theoretical charlatanry, WSWS, 14 April 2016, <http://www.wsws.org/en/articles/2016/04/14/prob-a14.html>. The WSWS published translations of this polemic against the RCIT in several languages.

(7) We have collected our studies and pamphlets dealing with Russia and China as emerging imperialist powers in a special section of the RCIT’s website: <https://www.thecommunists.net/theory/china-russia-as-imperialist-powers/>

(8) The most up to date analysis of China as an imperialist power can be read in chapter IV of the RCIT’s pamphlet: Michael Pröbsting: The China-India Conflict: Its Causes and Consequences. What are the background and the nature of the tensions between China and India in the Sikkim border region? What should be the tactical conclusions for Socialists and Activists of the Liberation Movements? 18 August 2017, <https://www.thecommunists.net/theory/china-india-rivalry/>. See also China’s transformation into an imperialist power. A study of the economic, political and military aspects of China as a Great Power, <https://www.thecommunists.net/theory/why-china-is-imperialist/>.

(9) On Russia we refer readers in particular to the following studies: Michael Pröbsting: Russia as a Great Imperialist Power. The formation of Russian Monopoly Capital and its Empire – A Reply to our Critics, 18 March 2014, <https://www.thecommunists.net/theory/imperialist-russia/>; Lenin’s Theory of Imperialism and the Rise of Russia as a Great Power. On the Understanding and Misunderstanding of Today’s Inter-Imperialist Rivalry in the Light of Lenin’s Theory of Imperialism. Another Reply to Our Critics Who Deny Russia’s Imperialist Character, August 2014, <https://www.thecommunists.net/theory/imperialism-theory-and-russia/>.



NEW RCIT AFRICA PROGRAM!

Manifesto for the Revolutionary Liberation of Black Africa

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

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

A RCIT Pamphlet, 24 pages, A5 Format

On the 100 Day Anniversary of the Landslide in Sierra Leone: Down with Capitalist Greed and Corrupt Bureaucrats!

Open Letter from the Revolutionary Communist International Tendency (RCIT) to the Workers and Poor in Sierra Leone

Lusaka (Zambia), 15.11.2017

Dear Brothers and Sisters,
We send you our warmest greetings of international solidarity! We share your grief about the losses of up to 2.000 people as a result of the horrible landslide on 14 August 2017 in Freetown Sierra Leone.

While the immediate trigger of this catastrophe has been heavy rainfalls, the real cause is not natural but manmade. Let us state this explicitly: it is the responsibility of the ruling class and their imperialist masters. Their reckless drive for profit resulted in unrestricted deforestation so that in the last decade, Sierra Leone cleared approximately 800,000 hectares of forest cover. The government's non-existent housing policy for the poor people resulted in the unregulated construction of houses and the narrowing of water passageways.

We therefor strongly welcome those campaigns in Sierra Leone which accuse the corrupt elite and demand public inquiry and accountability. Likewise we unreservedly support the initiative for a global day of action on 20 November under the hashtag *#InvestigateRedMonday*.

Such campaigns are important as the reckless deforestation and appalling housing for the poor is not restricted to Sierra Leone. In fact it is a characteristic feature in many countries in Africa and beyond. This is the result of the greedy and anarchic nature of capitalism: business

is striving fanatically to increase its profits irrespective of the consequences for the people and nature. Corrupt bureaucrats in ministries sell licenses for reckless construction projects in exchange for a few bucks. This is how capitalism works and as long as this system exists it can not be otherwise.

In our "*Manifesto for the Revolutionary Liberation of Black Africa*", which we adopted at the recent RCIT Congress in Lusaka (Zambia), we emphasized that in order to overcome the misery caused by capitalism the workers and the urban and rural poor must organize for a socialist revolution – in their own country, in Africa and globally. We call all revolutionary activists in Africa to join us in this struggle for the liberation of the African workers and poor and to build together a revolutionary party – in Africa and globally!

Aluta continua!

Long live international solidarity!

Forward to socialism!

Revolutionary Greetings,
Mainda Simataa (RCIT Africa and General Secretary of ELA Zambia)

Matomola Likwanya (RCIT Africa and Deputy General Secretary of ELA Zambia)

Michael Pröbsting (International Secretary of the RCIT)

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.

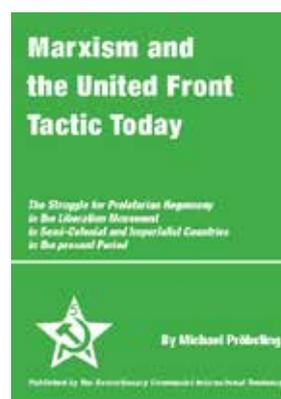
The following paragraphs are the back cover text of the book which give an overview of its content.

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.



Togo: Down with the Gnassingbé Dictatorship!

Solidarity with the mass protests of the Togo workers and poor peasants!

Message of Solidarity from the RCIT and the Economic Liberation Association (Zambia), 6.10.2017

Brothers and sisters!
We want to send our warmest greetings to you and to the proud people of Togo who protest since many weeks against the disgraceful dictatorship of President Faure Gnassingbé!

We condemn the Gnassingbé regime which has helped imperialist corporations since decades to exploit the country's valuable phosphate deposits as well as its agricultural products.

This regime is also part of regional pro-imperialist political institutions like the *Economic Community of West African States* (ECOWAS) of which Gnassingbé is currently the chairman. ECOWAS serves the imperialist powers not only as an economic institution but also by providing troops for imperialist interventions (e.g., in Mali in 2013).

The Gnassingbé regime is part of the numerous dictatorships and pseudo-democracies which are ruling the peoples of Africa in the service of the imperialist Great Powers and their monopolies (like France, US, and China). It is via such regimes that the imperialist bourgeoisie are able to economically suck dry the African workers and poor peasants under the cover of political (pseudo-) independence.

In our opinion freedom and equality can only be secured if the workers, poor peasants and youth combine the toppling of the reactionary regime with the expulsion of

the imperialist monopolies and the Great Powers and the expropriation of the ruling capitalist class. Only thus will they be able to create their own government which can open the road towards socialism.

** Solidarity with the Togolese masses!*

** Down with the neo-colonial regimes of Gnassingbé!*

** For a workers' and poor peasants' government!*

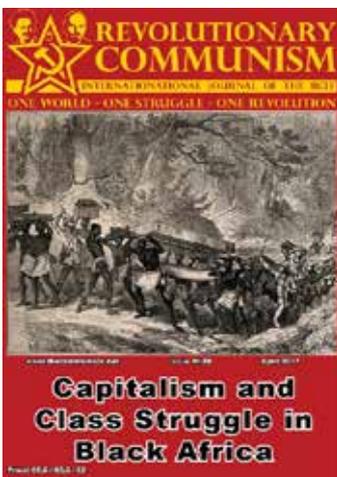
** Long Live the Revolution! Aluta Continua!*

Revolutionary Greetings,
Mainda Simataa (General Secretary of ELA-Zambia)
Michael Pröbsting (International Secretary of the RCIT)

You can read a more extensive statement in solidarity with the mass protests in Togo here: <https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/africa-and-middle-east/togo-down-with-gnassingbe/>

Economic Liberation Association (Zambia), <http://www.elazambia.org>

Revolutionary Communist International Tendency (Zimbabwe, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Brazil, México, Venezuela, Israel/Occupied Palestine, Yemen, Tunisia, Turkey, Aotearoa / New Zealand, Germany, Britain and Austria), www.thecommunists.net



NEW RCIT PUBLICATION!

Theses on Capitalism and Class Struggle in Black Africa

An Analysis of Imperialist Exploitation and Oppression and the Perspectives of the Liberation Struggle

A RCIT Pamphlet, 24 pages, A4 Format

Introduction * Some Background Notes on Black Africa's Modern History: How Colonial Plunder and Oppression Blocked Independent Development * Popular Struggles against Colonialism Led to Formal Independence * Formal Independence as Disguised Imperialist Dependency * The Reactionary Role of White Settlers * Is Capitalist Black Africa Rising? * Africa in the Grip of Imperialism * China as a new Imperialist Great Power Challenging the Western Domination * The Working Class and the Oppressed * Rising Class Struggle * Key Lessons for a Revolutionary Strategy in Black Africa * Imperialist Domination and Authoritarian Regimes Remain in Place despite Formal Changes * Breaking the Capitalist Chain – The Program of Permanent Revolution * The Revolutionary Struggle against Imperialism * Imperialist Chauvinism and the Anti-Imperialist Patriotism of the Oppressed * The Independence of the Working Class and the Struggle against the Popular Front * The Struggle for Pan-African Unity * The Revolutionary World Party and its African Sections * Footnotes

Zambia for Sale: PF Govt Privatizes State Traffic Agency (RTSA) to KAPSCH-LAMISE...for the next 17 Years!

by Mainda Simataa (General Secretary of ELA-Zambia), Lusaka, Zambia, 05.10.2017

Privatization and Capitalism: still on the March in Africa

The latest scandal in the privatization or rather sale, robbery and dispossession of the Zambian people of their public property continues; the latest being that the State owned and controlled Road Safety and Traffic Agency (RTSA), is officially sold, with the full consent of the Patriotic Front (PF) government, and facilitated by the local Lebanese Mafia Chairman – *Sheik Walid El Nahas*, operating as LAMISE Zambia Ltd – a known manufacturer of plastic cups and dishes, and a big looter of Zambian land and builder of shopping malls, among other investments!

RTSA Secretly and Shamelessly Sold

The foreign company that has been awarded the 17 year long Zambia 'traffic management' contract to loot billions of Euros off Zambian roads, motorists, tool-gates and citizens at large, is the Austrian based company whose name no Zambian can pronounce – KAPSCH! The state is calling this dirty deal a 'concession', but in truth, and from historical experience, all concessions are nothing but legitimized robberies equal to outright privatization, as was the case with the sale of our mines!

State and Economic Capture by Corrupt Capitalist State Agents!

And so, the capture of the Zambian State machinery and Economy by capitalism, through its primary agents – the local politicians and the comprador bourgeoisie class continues unabated, but at what cost to the Zambians? The losses are incalculable, and the social effects will worsen for the majority; but of course, the political sellouts are insufferable, and today, they are far more richer than yesterday for their grand corruption and deception of the masses!

Zambia- The Home of Neo-colonialism

The era of 21st century colonialism – neo-colonialism, thus continues to make a strong come-back into African countries, ravaging African economies and impoverishing people by the millions; and all so that a few people in power and their international cronies and local business associates can live rich and happily ever after; and all at the expense of the suffering majority!

More and more foreign multi-national capitalist companies thus continue to stream and pour into Africa to get their cut of the African resource cake; leaving only crumbs and poverty for the indigenous people to share. All the viable business sectors – education and health, banking and infrastructure development, agriculture and energy development, have all been 'concessioned'. All the industries and public institutions of interest have all been liberalized and robbed; and wealth and power continues to be transferred and concentrated into the hands of the few!

Nowhere in Africa, and in the world for that matter, is this neo-colonial capture of all formerly state-owned and controlled industries and economic viable sectors, more visible, rampant and formidable, than in Zambia where

all the critical sectors of production and economic life have gone to private ownership (mostly foreign).

The MINES are long gone, all the BANKS are gone – (Zambia National Commercial Bank), STATE FARMS are gone, Indigenous TRADE and MANUFACTURING companies have all gone, the STATE BROADCASTER ZNBC has recently gone to China's TOPSTAR for \$278 million under a 25 year-long 'concession'. LAND and TIMBER reserves are going to Chinese, Indian and Lebanese exploiters, and the once-upon-a-time STATE LOTTERY (Zambian Lotto), is now a money-spinning jackpot owned by the Lebanese Mafia families.

In the final analysis, our nominal 'POLITICAL INDEPENDENCE', and our pride, dignity and liberty as a people, is all gone! We are being ruled by agents and henchmen of the capitalist interests; and Economic Freedom remains a battle to be fought, if not, then a pipe-dream!

Who Will Fight to Liberate Zambia?

But we must fight. Surrender is no option, the stakes are too high! But where are the new freedom fighters? Where are the liberators of our time, to join the struggle for Zambia's liberation from modern-day slavery and colonization? Where are the men who care? Where are the Zambian revolutionaries to rise up and take up the fight against the scourge of corruption, neo-colonialism and the wanton sale of our nation – a practice which has engulfed our nation and enslaved our people?

Stand Up and Fight Capitalism and its Political Agents!

I say let us be the heroes and saviours we are waiting for! We may not be born-heroes, but we must be willing to fight!

Not all heroes are born, some are made and shaped by the pressures and circumstances of their lives and times; and above all, by the love of the motherland!

Aluta Continua! Vitoria Acerta!



Zambian Miners Betrayed: KCM 'Sales' Workers to Chinese Company, Govt sheds Crocodile Tears!

By Mainda Simataa (General Secretary of ELA Zambia), 02.10.17

A History of Exploitation

Vedanta Corporation of Indian, a British listed company that bought Konkola Copper Mines (KCM) for a scandalous low price of US \$25 million dollars in 2001, and recouped that money within seven months of taking over the mine, has never ceased to be at the center of controversy in Zambia's totally foreign occupied mining industries.

From polluting rivers and poisoning drinking water supplies with toxic mining effluent, to dodging taxes by the billions, to pursuing a policy of replacing human miners with machines, KCM remains the leading tax evader, labour exploiter, and a corporate enemy number one of the Zambian people!

Outsourcing – Squeezing Out More, Giving Back Less to Workers!

The latest scandal from KCM, commonly referred to by its victims – the workers, as *Kanchule Copper Mines (Make me Suffer Copper Mines)*, is that it has decided that the best way to make yet more profits for its shareholders and directors abroad is to transfer the burden of responsibility for thousands of workers in its employ, to another company – a Chinese company that promises to pay the workers less, and at the same time make them work harder for less money and no job security, not to mention no medical care or compensation for injury and risks to the miners!

Other Foreign Companies Engaged in Outsourcing in Zambia

But KCM is not the first nor the only company to outsource other companies to manage particular departments within the business structures. The giants in Zambia's Telecoms industry, Airtel and MTN (both Indian owned), sold their workers to Tech Mahindra and ISON respectively, and the results for workers have been terrible!

Also the hospitality/tourist industry companies like Avani Hotels which out-rightly but silently took over the running of former Royal Livingstone and Sun Hotels in Zambia's tourist capital – Livingstone, and transferred all its workers to the new employer without giving them separation benefits, have all engaged in outsourcing to maximize profits while suppressing workers!

KCM Benefits from Outsourcing Big Time

The benefit of dumping workers to another company thereby lowers KCM's wage bill, and thus increases its profits. This process of dumping workers to another sub-standard mediocre paying company means technically and literally, the firing of workers and having them instantly re-hired by a new contractor without the workers consent. The new 'employer' pays them significantly lower wages, and offers slave conditions of service, while the new employers continue to extract more labour out of the workers who continue to perform the same jobs in the same company, and usually for extended hours without overtime! This is the dumping of workers to slave-driving ruthless contractors!

Miners Betrayed by Government and Unions

KCM miners have been betrayed, and not for the first time. In recent years KCM has been pushing to cut down 4,000 workers from its labour force and throw them on the street on the pretext that its profitability is low. But the profitability excuse has proved controversial and futile because copper prices have remained fairly high between \$5400 and \$6000 per tonne, with other mining companies in the industry like Lumwana and FQM-owned Kansanshi posting record profits from gold and copper revenues and remitting taxes, though this tax remittance is a drop in the ocean compared to what the mining multinationals make in Zambia.

KCM Opens Pandora's Box in Exploitation of Miners

KCM has therefore now found a 'legitimate' but immoral opening with outsourcing, and with the help of compromised and toothless unions, and the blessings of a corrupt-to-the-core capitalist shoe-kissing PF government which is in bed with foreign investors, KCM has finally an ally in the government and has got its wish to dump workers as the government sheds crocodile tears!

KCM has also set a dangerous precedence and example for other mining companies to follow, and has opened the way to further dumping and exploitation of miners and all workers in general, by other companies who will also take this golden opportunity to maximize profits by minimizing labour costs through out-sourcing!

The Zambian miner has lost! The KCM workers have been thrown to the wolves of Chinese imperialism in Africa, workers have been abandoned and left defenseless, and more will follow.

This new scourge of outsourcing and force-ably handing over workers to less viable employers/companies at worse-off conditions is not only immoral, but it is also criminal and it must be fought and stopped by all who mean well, and by all means necessary! Remember:

** Government will not fight for workers – they are in the business of selling-out workers!*

** The unions will not fight and represent workers – they are in the business of betraying workers and representing management interests!*

** In the final analysis therefore, workers must unite and fight to free themselves from exploitation!*

Aluta Continua – the struggle must continue!



Stop African Migrants' Slavery in Libya!

Protest Rally in Vienna (Austria) on 25th November

Report (with Pictures) by the Revolutionary Communist International Tendency (RCIT), 01.12.2017

African migrants are auctioned as slaves in Libya on a regular base. The imperialist-backed government in Libya pretends to be surprised by the desperate situation of the migrants from Black Africa who are raped, tortured and even sold as slaves by businessmen. Libyan authorities recently started some "investigations" on the slavery markets.

However, it is obvious that the Libyan regime as well as the imperialist institutions like the *United Nations* knew very well about the slavery markets and tolerated them for the interest of business. The recent "investigations" started because of protests which took place in the past weeks, including a massive protest in Paris on 18th November.

Exactly one week later, on the 25th November, a protest rally took place in Vienna as well. Activists of the Austrian section of the *Revolutionary Communist International Tendency* (RCIT) participated and hold speeches in front of the Libyan embassy.

The RCIT demands the immediate abolishment of the slavery markets in Libya. Massive reparation payments must be given to the former slaves who were sold at these markets. All businessmen who run the slavery markets must be put on trial and sentenced by a jury elected by the labour movement and the African migrants.

We demand full and equal rights for all African migrants in Libya and worldwide. We say:

** Full citizenship rights and abolition of all special laws for all migrants – regardless of nationality, race, religion or nationality! Equal pay for equal work!*

** The right to stay and immediate legalisation of all illegal migrants and asylum seekers! Right of asylum for those fleeing war, oppression and poverty in their countries! Open borders for all!*

We stated in our founding program a number of revolutionary demands for the liberation of Black people, which are important for each and every country where Black people are oppressed and exploited, including Libya. (RCIT: The Revolutionary Communist manifesto, <https://www.thecommunists.net/rcit-manifesto/>) These demands are:

** An end to the widespread practice of the bourgeois state, to condemn black people and migrants en masse to long prison terms. Roll up of all court cases, in which black people and migrants were convicted, before democratically elected trial by jury, of which at least half of it are members from the national/ racial minority of the accused!*

** For the formation of armed self-defence units of black people and its support by the entire workers' movement!*

** Local self-government of areas with a high proportion of black people! Special consideration to the wishes of the black people in defining the borders of self-governing regions! Financial support by the state!*

** For the right of caucus for black people in the unions and the organisations of the workers' movement!*

The RCIT fights for a revolutionary movement of black people as part of the 5th Workers International!

Join us in this fight!

Videos from the speeches by Marek Hangler and Rahime Berisha (RKOB, Austrian section of the RCIT) at the rally in Vienna:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Lf1QxwYjSCU&t=14s>
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jbs4Avx26PY&t=90s>



Pictures from the Rally in Vienna, 25.11.2017 (from left to right): African demonstrators, Marek Hangler, and Rahime Berisha

On the Hamas-PA Reconciliation Treaty

By Boris Hammerschlag, *Statement of the Internationalist Socialist League, 4.11.2017*

It seems that the decade-long split in the Palestinian leadership, between the secular Fatah dominated Palestinian Authority and the Islamist Hamas, has come to an end. Most Palestinians, suffering under an immeasurable number of layers of external as well as internal oppression, heaved a sigh of relief.

Marxist revolutionaries should of course defend it against those who wish to destroy it, the most dangerous of which - Israel. Israel has already begun its attempts to sabotage the talks by blowing up a tunnel killing 7 Palestinians.[1] However, we must also pay close attention to the mixture of genuine reason for hope and dangerous illusions that is now prevalent more than ever among the Palestinian people and its supporters all around the world.

It is hard not to draw a line between the unification of the '67 Palestinian leadership via the Hamas-PA Reconciliation Treaty and the unification of the '48 Palestinian leadership by means of the Joint parliamentary List. Both resemble not only in benefits but also in their shortcomings.

Both "burials of the hatchet" came to be after a long period of intense public pressure, however both did not happen until swift, hatchet dropping, outside pressure, came down upon all factions at the same time, by the forces of Zionist colonialism and/or US led imperialist coalition. The Joint List of the '48 Palestinian was *not* formed a second before the Zionist right-wing government decided it could perhaps rid the Knesset of Palestinian representation (after failing to do so through the judicial system) by sharply raising the electoral threshold. Similarly, the Reconciliation Treaty was not signed a second before US state department led by US president Donald Trump pushed for it, as part of a larger scheme to form a Sunni alliance against Shi'ite forces, led by Iran and backed by the rival imperialist camp - Russia & China.

While the Palestinian workers and oppressed are hopeful that the end to infighting would strengthen Palestinian resilience and ability to struggle for the decolonization of Palestine and its liberation from Zionist and imperialist oppression, it seems that for some elements in the Palestinian bourgeois leadership, this treaty is yet another opportunity to appease and reconcile with US and EU

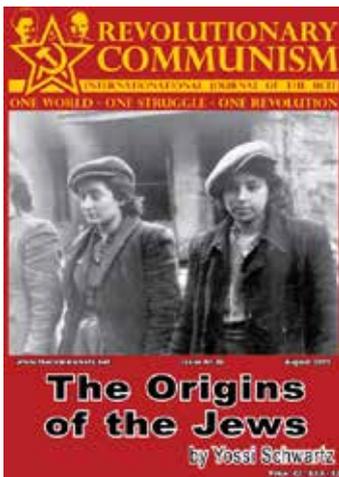
imperialism.

The PA has been a longstanding partner of the Israeli government in suppressing any organized resistance to the '67 occupation. While the talks with Hamas took place in Cairo, a key element of this partnership - the Security Coordination - was still in a state of suspension following the al-Aqsa crisis.[2] However, soon after the treaty was announced - this suspension has been lifted.[3]

On the other side, rhetorically super-militant Hamas has himself been cornered into submission, having de-facto ruling a starved, mental as well as physical diseased Gaza Strip - the largest prison on the planet. What started as a Zionist siege of ghettoisation in 2006, has been since tripled - joined by both Egypt blocking the checkpoints and destroying the smugglers' tunnels, and the PA freezing funds and denying electricity.

All besieging allies have been waiting patiently for the starving and angry people to rise-up and take down Hamas' government. However, Palestinian steadfastness (Sumud) has yet again proved itself as having few to little rivals worldwide. Despite that, after the 2014 massacre, Hamas has been forced by Israel to participate, like the PA, in suppression of resistance coming from Gaza. Together with the deteriorating material conditions, Hamas' leadership understands well that the current situation could only split into 2 possible directions:

Either, the starving population takes up arms in hands in an uprising against Israel and its Palestinian collaborators, or Hamas itself would implode and come apart the seams of its various internal factions - both tribal and politically oriented. Having lost popularity among the people Hamas knows it would not be able to co-opt such an uprising and steer it towards its own aims and goals. And like most "official" leaderships in this region - it finds itself increasingly relying on the financial and political support of imperialist superpowers instead of the love and support of the masses. This led to Hamas declaring that it is willing to accept the two-state solution and de-facto recognize Israel's right to exist on stolen Palestinian land. [4] Last week, Hamas has formally relinquished control over the checkpoint under its control to the PA.[5]



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

Thus, we've been asked online about our position (as Marxist revolutionaries) as to why on earth we would refuse to condemn such unification, as its clear direction is not towards struggle, but towards imperialist co-optation. To that we answer that, many times, in order to convince the masses, most of whom do not share our views on how a leadership should be formed and operate to serve the masses and the liberation struggle, we must march with them and defend any political action that has even the slightest chance of leading to collective victory.

The revolutionary masses do not learn from middle-class intellectuals talking over their heads, but mostly, through experience. However, this experience must, in turn, be put into words in order to communicate, work collectively and in practice, towards our joint goals. We consider the Hamas-PA, as well as the '48 Joint List unifications, as mass-experience of paramount importance.

This critical support is aimed at exposing the illusions and stirring up hope at the very same time. Since the Palestinian leadership claims its unification is for the purposes of struggle, at least against the '67 occupation, let us make sure they stick to their words. The only way we can do that is by building a grassroots revolutionary leadership from below. Surely the re-united PA, aimed at struggle, would find it difficult to oppose the formation of neighborhood and village struggle committees, whose leadership would be democratically elected and subject to immediate recall by a popular vote.

We must state over and over again, that the only solution for the liberation of Palestine from Zionism will come as a result of an Arab working class, leading the oppressed masses in an uprising, aimed not only against remnants of 19th century colonialism (such as Zionism) and imperialism, but also against the capitalist order itself which gave birth to the myriad forms of cruel barbaric oppression, suffered by the masses, which words could not even begin to describe.

We predict that such uprising will be triggered, in our region, by a struggle for democracy, similar to the Arab-Spring, but since the capitalist ruling classes fear democracy might cut into their profits of exploitation, they would do whatever they can to crush it, making themselves a perfectly visible enemy to the exploited and oppressed. Their removal would be the first step towards socialism and eventually a communist - community based - society.

Footnotes:

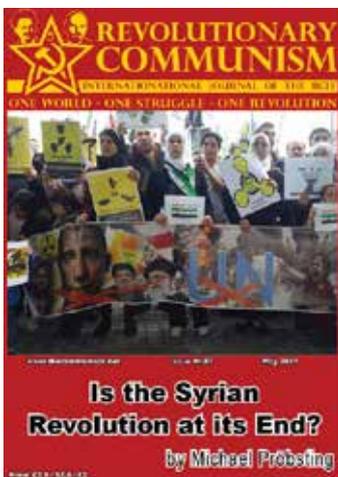
[1] <http://tinyurl.com/yd7v4hqd>

[2] <https://www.theatlantic.com/international/archive/2017/07/aqsa-crisis/535173/>

[3] <http://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/237315>

[4] <http://tinyurl.com/yctqykpm>

[5] <http://tinyurl.com/yd7v4hqd>



NEW RCIT PUBLICATION!

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

By Michael Pröbsting, April 2017

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

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

A RCIT Pamphlet, 24 pages, A4 Format

Syria: Counterrevolutionary ISIS/Daesh attacks again the Liberation Forces with the Help of Assad's Army

By Michael Pröbsting, International Secretary of the Revolutionary Communist International Tendency (RCIT), 25.11.2017

Once again, the counterrevolutionary ISIS/Daesh forces have launched an attack against the liberated areas in northeast Hama. (1) Once more, they do so in undisguised collaboration with the army of the murderous Assad regime. (2)

This surprise attack allowed ISIS/Daesh to conquer more than 15 villages (incl. Talhan, Ateeq, Tahtouh, Abu Al-Kassor, Abu Hareq, Maasran, Alia). Furthermore, while the pocket controlled by Daesh is located in-between the territories controlled by the rebel forces and the Assadist forces, it is characteristic that while there are heavy clashes between Daesh and the rebel forces, no clashes between Daesh and the regime's forces in this area have been reported until now! (See Map 1 below)

Once again, the ISIS/Daesh forces, who had no stronghold in this region in the weeks before, emerged out of the blue. The only explanation for this is that ISIS/Daesh forces advanced unscathed through areas controlled by Assadist forces, i.e. they obviously did so in consultation with the regime. Rebel forces already accused the regime that it made a deal to evacuate ISIS fighters from Deir Ezzor in eastern Syria to eastern Hama in order to fight the liberation forces there. (3) (See Map 2 below)

The Deal between the Assad Regime and Daesh/ISIS

As we reported in the past, this is not the first time that such a collaboration of Assad and Daesh takes place in order to smash the remaining liberated areas. It is noteworthy that meanwhile even the most hardened supporters of Assad and Putin have to admit that the regime has made such deals with ISIS/Daesh. For example, the fanatical pro-Assad/Putin intelligence website *South Front* had to confess that the Syrian regime made a deal with ISIS/Daesh in late September to move their fighters through its territory to the liberated areas in Idlib.

"On Thursday, an agreement was reached between the Syrian

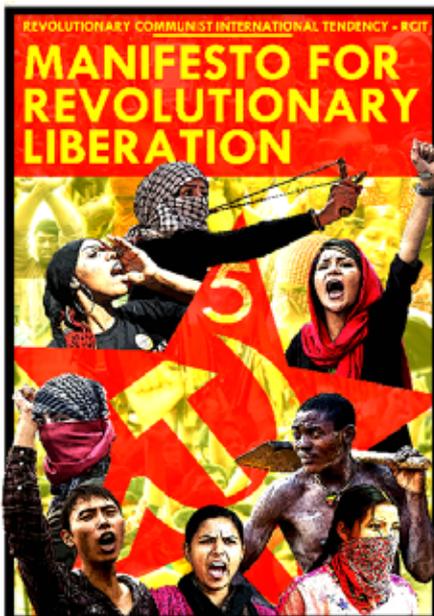
government and ISIS fighters besieged in the eastern Hama pocket. The agreement will allow ISIS members to withdraw to Idlib governorate according to the Syrian Radio station Sham FM. On Wednesday, the Syrian government allowed 1,500 civilians and ISIS family members to withdraw to an area controlled by Hay'at Tahrir al-Sham (HTS) in Idlib governorate." (4)

The Assadist supporters justified such collaboration with the following shallow claim: *"ISIS fighters could choose Idlib because they had excellent relationships with HTS fighters there as they both worked in weapons and oil trafficking, according to opposition sources."*

This, of course, was a cynical and brazen lie as everyone could see: when the ISIS/Daesh fighters entered Idlib with the help of Assad's army, they immediately encountered heavy resistance from the liberation forces – in particular from *Hayyat Tahir al-Sham* (HTS). After bloody battles for weeks, the liberation forces finally succeeded to defeat the counterrevolutionary ISIS/Daesh forces.

Furthermore, why did the Assadists, who always claim to be the most fanatical enemies of Daesh/ISIS not finish them off? Tellingly, the regime did not even claim that it got something from Daesh/ISIS in exchange for their evacuation – in opposite for example to the deal between Hezbollah and Daesh in late August. The later deal *"stipulated the withdrawal of 300 Daesh fighters from Lebanon's eastern barrens to the Iraqi-Syrian border, in exchange for the release of Hezbollah prisoners, and revealing the fate of Lebanese soldiers taken hostage by the terrorist group."* (5)

But the deal between the regime and Daesh in late September did not involve such an exchange. The Daesh forces were trapped and exhausted in a small pocket encircled by Assad's army. It would have been no problem for them to finish them off. But the regime and their Russian backers have different interests. This deal was purely driven by the Assad regime's calculation to use these terrorists against the remaining forces defending the Syrian Revolution.



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

A RCIT Pamphlet, 36 pages, A5 Format

Let us draw attention, en passant, to the fact that the US/YPG coalition recently made a similar cynical deal with Daesh/ISIS in mid-October. When they had encircled the last pockets of Daesh fighters in Raqqa (in the local stadium and the central hospital) where they could have easily finished them off, they “suddenly” allowed 4,000 Daesh fighters and their families to evacuate out of the city! (6)

Resistance of the Liberation Forces

This time again the liberation forces – mostly the petty-bourgeois nationalist Islamist HTS as well as various petty-bourgeois nationalist FSA factions – are fighting hard to stop the advance of Daesh. According to some reports they have managed, for now, to repel an ISIS attempt to capture Mustariah as well as the Al-Shiha village. (7)

At the same time, the Syrian regime with massive support of foreign militias and the Russian Air Force, is seeking to advance towards the strategic Abu Duhour military airport in the southern countryside of Aleppo. Added to this is the threat of the Turkish army and their FSA mercenaries which started invading Idlib in the North. (8) In short, the Syrian Revolution continues to be under heavy attack by the reactionary regime as well as the counterrevolutionary ISIS/Daesh forces. This demonstrates once more how ridiculous the claims by Assad and Putin and their numerous supporters amongst

the Stalinist and liberal “left” are that they would fight the “jihadist terrorists”. In fact, they join hands with the “jihadist terrorists” of Daesh in order to defeat the Syrian liberation forces which they bizarrely denounce as “jihadist terrorists”!

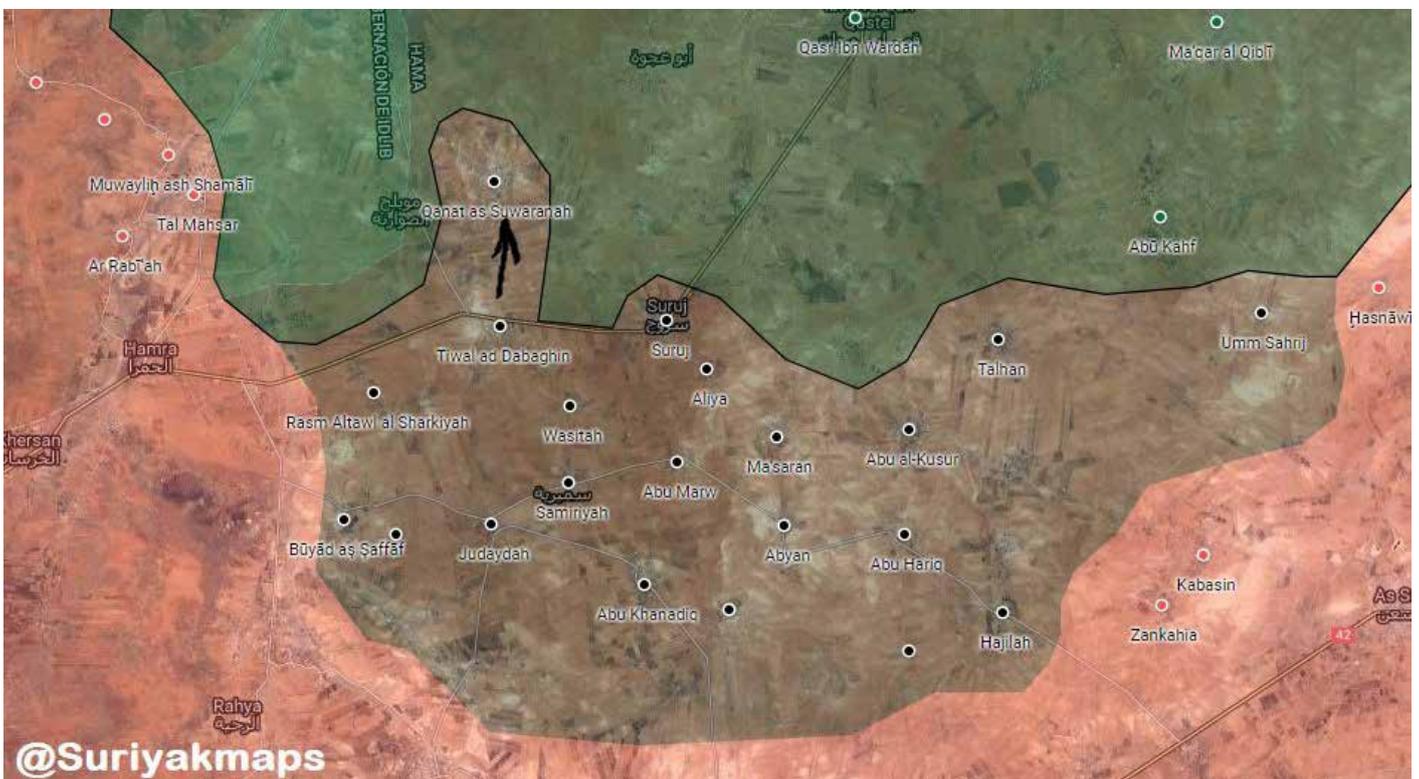
As the RCIT has already pointed out in past reports, the collaboration of Daesh and Assad in northeast Hama is not surprising at all. (9) While they certainly are opponents, they have a joint interest in defeating the Syrian Revolution.

The Syrian Revolution Continues despite many Setbacks and Traps

The popular uprising in Syria which started in March 2011 is still continuing despite many setbacks and despite the fact that it is endangered by the treacherous policy of various leadership factions among the rebels. These factions are ready to join the reactionary negotiations charades in Astana, Sochi and Geneva which are all dominated by the imperialist Great Powers as well as regional powers (e.g. Russia, Iran, Turkey, US, Saudi Arabia). As we have repeatedly warned, these negotiations are a trap by the imperialists in order to disarm and liquidate the Syrian Revolution. (10)

The only way forward is to reject all imperialist traps of such fake negotiations and to continue and deepen the revolution by basing it on popular committees and militias. Most importantly, the most advanced workers and youth

Map 1: Advance of ISIS/Daesh forces in Northeast Hama (as of 24.11.2017)



Legend:

Green: Liberated Areas under Control of the Rebel Forces

Red: Areas under Control of Assadist Forces

Black: Areas under Control of the ISIS/Daesh

Source: https://disqus.com/home/discussion/freedomfalconofsyriablogspot/freedom_for_syria_page_29_07_june_2017_to_current/#comment-3631440422

in Syria need to unite into a revolutionary party based on a program for socialist liberation. (11)

The RCIT continues its support for the liberation struggle of the Syrian workers and peasants despite the extremely difficult situation it faces today. When the Revolution is under attack from all sides – the Assad dictatorship, Russian as well as US imperialism, Daesh/ISIS, the Turkish Erdoğan regime, and finally various FSA mercenaries – it is all the more important to maintain international solidarity with those who have not given up the struggle.

Footnotes

(1) See e.g. Qasioun News: Syrian Regime and ISIS Cooperate East Hama and Control Many Areas from The Syrian Opposition, 24 November 2017, <http://qasioun-news.com/en/news/show/112163>; Syrian Observatory for Human Rights: Renewed clashes northeast of Hama after an advancement attempt by the “Islamic State” organization, 24/11/2017, <http://www.syriahr.com/en/?p=79344>; South Front: ISIS Captures More Villages From Hayat Tahrir al-Sham In Northeastern (Maps), 24.11.2017, <https://southfront.org/isis-captures-more-villages-from-hayat-tahrir-al-sham-in-northeastern-maps/>

(2) On the RCIT’s assessment of Daesh see e.g. The Revolutionary Struggle against Daesh and the Imperialist Aggression in the Middle East, 28.02.2017, <https://www.thecommunists.net/theory/resolution-daesh/>

(3) https://disqus.com/home/discussion/freedomfalconofsyriablogspot/freedom_for_syria_page_29_07_june_2017_to_current/#comment-3632746912

(4) South Front: ISIS Fighters To Withdrew From Eastern Hama Pocket Under Deal With Syrian Government Forces, 21.9.2017, <https://southfront.org/isis-fighters-withdrew-eastern-hama-pocket-deal-syrian-government-forces/>

(5) Diana Moukalled: The deal between Hezbollah and Daesh, 31 August 2017, <http://www.arabnews.com/node/1153786>

(6) There exist a number of reports about this cynical deal. The most detailed one in English language is a report by BBC journalists: Quentin Sommerville and Riam Dalati: Raqqa’s dirty secret, 13.11.2017, http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/resources/idt-sh/raqqas_dirty_secret

(7) See https://disqus.com/home/discussion/freedomfalconofsyriablogspot/freedom_for_syria_page_29_07_june_2017_to_current/#comment-3631436124 and https://disqus.com/home/discussion/freedomfalconofsyriablogspot/freedom_for_syria_page_29_07_june_2017_to_current/#comment-3631437142

(8) See on this e.g. Michael Pröbsting: Syria: The Turkish-Russian Invasion against Idlib has begun! All out to defend the Syrian Revolution against the Astana Conspirators! For an anti-Assad, anti-imperialist and anti-capitulationist united front, 07.10.2017, <https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/africa-and-middle-east/the-turkish-russian-invasion-against-idlib-has-begun/>.

(9) See e.g. Michael Pröbsting: Russia’s Air Force supports Daesh against Syrian Liberation Fighters. Another instructive episode how Russian imperialism helps Daesh/ISIS to attack the Liberation Forces in the North of Syria, 23.10.2017, <https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/africa-and-middle-east/russia-s-air-force-supports-daesh-against-syrian-liberation-fighters/>; Syria: A Very Instructive Episode. Counterrevolutionary ISIS/Daesh collaborates with Assad’s Army (as well as Erdoğan and Putin) in Attacking the Syrian Liberation Fighters in Idlib, 10.10.2017, <https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/africa-and-middle-east/a-very-instructive-episode-in-syria/>

(10) On the RCIT’s assessment of the Astana deal see: Michael Pröbsting: Syrian Revolution: The Moment of Truth is Approaching! Rally to defend the Syrian Revolution against the Imperialist conspiracy called the “Astana Deal”! 20.09.2017, <https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/africa-and-middle-east/syria-moment-of-truth-approaching/>; RCIT: Syria: Defend Idlib against the Great Powers! Down with the reactionary Astana

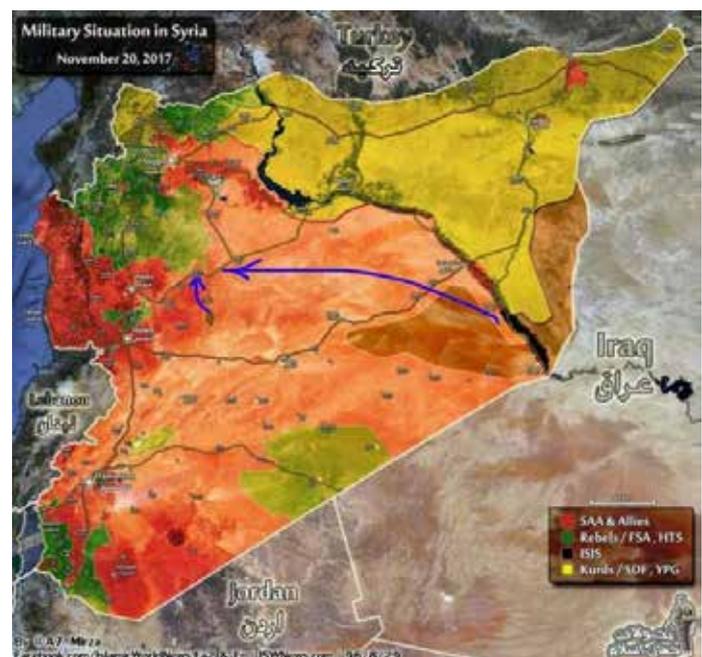
Deal! Defend the Revolution against the butcher Assad, against Russian and US Imperialism and the local Allies! Victory to the Struggle of the Workers and Oppressed! 04.08.2017, <https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/africa-and-middle-east/defend-idlib-against-great-powers/>; Michael Pröbsting: Syria: The Astana-Deal Struggle Intensifies. Some Notes on Recent Developments in the Syrian Civil War and the Dangers for the Liberation Struggle, 28 July 2017, <https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/africa-and-middle-east/syrian-revolution-28-7-2017/>; RCIT: Syria: Condemn the Reactionary Astana Deal! The so-called “De-Escalation Zones” are a First Step towards the Partition of Syria and a Conspiracy by the Great Powers to Defeat the Revolution, 7 May 2017, <https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/africa-and-middle-east/astana-deal/>

(11) See on this e.g. Michael Pröbsting: Is the Syrian Revolution at its End? Is Third Camp Abstentionism Justified? An essay on the organs of popular power in the liberated area of Syria, on the character of the different sectors of the Syrian rebels, and on the failure of those leftists who deserted the Syrian Revolution, 5 April 2017, <https://www.thecommunists.net/theory/syrian-revolution-not-dead/>

* * * * *

For the RCIT’s analysis of the Syrian Revolution, we refer readers to our numerous articles and documents which can be accessed at a special section on our website: <https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/africa-and-middle-east/collection-of-articles-on-the-syrian-revolution/>

Map 2: Transfer of ISIS/Daesh forces by the Assad Regime from East Syria to Northeast Hama (as of 20.11.2017)



Source: https://disqus.com/home/discussion/freedomfalconofsyriablogspot/freedom_for_syria_page_29_07_june_2017_to_current/#comment-3632746912

in it as treacherous. Likewise, these forces participate in the systematic assassination campaign of the Turkish secret service against HTS leaders which has been taken place in Idlib since some months.

5. The RCIT calls all forces who continue to support the liberation struggle against the Assad regime and its imperialist backers to boycott the charade conferences in Sochi, Astana and Geneva. There can be no solution under the bayonets of the Great Powers. We say: *Down with any "solution" imposed by the imperialist Great Powers Russia and US, by Iran and Turkey and the Assad regime! Continue the liberation struggle against the butcher Assad, against Russian and US Imperialism and the local Allies!*

6. The way forward is not submission and capitulation to the Great Powers and their regional allies. The only way forward for the Syrian Revolution is to create popular councils and militias, under the control of the workers and poor peasants, which will fight for a workers' and peasant republic. We repeat our call for an international workers' and popular solidarity movement in support of the Syrian Revolution. Furthermore, we urge all authentic supporters of the liberation struggle to unite and found a revolutionary party in Syria and a global revolutionary international based on a program of permanent revolution.

7. Surely, revolutionaries have to develop their

tactics on the basis of the given relation of forces as it is and not as it should be. In the present situation, it is crucial to defend those forces which refuse to capitulate to the pressure of the imperialist powers and their regional allies to lay down their arms and to liquidate the heroic Syrian Revolution. The international workers' movement and all progressive and democratic forces must also rally to support the Syrian Revolution. They must defend the anti-capitulationist liberation forces which continue the struggle against the Assad regime as well as the Great Powers and their allies.

** Down with the Charades in Sochi, Astana and Geneva! Boycott these fake "negotiations"!*

** Down with any "solution" imposed by the imperialist Great Powers Russia and US, by Iran and Turkey and the Assad regime!*

** Support the Syrian Revolution!*

** Defend Idlib against the Great Powers and their allies!*

** For a multinational, independent workers' and peasants republic in Syria – free of sectarianism, foreign occupation and dictatorship!*

** For international mass mobilizations and strikes of workers, migrants and youth to stop the imperialist aggression of Russia and the US against the peoples of the Middle East!*

International Secretariat of the RCIT

Books of the RCIT

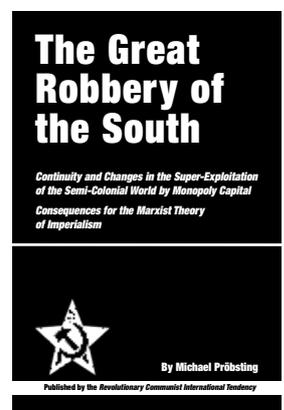
Michael Pröbsting: The Great Robbery of the South Continuity and Changes in the Super-Exploitation of the Semi-Colonial World by Monopoly Capital. Consequences for the Marxist Theory of Imperialism

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

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

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

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



RCIT at a Public Meeting in Solidarity with the Syrian Revolution

Victory to the Resistance against the Dictatorship of Assad!

Report (with Pictures and Video) from the RKO BEFREIUNG (Austrian Section of the RCIT), 6th November 2017

The Syrian Community and the RKO BEFREIUNG (Austrian section of the RCIT) organized a public meeting on 3 November about the current situation in Syria and perspectives for the future. The RCIT stands in unconditional solidarity with the Syrian revolutionaries who are fighting both – the brutal dictatorship of Bashar Al-Assad and the imperialists.

Comrade Marek Hangler, spokesperson of the RKO BEFREIUNG, facilitated the meeting together with Badran Farwati (spokesperson of the Austrian Coordination Council for Support of the Syrian Revolution). Speakers on the platform, representing different political views, included Alessandra Rametta Mayerhofer (former war reporter, currently journalist at the TV station OKTO), Stefan Beig (former journalist of the newspaper Wiener Zeitung), Bassam Alaissami (Syrian human rights lawyer) and Michael Pröbsting, the International Secretary of the RCIT.

A lively political discussion was held on the general development of the Arab revolutions and the specific situation of the Syrian people. Comrade Pröbsting emphasized the importance of international solidarity of workers and all the oppressed. He analyzed the experiences of Syrian revolutionaries after more than 6 years of heroic struggle for liberation and freedom. He also warned against the treacherous policies of various leaders of the resistance who are open to collaborate with imperialist Great Powers.

We in the Austrian section of the RCIT have been collaborating in practice with the Syrian community in Austria since the beginning of the Syrian revolution

in 2011. We are in complete solidarity with the Syrian revolutionaries in their struggle for freedom and peace. We combine the support for the Syrian revolution with a perspective of socialist revolution.

We look forward to future collaboration with our Syrian brothers and sisters.

Victory to the Syrian Revolution! Long live international solidarity!

To view pictures of the meeting as well as the speech of comrade Pröbsting (in German language with Arabic translation) click the following link:

Pictures and Video of Michael Pröbsting's Speech: <https://www.rkob.net/wer-wir-sind-1/rkob-aktiv-bei/syria-veranstaltung-3-nov/> (scroll down to the end of the article)

Michael Pröbsting's Speech can also be viewed at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IkIjPXiM80M&feature=youtu.be>

The whole meeting (two hours) can be viewed on the Facebook site of the Austrian Coordination Council for Support of the Syrian Revolution:

<https://www.facebook.com/CoSupportSyria/videos/1747020352037610/> (Part 1)

<https://www.facebook.com/CoSupportSyria/videos/1747104105362568/> (Part 2)

For the RCIT's analysis of the Syrian Revolution, we refer readers to our numerous articles and documents which can be accessed at a special section on our website: <https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/africa-and-middle-east/collection-of-articles-on-the-syrian-revolution/>



Platform of the Meeting in Solidarity with the Syrian Revolution on 3.11.2017 (from left to right): Michael Pröbsting, Marek Hangler, Alessandra Rametta Mayerhofer, Stefan Beig, Bassam Alaissami and Badran Farwati

Britain: Sunderland's 2021 Bid for the "City of Culture" will not benefit the Working Class

By Dave Tate, RCIT Britain, 08.11.2017

Sunderland's 2021 bid for the city of culture was launched on 2nd November 2017. All the rhetoric used to legitimise the bid aims to portray the success of winning the award will lead to a renaissance for Sunderland. From being a major ship builder and coal mining area for the nineteenth and twentieth centuries it will follow the so-called post-industrial success of Liverpool, the first City of Culture and the most recent Hull. At least that is what is being sold to the people of Sunderland and the wider community.

The City of Culture was introduced by Labour's Culture Secretary Andy Burnham in 2009 following the perceived success of Liverpool's European City of culture. Justifying such a scheme he argued that "*culture and creativity should be viewed as part of the answer to tough economic times and not as a distraction or a luxury*".

However, like most rhetoric justifying capitalist reality this has proven to be narrowly focused. Previous winning cities have never led to much of an improvement in workers lives as it was never meant to be an improvement. Success of the scheme is seen narrowly through how much new revenue is generated, in the case of Liverpool it was estimated that the local economy benefitted by some £800m.

The bid that Sunderland is making for 2021 is taking place in a city with a high proportion of food banks, it is also estimated that some 17000 children live in poverty, the cruel Universal Credit, which has rightly been seen as a direct attack upon the working class, is now being rolled out with all of the accompanying horrors of late payments and increased destitution.

In the work force the public sector pay cap which has seen wages being cut for the last ten years hits cities in north

east disproportionately as more workers are employed in the public sector. The scourge of zero hours contracts and minimum wage jobs also will not be tackled by being designated a city of culture, if anything what will result will be a deepening of such conditions of non-union, zero hours, and minimum wages as the jobs created by a city of culture is just this type of employment.

The physical benefits will also be concentrated in and around the city centre while the outlying regions of Sunderland will continue to languish. You can also bet that from all the exhibitions few if any will highlight the socialist/radical history of Sunderland. The exhibitions may be interesting, but they will not challenge the capitalist ethos of accumulation for the sake of accumulation.

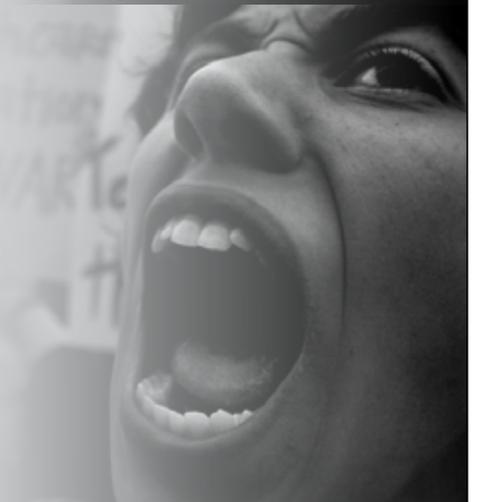
It seems to me that there is something fundamentally wrong when the wealth which is created socially should be used for collective benefits not individual benefit. There is enough wealth being created to build decent, habitable houses and to provide income that feeds workers etc. However, knowing this does not bring us closer to ensure that wealth being created is used for the working class rather than the narrow segment of the capitalist class. As workers we need to struggle to ensure that our needs are met. That housing, employment, welfare stops being a method for the capitalists to get rich. We need to widen our strikes make them political that is increasingly challenge the corrupt house of commons and the criminal capitalist state that protects the corrupt House of Commons. By doing this then we can build a humane future and for the first time bring culture truly into workers lives by making it ours and not the plaything of the wealthy or a way to make money.

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)

Price for one pamphlet: 2 Pound (plus delivery charges)
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What the RCIT Stands for

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

No future without socialism!

No socialism without a revolution!

No revolution without a revolutionary party!

