



Cartoon by Carlos Latuff

[www.thecommunists.net](http://www.thecommunists.net)

Issue Nr.97

September 2019

## **Brazil: Save the Amazon!**

# **General Strike against Bolsonaro!**

- \* India: Solidarity with Kashmir!
- \* China: General Strike in Hong Kong
- \* Syria: The Fall of the Khan Sheikhoun
- \* Pan African Women's Day
- \* Zimbabwe: Neoliberal Austerity
- \* Puerto Rico: US Colony in Revolt
- \* Hydrocarbons & Drilling in the Aegean
- \* Britain: Boris Johnson & No Deal Brexit
- \* Reports from Solidarity Activities for Kashmir, Egypt and Kenya

**Workers and Oppressed Unite!**

# English-Language Journal of the Revolutionary Communist International Tendency (RCIT), No. 97, September 2019

India: Defend the Kashmiri People against Modi's Attack!	p.3
Jammu Kashmir Revolutionary Socialists support RCIT Statement on Kashmir	p.4
India: Rally in Solidarity with the Oppressed People in Kashmir	p.5
Modi Has Transformed Kashmir into a Huge Concentration Camp	p.6
China: Solidarity with the General Strike in Hong Kong!	p.7
Syria: The Fall of the Martyr City Khan Sheikhoun	p.9
Egypt: Rally on the 6th Anniversary of the Rabaa Massacre	p.11
Brazil: Save the Amazon!	p.12
Kenya: Successful Event on the Pan African Women's Day	p.14
Greetings from the RCIT to the Pan African Women's Day	p.14
Zimbabwe: Neoliberal Austerity means Misery for the Masses	p.15
Puerto Rico: US Colony in Revolt!	p.16
Drilling in the Aegean: We do not fight for their Hydrocarbons!	p.18
Britain: Boris Johnson Determined to Impose a No Deal Brexit	p.20
What the RCIT Stands For	p.23

Source of the picture on the cover: Carlos Latuff, <https://twitter.com/LatuffCartoons/status/116375569898219840/photo/1>

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

**[www.thecommunists.net](http://www.thecommunists.net) - [rcit@thecommunists.net](mailto:rcit@thecommunists.net)  
Tel/SMS/WhatsApp/Telegram: +43-650-4068314**

# India: Defend the Kashmiri People against Modi's Attack!

## Chauvinist BJP government abolishes autonomy rights of Muslim-majority province

*Statement of the Revolutionary Communist International Tendency (RCIT), 6 August 2019*

1. The extreme right-wing government of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Hindu chauvinist *Bharatiya Janata Party* (BJP) have launched an unprecedented and historic attack on the oppressed people of Kashmir. Modi revoked Article 370 of India's constitution on 5 August by presidential order. The law confers special rights to permanent residents of the state of Jammu and Kashmir. It forbids outsiders from permanently settling, buying land, holding local government jobs, or winning education scholarships in the region. In addition, the government has also decided to split the state into two federal territories, one formed by Jammu and Kashmir, and the other consisting of the enclave of Ladakh. Now that Kashmir's special status has been repealed, this will legally allow Indian chauvinists to systematically buy up land and settle outsiders in this region and initiate a demographic transformation of the area from majority Muslim to majority Hindu.

2. Being fully aware that this decision must inevitably provoke a major uprising of the Kashmiri people and an international outcry of protest, the Modi government has launched a brutal preemptive strike against the people of the region. "As per the order there shall be no movement of public and all educational institutions shall also remain closed," the state government ordered for Srinagar, the capital of Kashmir, and surrounding areas. "There will be a complete bar on holding any kind of public meetings or rallies during the period of operation of this order." Private mobile networks, Internet services, and telephone landlines were cut; with only the one government-owned mobile network remaining operational. A number of prominent politicians in Kashmir were either arrested or put under house arrest. New Delhi has also deployed at least 10,000 additional troops within the last 10 days and a further 70,000 soldiers have been dispatched.

3. In just a few hours following the Indian govern-

ment's announcement, spontaneous protests erupted. In Islamabad, Hyderabad, Karachi and various other cities of Pakistan, demonstrations and public meetings were held in solidarity with the brothers and sisters of Indian-occupied Kashmir. In Lahore, one of the largest cities of Pakistan, the *All Pakistan Workers Confederation* organized a demonstration. In *Azad Jammu and Kashmir* – the Pakistan-controlled part of Kashmir – a general strike has been staged on 6 August in solidarity with the brothers and sisters. Former chief ministers of Indian-Occupied Kashmir, Mehbooba Mufti and Omar Abdullah, denounced Modi's decision saying "Today marks the darkest day in Indian democracy ... It will have catastrophic consequences for the sub-continent." Hours later, they were arrested by the Indian police. Reflecting the international outcry, particularly in the Muslim world, an emergency meeting of the *Organisation of Islamic Cooperation's* Kashmir-focused wing has been called for 6 August. There can be no doubt that Modi's historic attack on the Kashmiri people will provoke a new uprising as well as increasing military tensions and the risk of a war with Pakistan.

4. The *Revolutionary Communist International Tendency* (RCIT) and its members and supporters in South Asia express their full and unconditional solidarity with the oppressed people of Kashmir that are experiencing a historic assault on their existence. No one should be under any illusion: Modi's revocation of Article 370 is designed to be the beginning of an "Israeli solution" of Kashmir, the only state in India with a Muslim majority. This means that the BJP's goal is to systematically settle Hindu chauvinists in Kashmir and to expel Muslim people from the region – similar to the Zionists' policy against the native Arab population in historic Palestine. The purpose of such a Hindu chauvinist policy of ethnic cleansing is to transform the Muslim people of Kashmir into a minority in their own state.



Rally in solidarity with Kashmir (Vienna, 8.8.2019)

5. The RCIT and its Pakistani section have always given unconditional support to the liberation struggle of the Kashmiri people. Their land is divided and occupied by three powers – India, Pakistan, and China. The majority of the 14 million people live under Indian occupation; most of the rest live under Pakistani occupation. The people of Kashmir have always strived for an independent state. Since the beginning of the popular uprising in 1989 in the Indian-occupied part of Kashmir, nearly 100,000 Kashmiri Muslims have been killed by Indian security forces. In addition, nearly 10,000 women have been gang raped by marauding bands of Indian soldiers. Before the latest escalation, the Indian state had already stationed about 750,000 soldiers and police forces in Kashmir. This is an area that has a population of only 8 million. This means that there is almost one Indian soldier for every ten Kashmiris!

6. We call on the Indian workers movement and the left to mobilize against the ultra-chauvinist attack by the Modi government. An attack against the Kashmiri people is an attack on the democratic rights of all peoples in India. If Modi wins this battle his ultra-reactionary government will be strengthened in its struggle against the entire working class and oppressed of India. We appeal to the Indian left not to fall into the social-patriotic trap of “condemning the terrorism” in case of legitimate armed attacks by Kashmiri resistance forces against the Indian occupation (as it tragically happened in February this year after the Pulwama attack).

7. We reemphasize our support for the resistance struggle of the Kashmiri people in all forms against the Indian occupation. In our opinion, the most promising road to freedom is the *organized mass struggle of the workers, poor, and youth*. No one should trust the empty rhetoric of the bourgeois governments of Pakistan and other Muslim countries. It should be remembered how they have all payed court to the Chinese Stalinist-capitalist dictatorship and denied its brutal oppression of the Uyghur people in Xinjiang / East Turkestan! Alternately, it is urgent to build an *international solidarity movement of workers and popular mass organizations* in support of the Kashmiri people.

8. The RCIT and its members and supporters in

South Asia reiterate their support for the struggle of the Kashmiri people for national independence. Such a free and independent Kashmir should be a country controlled by the workers and peasants and not by a small clique of capitalists and landowners. This is why we fight for an *independent socialist Kashmir*, i.e. a *free, united and red Kashmir!* As Marxists we combine such a slogan with the perspective of a *socialist federation of South Asia*. We call on revolutionaries of the entire sub-continent to join us in the struggle to build a revolutionary party in Kashmir, Pakistan, India, and internationally. Only such a party can lead the liberation struggle of the working class and the oppressed people to victory!

\* \* \* \* \*

We refer reader also to other statements of the RCIT on this issue: RCIT: India-Pakistan: Defeat the War Mongers! Free Kashmir! 27 February 2019, <https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/asia/india-pakistan-defeat-the-war-mongers-free-kashmir/>

Michael Pröbsting: Kashmir: Social-Patriotism among the Indian Left. On the opportunistic adaptation of various “Stalinists”, “Trotskyists” and “Maoists” to the chauvinistic wave in the wake of the latest conflict between India and Pakistan, 02 March 2019, <https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/asia/kashmir-social-patriotism-among-indian-left/>

After the Killing of Burhan Wani: Long Live the Kashmiri Intifada! Organize the Workers’ and Popular Struggle to End the Indian Occupation! For a Free, United and Red Kashmir!, 21.07.2016, <https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/asia/kashmir-uprising/>

RWO: Pakistan – Prospects for revolutionary class struggle (2102), <http://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/asia/pakistan-action-program/>

Resolution on the Kashmir Question (2010), <http://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/asia/kashmir-resolution/>

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? (Chapter V) August 2017, Revolutionary Communism No. 71, <https://www.thecommunists.net/theory/china-india-rivalry/>

## Revolutionary Socialists in Kashmir Raise their Voice!

### Jammu Kashmir Revolutionary Socialists support the RCIT Statement on Kashmir

Announcement by the International Bureau of the Revolutionary Communist International Tendency (RCIT), 9 August 2019

**W**e are glad to announce that the *Jammu Kashmir Revolutionary Socialists* (JKRS) has declared its support for the latest statement of the RCIT on Kashmir! (See *India: Defend the Kashmiri People against Modi’s “Israel-Style” Attack!* 6.8.2019, <https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/asia/india-defend-the-kashmiri-people-against-modi-s-attack/>)

We had initially planned to publish this statement as a joint statement with the JKRS. However, due to the extraordinary severe security situation in the Kashmir region this turned out not to be possible as we were not able to contact the comrades in time.

Fortunately, the comrades of JKRS, with whom the RCIT has collaborated for a longer period, were able to contact us today and informed us that they fully support our

statement.

We consider this as an important development not only because of fundamental considerations but also because of the huge importance of the region. With the qualitative aggravation of the oppression by the Indian state, the Kashmiri people are becoming the *Palestinians of South Asia*. There can be no doubt that Kashmir will become a major flashpoint of the international class struggle and of world politics in general in the next period!

We call upon revolutionaries in Kashmir, Pakistan and India to join us in our struggle to rebuild a Revolutionary World Party – an international party determined to fight for socialist revolution in South Asia and around the world!

## India: Rally in Solidarity with the Oppressed People in Kashmir

Report (with Pictures and Videos) from a Rally in Vienna on 8 August 2019, Austrian Section of the RCIT

More than 100 migrants from Pakistan and Kashmir held a rally in the center of Vienna (Austria) to demonstrate their solidarity with people in Kashmir. The rally was organized by the *Pakistani Community Forum in Austria* – a federation of numerous migrant NGO's.

The rally was also addressed by a number of representatives of the migrant community. Our comrade Michael Pröbsting, International Secretary of the RCIT was asked

to give two speeches. He protested against the brutal oppression in Kashmir by the Indian army. He also called for an international solidarity movement with the liberation struggle of the Kashmiri people.

See pictures of the rally and video clips of Michael Pröbsting's speeches here: <https://www.thecommunists.net/rcit/rally-in-solidarity-with-the-oppressed-people-in-kashmir-8-8-2019/>



Rally in solidarity with Kashmir (Vienna, 8.8.2019)

## Books of the RCIT

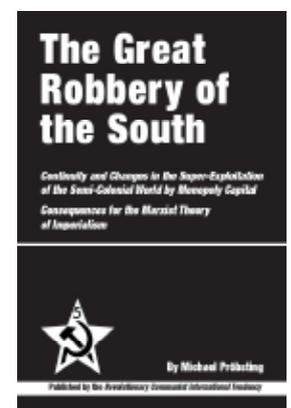
### Michael Pröbsting: The Great Robbery of the South Continuity and Changes in the Super-Exploitation of the Semi-Colonial World by Monopoly Capital. Consequences for the Marxist Theory of Imperialism

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)



# Modi Has Transformed Kashmir into a Huge Concentration Camp

*A brief commentary by Michael Pröbsting, International Secretary of the RCIT, 14 August 2019*

The worst thing in politics is to deny the truth. The truth is that the government of India, the world largest “democracy” (as we are told by some fools), has transformed Kashmir into a huge concentration camp. People’s homes have become their barracks which they are not allowed to leave. They are forced to starve and to live in complete isolation cut off from the world. If they look out of their windows they see streets full of heavily armed soldiers and razor wire.

No one should have any doubt: Modi is determined to implement an “Israeli” policy in Kashmir. He is determined to silence, humiliate, subjugate and finally expel the Muslim population in the region. He wants the Hinduization of Kashmir.

Modi is implementing his barbarous policy in open daylight. Everyone can see it and everyone recognizes it. But what is the world doing? In the “best case” some misnamed “world leaders” mutter a few concerns. Beside this, “the show must go on”. What a powerful lesson about the cynical nature and the greed for profit of the Great Powers which are dominating the world!

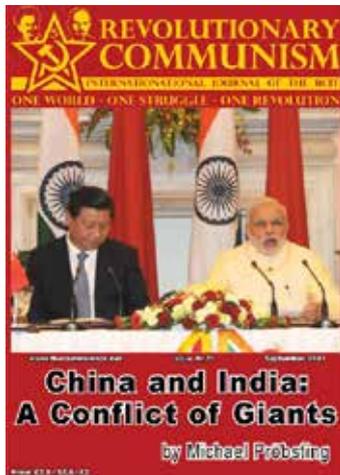
However, every pupil learns in school a basic law of

physics: Pressure creates counter-pressure. Can any serious person imagine that the heroic people of Kashmir will condone their extinction?! They did already prove their thirst for liberation when they sacrificed up to 100,000 martyrs in the uprising which started in 1988 against an overly powerful enemy!

Can anyone imagine that the defenders of justice and freedom around the world, all the righteous people – Muslim and Non-Muslim – will tolerate this barbarous act?! Modi and his fanatical henchmen might not be aware of it but as a matter of fact they have a target on their head from now on for the rest of their life.

Even the all-powerful Hitler had to learn this the hard way. Despite all his genocidal bigotry, the heroic Jews rose up in the Warsaw Ghetto, the oppressed people fought back and finally his Empire of horror was crushed. In the end he saw no alternative but to hide in his bunker in Berlin and to hold a gun to his head. Mr. Modi, start looking out for your own bunker!

Let us say it loud and clear: Kashmir is our second Palestine! Their liberation is our liberation!



## *Publications of the RCIT*

### **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?*

*A Pamphlet by Michael Pröbsting (International Secretary of the RCIT)*

*A RCIT Pamphlet, 36 pages, A4 Format*

**Introductory Remarks \* I. Recent Developments \* II. The Struggle for Domination of Bhutan \* III. The Background: Accelerating Rivalry between China and India in a Period of Capitalist Decay \* China’s Belt and Road Initiative \* India’s OCOR as an Alternative to OBOR? \* India’s Increasing Ties with US and Japanese Imperialism \* How are the chances in a military confrontation between India and China? \* IV. China as an Emerging Great Imperialist Power \* China’s Monopolies \* Super-Exploitation of the Working Class \* China’s Capital Export \* China as a Military Power \* V. India: A Peculiar Semi-Colony in the Role of a Regional Power \* A Brief Historical Review \* The Characteristics of India’s Semi-Colonial Economy \* India’s Economic Elites: Many ... and at the same time Few \* The Parasitic Nature of the Indian Bourgeoisie \* India as a Regional Power and an Oppressor State \* Brief Remarks on an Historic Analogy: The Ottoman Empire \* VI. Revolutionary Tactics in the China-India Conflict \* Appendix: Imperialist vs. Semi-Colonial State: Some Theoretical Considerations \* 1. What are the Respective Characteristics of an Imperialist vs. a Semi-Colonial State? \* 2. Is a Transition from Being One Type of State to Another Possible? \* 3. Is the Category of “Sub-Imperialism” Useful? \* Footnotes**

# China: Solidarity with the General Strike in Hong Kong!

## For an international solidarity movement as the Stalinist-Capitalist regime in Beijing prepares a brutal crackdown!

*Statement of the Revolutionary Communist International Tendency (RCIT), 01 August 2019*

1. The democratic mass struggle in Hong Kong is moving towards a denouement. The organizers of the mass movement and several trade unions – the Confederation of Trade Unions; unions of teachers, civil servants, airline and banking workers, etc. – are calling for a general strike on Monday, 5 August with parallel rallies at seven different points throughout the city. This will be the highpoint in the more than two-month wave of actions of Hong Kong's workers and youth against the extradition bill and the authoritarian Lam Administration.

2. These actions are in response to the accelerating state repression against the, mostly young, activists. Forty-three of them have been formally charged with rioting, an offence punishable by 10 years' imprisonment. However, given the massive support for the protests by the vast majority of the population, the Lam Administration has increasingly lost control. The brutal attack on demonstrators by an armed mob of Triad gangsters on 21 July, undoubtedly instigated and bankrolled by the regime in Beijing, reflects the inability of the Hong Kong police to bring the situation under control. In fact, dual power is fast emerging.

3. The Stalinist-capitalist regime in Beijing increasingly fears the consequences of these developments. This is not only due to the political and economic importance of Hong Kong but also because they fear that "*the virus of unrest*" could inspire dissatisfied Chinese workers, students, and peasants throughout the mainland. Hence, the regime has begun to denounce the mass protests as "*instigated by Taiwan and the US*". Beijing's foreign ministry spokeswoman, Hua Chunying, urged the US on 24 July to "*retract its black hand from Hong Kong*". General Chen Daoxiang, the commander of the People's Liberation Army's (PLA's) Hong Kong garrison, warned that the army is "*determined to protect national sovereignty, security, stability and the prosperity of Hong Kong*." (South China Morning Post: Chinese army's Hong Kong chief says troops are ready to protect nation's sovereignty, 01.08.2019) In fact, there exists a plan for the seven-step implementation of a PLA military intervention that would formally take place under the command of the region's police commanders (Asia Times: PLA's Hong Kong deployment plan revealed, 31.07.2019) Hong Kong's PLA garrison, currently 6,000 soldiers stationed in barracks, released a video on 31 July on its *Sina Weibo* account showing footage of "anti-riot" exercises. The martial propaganda video presenting trigger-happy soldiers preparing for the massacre of their own people can be viewed at: <https://youtu.be/onLNtu-FxSc>. (Global Times: Violence in HK touches bottom line, 'intolerable': PLA commander, 31.07.2019; Reuters: China's Hong Kong PLA garrison releases video with scenes of 'anti-riot' operations, 01.08.2019)

4. The *Revolutionary Communist International Tendency* (RCIT) strongly welcomes the decision of the organizers to call a general strike. Only the most reactionary lackeys of the Beijing regime can deny the heroic idealism of the

tens of thousands of young activists who courageously combat the attacks on democratic rights. There can be no doubt that the movement has made important advances in its level of consciousness. This is expressed in the increasingly popular slogan "*Liberate Hong Kong, the revolution of our times!*" This popular uprising has become a focal point of the world situation as it takes place in a key city of one of the two most important Great Powers. If the spark were to jump to the Chinese mainland and instigate a mass revolt of the workers and youth, this would transform the world situation with a single stroke!

5. However, it would be foolish to ignore the challenges and dangers. *Tempus fugit*. The regime in Beijing is strongly pushing for a prompt and violent suppression of the mass protests (preferably by the Hong Kong forces alone, but with PLA forces if necessary). Memories of the bloody massacre on Tiananmen Square on 4 June 1989 with several thousand killed reverberate! (This event was a decisive stroke in the counterrevolution that opened the road to capitalist restoration in the immediate following years!) It is urgent that the mass movement overcomes any local centeredness and actively raises the banner of democracy, not only for Hong Kong, but for the whole of China! This could easily be expressed in a companion slogan, "*Liberate China, the revolution of our times!*" Such an orientation must also include solidarity with the brutally oppressed national minority of the Muslim Uyghurs.

6. Hopes for any serious support from rival Great Powers are completely misplaced. In fact, the raisings the British or the U.S. flag by a few isolated activists are nothing but stupid provocations that are grist for the mill of Beijing's chauvinist propaganda. This is compounded by the fact that positive references towards these two states are entirely misplaced when their inept, reactionary, and hair brained leaders provoke only feelings of cultural superiority among ordinary Chinese people!

7. The general strike will be an important first step. Since the regime, however, must escalate repression in response, the movement must anticipate this and deepen the rhythm of its activities. It will be necessary to organize an indefinite general strike to countermand the extradition law and boot the Lam Administration. Furthermore, it is crucial to organize mass democratic assemblies in the workplaces, neighborhoods, and universities to broaden a discussion of the demands and tactics of the struggle and to elect delegates for a coordinating body of the entire movement. Likewise, workers and youth need an independent political body, i.e. a Workers Party, that is independent of the native as well as any foreign capitalist class.

8. It is extremely urgent to build an international movement in solidarity with the people's rebellion in Hong Kong! The RCIT calls on workers and popular mass organizations around the world to rally in support of their brothers and sisters! We strongly denounce the Stalinists that slander the protests in Hong Kong as "CIA plots". Naturally, any international solidarity movement

must oppose the anti-Chinese chauvinism of Western rivals. Likewise, it must denounce any imperialist sanctions against China as these do not serve the democratic struggle but only the chauvinist agenda of Great Power rivalry. Such sanctions will also help the Beijing regime to rally expressions of Chinese chauvinism and portray the suppression of the Hong Kong protests as flag waving “patriotic duty.”

9. The RCIT calls on activists to join us in building a revolutionary party, both in China and globally, based on an international and socialist perspective!

\* *Kill the extradition bill! Defeat the Administration of Carrie Lam!*

\* *Down with the Pseudo-“Communist” Capitalist Dictatorship in Beijing!*

\* *For a Workers and Poor Peasants Republic in China! For a Socialist Federation in East Asia as a first step to a socialist world!*

International Bureau of the RCIT

\* \* \* \* \*

The RCIT has published a number of booklets, statements, and articles on China that can be accessed on our website at <https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/asia/> as well as at <https://www.thecommunists.net/theory/china-russia-as-imperialist-powers/>.

In particular we refer to:

RCIT: China: Long Live the Popular Uprising in Hong Kong! After protestors storm the parliament: general strike against the

extradition bill and the Lam Administration! 03 July 2019, <https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/asia/long-live-the-popular-uprising-in-hong-kong/>

RCIT: China: Mass Protests against Reactionary “Extradition Law” in Hong Kong. For an indefinite general strike to kill the bill and to bring down the Administration of Carrie Lam! 18 June 2019, <https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/asia/china-mass-protests-against-reactionary-extradition-law-in-hong-kong/>

RCIT: China: Down with the Pseudo-“Communist” Capitalist Dictatorship! No to any imperialist Great Power – U.S., China, Japan, Russia or the European Union! For a Workers and Poor Peasants Republic! <https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/asia/call-to-revolutionary-activists-in-china/>

Michael Pröbsting: China: Defend the Muslim Uyghurs against Oppression! 18.10.2018, <https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/asia/china-defend-the-muslim-uyghurs-against-oppression/>

RCIT: Hong Kong/China: Long Live the Anti-Government Protests! For a General Strike against Police Repression and for Democratic Rights! Down with the Reactionary CCP Dictatorship! 2.10.2014, <https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/asia/hong-kong-protests/>

Michael Pröbsting: Anti-Imperialism in the Age of Great Power Rivalry. The Factors behind the Accelerating Rivalry between the U.S., China, Russia, EU and Japan. A Critique of the Left’s Analysis and an Outline of the Marxist Perspective, RCIT Books, January 2019, <https://www.thecommunists.net/theory/anti-imperialism-in-the-age-of-great-power-rivalry/>

Michael Pröbsting: China’s transformation into an imperialist power. A study of the economic, political and military aspects of China as a Great Power, in: Revolutionary Communism No. 4, <http://www.thecommunists.net/theory/why-china-is-imperialist/>

# Books of the RCIT

## Michael Pröbsting: Anti-Imperialism in the Age of Great Power Rivalry

The Factors behind the Accelerating Rivalry between the U.S., China, Russia, EU and Japan.  
A Critique of the Left’s Analysis and an Outline of the Marxist Perspective

In *Anti-Imperialism in the Age of Great Power Rivalry* Michael Pröbsting analyses the accelerating rivalry between the imperialist Great Powers – the U.S., China, EU, Russia, and Japan. He shows that the diplomatic rows, sanctions, trade wars, and military tensions between these Great Powers are not accidental or caused by a mad man in the White House. They are rather rooted in the fundamental contradictions of the capitalist system. This rivalry is a key feature of the current historic period and could, ultimately, result in major wars between these Great Powers.

*Anti-Imperialism in the Age of Great Power Rivalry* demonstrates the validity of the Marxist analysis of modern imperialism. Using comprehensive material (including 61 Tables and Figures), Michael Pröbsting elaborates that a correct understanding of the rise of China and Russia as new Great Powers is crucial for assessing the character of the current inter-imperialist rivalry.

In *Anti-Imperialism in the Age of Great Power Rivalry* Michael Pröbsting critically discusses the analysis of modern imperialism by a number of left-wing parties (left social democrats, Stalinists, Trotskyists and others). He demon-

strates that most of these organizations fail to understand the nature of the Great Power rivalry and, consequently, are not able to take an internationalist and revolutionary stance.

The author elaborates the approach of leading Marxist figures like Lenin, Trotsky and Luxemburg to the problems of Great Power rivalry and imperialist aggression against oppressed peoples. He outlines a Marxist program for the current period which is essential for anyone who wants to change the world and bring about a socialist future.

The book contains an introduction and 29 chapters plus an appendix (412 pages) and includes 61 figures and tables. The author of the book is Michael Pröbsting who serves as the International Secretary of the RCIT.

### Anti-Imperialism in the Age of Great Power Rivalry

The Factors behind the Accelerating Rivalry between the U.S., China, Russia, EU and Japan  
A Critique of the Left’s Analysis and an Outline of the Marxist Perspective



By Michael Pröbsting

Published by the Revolutionary Communist International of Workers

## Syria: The Fall of the Martyr City Khan Sheikhoun

**Despite this setback, the struggle against the tyranny of the Assad regime continues!**

By Michael Pröbsting, International Secretary of the Revolutionary Communist International Tendency (RCIT), 22 August 2019

The well-known city Khan Sheikhoun in the north of Syria is about to fall to the forces of the Assad regime. Nearly all of its 90,000 population have fled the city which has been annihilated by Assad's and Putin's bombers. A number of heroic liberation fighters are continuing the struggle in several pockets of resistance. However, the sad truth is that the overwhelming forces of the tyrannical regime were able to make an important advance in the Southern area of the Greater Idlib region.<sup>1</sup> Khan Sheikhoun has gained notoriety world-wide as it was hit by a chemical attack that killed more than 80 people of all ages in April 2017.<sup>2</sup> Despite its cynical denial, there is not the slightest doubt that the barbarous dictatorship of Bashar Assad bears full responsibility for this mass murder as it committed similar attacks on numerous other occasions in the past eight years.

### Heroic resistance

The fall of Khan Sheikhoun is the most serious setback since the Assadist forces launched their massive assault at the end of April on the last enclave of the Syrian Revolution in the north of the country.<sup>3</sup> According to official figures, 949 civilians have been killed since then and more than 850,000 people have been uprooted since the regime began bombing Idlib in February.<sup>4</sup>

The mujahideen, as the liberation fighters are called in Arabic, have resisted heroically against the overwhelming forces of the regime and its most important backer, Russian imperialism.<sup>5</sup> Young volunteers from *Hayyat Tahrir al-Sham* (HTS) have launched a number of martyr operations against the superior enemy. Hundreds, may be up to 2,000, rebels have died in the past three months defending

their people against the tyranny. However, they have been also able to inflict high losses to the enemy.

We send our most heartfelt condolences to the families and friends of the martyrs who have sacrificed their lives in the struggle against the tyranny!

However, thanks to the massive military assistance of Putin, the Assadist forces are far superior in terms of heavy weapons, artillery, tanks and air force. Russian and Assadist warplanes and helicopters are constantly bombing the villages and cities still under control of the rebels. Russia has not only military bases in Syria. Its Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov also admitted that Russia has military servicemen stationed on the ground in Idlib.<sup>6</sup> There can be no doubt that without the massive military support of Russia and Iran, the Assad regime would have been overthrown by a successful popular revolution many years ago!

### Turkey's role

The Turkish Erdoğan government plays a perfidy role. On one hand it claims to support the Syrian people against the Assad regime. As part of its treacherous Sochi deal with Russia, Ankara has established 12 military posts around the liberated territories in the Idlib region. However, its main interest is to make deals with imperialist Great Powers Russia and the U.S. It wants to subjugate the Kurdish people and it wants to receive modern weapons (like Russia's S-400 missile system) as well as foreign investment. The Syrian people are nothing but change in order to achieve these goals.

Furthermore, the Erdoğan government has started to expel Syrian refugees and to send them back to Idlib. Since the beginning of the Syrian Revolution in 2011, about 3.6



Rally in solidarity with the Syrian Revolution (Vienna, 19.7.2019)

million Syrian refugees have come to Turkey.<sup>7</sup>

As a result, Turkey refuses to give substantial military support to the liberation fighters. As a matter of fact, the Syrian rebels could break the air superiority of the Assadist and Russian bombers if they would get some modern MANPADS (mobile anti-aircraft weapons). But Ankara denies this as it does not want to offend its friends in Moscow. As a result, the rebels are forced to aim with outdated anti-aircraft cannons against the killer bombers. HTS fighters even successfully brought down one of these warplanes recently and arrested the pilot.<sup>8</sup> However, such symbolic victories are only a drop in the ocean.

### International solidarity movement

The duplicitous role of Turkey is a strong reminder that the popular masses must not rely on any capitalist power. Sure, the struggle for liberation needs modern weapons and one must try to get them from wherever it is possible (as long as no political strings are attached). But one must never subordinate a liberation struggle to the interests of a capitalist power!

The RCIT has always warned against any illusions in the Turkish government. We have denounced the Astana process from the very beginning as a conspiracy against the Syrian Revolution.<sup>9</sup>

We restate that the struggle of the workers and poor peasants must rely on its own organs, i.e. on democratically elected popular councils and a liberation army which is under control of the former. Furthermore, the Syrian revolutionaries must oppose all religious sectarianism (against non-Sunni minorities) as well as all forms of anti-Kurdish nationalism. A free Syria must be based on freedom and equality for all religious and ethnic groups!

In addition, the Syrian Revolution should be linked to other international liberation struggles – from Algeria and Sudan, Palestine and Yemen to Kashmir.

It is urgent to build an international solidarity movement in support of the ongoing liberation struggle in Syria. Socialists all over the world should work towards winning workers and popular organizations to join such a movement. Supporters of the Syrian Revolution must unmask the open or concealed support of the imperialist Great Powers and of many so-called “Muslim” dictatorships for the Assadist mass murder in Syria. Socialists also need to denounce the Stalinists’ support for the killer couple Assad and Putin.<sup>10</sup> They should also sharply criticize those leftists who have given up support for the Syrian Revolution in the past years.

The recent military setbacks must not dishearten the consistent supporters of the Syrian Revolution. Quite the opposite, the RCIT emphasizes once more that it is crucial that defenders of the Syrian liberation struggle join forces, irrespective of their political differences, and build an international solidarity movement!

\* \* \* \* \*

The RCIT has published a number of booklets, statements, and articles on the Syrian Revolution that can be accessed on a special sub-section of this website: <https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/africa-and-middle-east/collection-of-articles-on-the-syrian-revolution/>

### Footnotes

1 See on this e.g. Alex Torrell: Syrian War Daily, 21st of August 2019, <https://syrianwardaily.com/2019/08/21/syrian-war-daily-21st-of-august-2019/>; Syria regime forces take full control of Khan Sheikhoun, 22 August, 2019 <https://www.alaraby.co.uk/english/news/2019/8/21/syria-regime-forces-take-full-control-of-key-town>; Suleiman Al-Khalidi: Tens of thousands flee Russian-led onslaught on opposition enclave, August 21, 2019 <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-syria-security/tens-of-thousands-flee-russian-led-onslaught-on-opposition-enclave-idUSKCN1VB15Q>; Syrian rebel militants regroup in southern Khan Sheikhoun as regime troops advance on key town, 20 August, 2019 <https://www.alaraby.co.uk/english/news/2019/8/20/rebels-regroup-as-syrian-troops-advance-on-khan-sheikhoun>; Scott Lucas: Syria Daily: Anti-Assad Forces Retreat in Northwest After Turkey’s Intervention Blocked by Russia, Aug 20, 2019 | <https://eaworldview.com/2019/08/syria-daily-turkey-v-russia-regime-in-northwest/>

2 See on this e.g. RCIT: Out on the Streets to Protest against the Chemical Weapons Massacre by the Assad Regime! 5 April 2017, <https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/africa-and-middle-east/cw-massacre-in-idlib/>; Johannes Moraga: Syria: Was the Chemical Attack a “False Flag” Operation? Let’s make Syria the graveyard for Assad, Putin and Trump! Victory to the Revolution! 14 April 2017, <https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/africa-and-middle-east/syria-false-flag/>; see also: RCIT: Syria: Another Chemical Attack Massacre by the Assad Regime! Support the Syrian Revolution! No to the Astana Conspiracy of the Putin-Rouhani-Erdoğan Alliance! No to U.S., French or Israeli Attacks! 09.04.2018, <https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/africa-and-middle-east/another-chemical-attack-massacre-by-syrian-assad-regime/>

3 See on this e.g. RCIT: Syria: Defend Idlib against Assad and Putin! International Solidarity with the Liberation Struggle of the Syrian People! 08 May 2019, <https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/africa-and-middle-east/defend-idlib-against-assad-and-putin/>; RCIT: Save the Syrian Revolution! A call for international solidarity with the Syrian people in Idlib suffering from the barbarous onslaught by Assad and Putin! 04 June 2019, <https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/africa-and-middle-east/call-save-the-syrian-revolution/>; Michael Pröbsting: Syria: Heroic Rebel Fighters Wage Bold Counter-Attack. 22.05.2019, <https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/africa-and-middle-east/syria-heroic-rebel-fighters-wage-bold-counter-attack/>

4 Syrian rebel militants regroup in southern Khan Sheikhoun as regime troops advance on key town, 20 August, 2019 <https://www.alaraby.co.uk/english/news/2019/8/20/rebels-regroup-as-syrian-troops-advance-on-khan-sheikhoun>

5 On Russian imperialism and the Great Power rivalry in general see Michael Pröbsting: Anti-Imperialism in the Age of Great Power Rivalry. The Factors behind the Accelerating Rivalry between the U.S., China, Russia, EU and Japan. A Critique of the Left’s Analysis and an Outline of the Marxist Perspective, RCIT Books, January 2019, <https://www.thecommunists.net/theory/anti-imperialism-in-the-age-of-great-power-rivalry/>

6 Russia says it has military servicemen in Syria’s Idlib: Ifax, August 20, 2019 / <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-syria-security-russia/russia-says-it-has-military-servicemen-in-syrias-idlib-ifax-idUSKCN1VA14W>

7 Zeina Karam: As warm welcome chills, Turkey clamps down on Syrians, 2019-08-21 <https://apnews.com/6c1b47086fec41ce8e59cf-8c95815b47>

8 See Tom Perry: Syrian rebels shoot down government warplane in northwest, August 14, 2019 / <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-syria-security/syrian-rebels-shoot-down-government-warplane-in-northwest-idUSKCN1V412C>; Rebels down regime plane, detain pilot in northwestern Syria. Hayat Tahrir al-Sham downed a Syrian government plane and captured its pilot, in the first such incident in months, 14 August, 2019 <https://www.alaraby.co.uk/english/news/2019/8/14/rebels-down-regime-plane-detain-pilot-in-northwestern-syria>

9 On the RCIT’s assessment of the Astana deal see various articles on our website at <https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/africa-and-middle-east/collection-of-articles-on-the-syrian-revolution/>

10 See on this e.g. Michael Pröbsting: Stalinism: Assad’s Best Friends Forever, 3 July 2019, <https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/africa-and-middle-east/stalinism-is-assad-s-best-friends-forever/>

## Egypt: Rally on the 6th Anniversary of the Rabaa Massacre

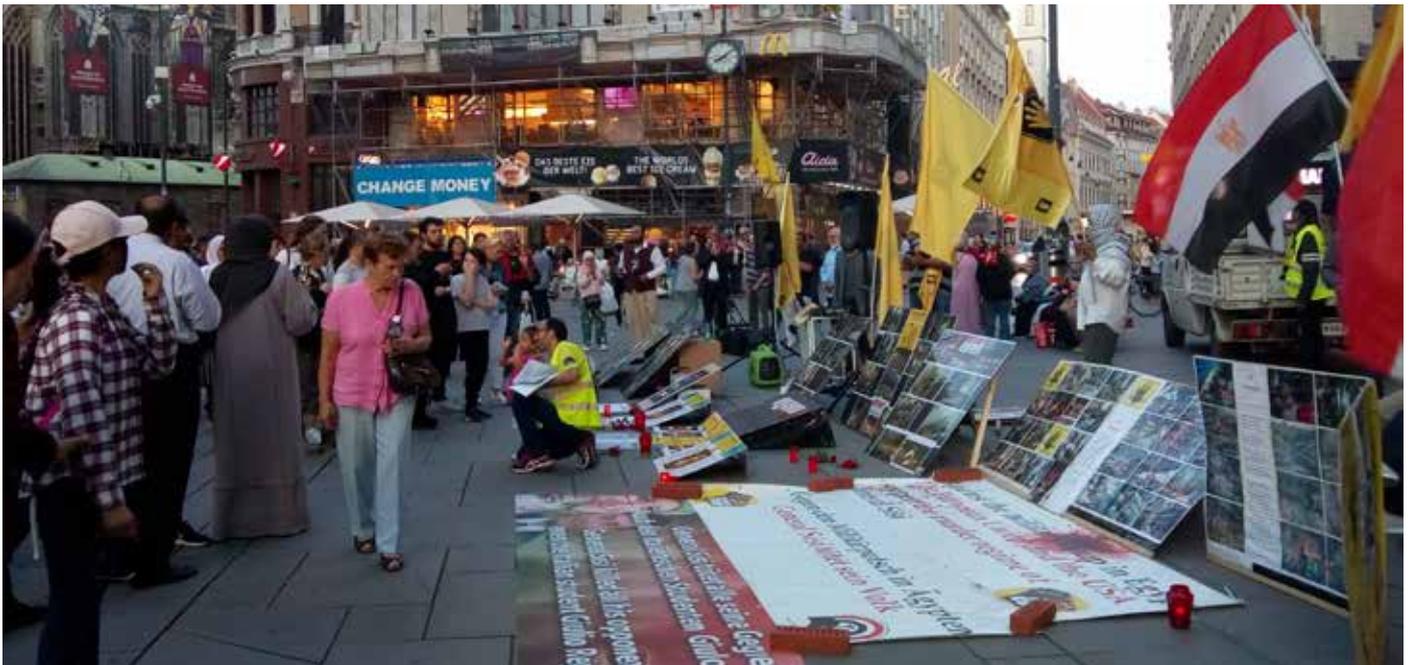
Report (with Photos and Video) from a Rally in Vienna on 14. August 2019, Austrian Section of the RCIT

The Egyptian migrant community organized a rally in the centre of Vienna to commemorate the 6th anniversary of the Rabaa massacre by the Egypt army. On 14 August 2013 General Sisi, who took power a few weeks before via a military coup, sent soldiers and bulldozers against protest camps with hundreds of thousands of people. This barbarous crackdown resulted in the murder of up to 2,600 demonstrators on a single day! Since then, the military dictatorship has transformed the country in a huge prison house.

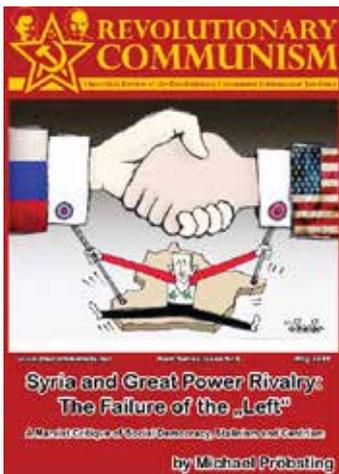
Activists of the Austrian section of the RCIT participat-

ed in the rally. Our comrade Michael Pröbsting, International Secretary of the RCIT, delivered a speech in which he sharply denounced the military regime. He also condemned the support for the regime by the imperialist Great Powers. Michael Pröbsting also denounced other barbarous acts like the current transformation of Kashmir into a huge concentration camp by the Indian Modi government.

See photos and a video clip of Michael Pröbsting's speech here: <https://www.thecommunists.net/rcit/egypt-rally-at-anniversary-of-rabaa-massacre-14-8-2019/>



Rally on the 6th Anniversary of the Rabaa Massacre (Vienna, 14.8.2019)



### Publications of the RCIT

## Syria and Great Power Rivalry: The Failure of the „Left“

By Michael Pröbsting, April 2018

*The bleeding Syrian Revolution and the recent Escalation of Inter-Imperialist Rivalry between the US and Russia – A Marxist Critique of Social Democracy, Stalinism and Centrism*

Introduction \* The liberation struggle of the Syrian people against Assad retains its just character \* Against all imperialist aggressors! \* Old and new Great Powers \* The Ex-Stalinist turned social democrats: “God save the United Nations” \* The Stalinists (and some caricatures in Trotskyist camouflage): social-imperialist servants of Assad and Putin \* The Morenoite LIT, UIT and FLTI: the heart on the right place but not their brains \* CWI and FT: failure to understand the imperialist nature of China and Russia \* CWI / SWP(UK) / FT: refusing to support the Syrian Revolution \* Conclusion \* Footnotes

*A RCIT Pamphlet, 24 pages, A4 Format*

## Brazil: Save the Amazon!

### Bring down Bolsonaro! No to any imperialist intervention in the region!

*Statement of the Corrente Comunista Revolucionária-CCR (Brazilian section of the RCIT), 24 August 2019*

Since taking office in January, President Bolsonaro has been criticizing the government's public officials who are responsible for protecting the environment, mainly in the Amazon. One of its first steps was to weaken state-owned companies responsible for protecting the environment and to forgive the debts of landowners and soy farmers while encouraging these sectors to commit environmental crimes. The minister responsible for environmental care, Ricardo Salles, against all scientific evidence, follows the lines of his chief president Bolsonaro and US president Donald Trump, that is, for him there is no process of global warming. Only a naive person could believe that any true environmental protection policy would take place with such people governing the country.

Let's get to the facts. On August 19, the population of the city of São Paulo and neighboring cities, the most populous urban region of South America with more than 20 million habitants, witnessed at 3 pm the day turn into night without any immediate explanation, causing fright and apprehension. A thick black cloud has broken over the region, and it is reported that in some places a dark rain has fallen.

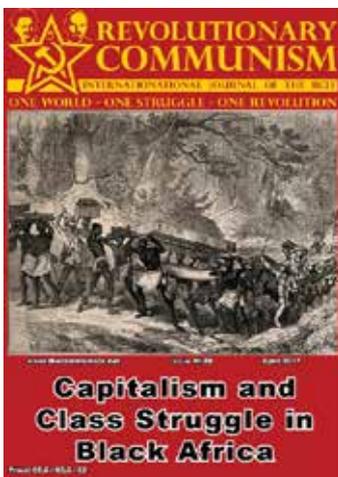
Hours later, the National Institute of Meteorology (INMET) confirmed that the smoke has been originated from burning at various points in north of the country, specifically the Amazon rainforest, in Brazil's triple border with

Bolivia, Paraguay. Experts say the darkness in Sao Paulo was caused by northern fires in conjunction with a cold front from the south.

There is no denying whose responsibility it is. Since the 2018 presidential election campaign, Bolsonaro has promised to put an end at any kind of environmental protection, to put an end in reservations for indigenous and quilombola's protection, and to encourage illegal gold mining and deforestation in favor of its agribusiness electorate, so it should not be a surprise to anyone.

Bolsonaro's cretin and cynical speech since the 2018 election campaign by proclaiming himself nationalistic, patriotic, and against corruption cannot be sustained by reality. The economic reforms are destroying the working class rights and the great privatizations already done and those still being prepared, put our richness directly in the hands of foreign companies, mainly of imperialist countries like USA, Europe and China. At the same time he and his family are totally involved with suspicions of strong links with Rio de Janeiro militias composed by ex-policemen. These militias has been in dispute against organized crime to control drug trafficking in the favelas, and are regarded as the prime suspects of the murder of Council woman Marielle Franco-PSOL, a case of international repercussion.

The Bolsonaro style of governing is crude, pathetic, rude.



## PUBLICATIONS OF THE RCIT

### 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**

He defends the torture practiced by the old military regime with tranquillity as if it were the most normal thing in the world. His speech against minorities (Indians, black people, LGBTs) is known worldwide. His hatred of the environment and the defense of deforestation was part of the electoral campaign speech. All this under the complacency of a bourgeois monopolistic press, the judiciary, the Supreme Court, all committed to the main objective of preventing the electoral victory of the Workers Party at any cost. All this with the complicity and support of the economic elites, the middle class, mostly white, racist, historically slave-minded, and unfortunately of a sector of the working-class dominated by deeply conservative fundamentalist Christian bishops. Today there is a phenomenon in the country in some urban peripheries: the right-wing poor people, that is, a certain section of the working class that defends an economic agenda against themselves.

In short, this government's policy is linked to its project of surrendering national assets to foreign capital. In the case of Amazonia Bolsonaro had already tried unsuccessfully to deliver the strategic *Alcântara Launch Center*. The *Alcântara Launch Center* has the same untapped importance as French Guyana's *Kourou Space Center*.

Faced with the tragedy of the Amazon forest fires, French President Emmanuel Macron is practically calling on the European Union and the G-7 to "appropriate measures" to contain the devastation. Macron went so far as to say that "our house is burning." At the same time the German press is calling for a strong boycott of Brazilian products. By the close of this article, Angela Merkel of Germany, Justin Trudeau of Canada, and even ultra-conservative Boris Johnson of the United Kingdom have voiced their condemnation of the astonishing increase fires in Amazon forest. The Finnish government, which holds the rotating

presidency of the European Union, wants the bloc to evaluate the possibility of banning beef from Brazil due to the devastation caused by burning in the Amazon. UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said he was deeply concerned about it. He stressed that "we can no longer afford damage to one of the largest sources of oxygen and biodiversity."

We, from the *Corrente Comunista Revolucionária-CCR* firmly reject any imperialist intervention supposedly to save the Amazon or any economic boycott sponsored by imperialist countries. However, we are in favour of actions of the international worker movement in support of the struggle of the Brazilian workers and poor masses to stop the criminal Bolsonaro government.

Our task is to denounce this government by calling the population, social movements, progressive parties to take to the streets and defend the forest against this far-right, traitorous, surrender government. It is necessary to call for an indefinite general strike, cancel the fraudulent elections that elected Bolsonaro, cancel all neoliberal economic mediations, such as welfare reform, release all political prisoners, including former President Lula da Silva, and call for a revolutionary constituent national assembly. We have to bring down the Bolsonaro's government and its vice-president general Mourão and at the same time have no confidence in any alliances with the traditional right that have done the 2016 coup that paved the way to the far right in the person of Jair Bolsonaro.

\* *National Revolutionary Constituent Assembly*

\* *Freedom for all Political Prisoners*

\* *Freedom for Lula*

\* *Build the general political strike to overthrow the Bolsonaro-Mourão government!*

\* *Convene popular assemblies in unions, workplaces and neighborhoods!*

## Books of the RCIT

### Yossi Schwartz: Palestine and Zionism

The History of Oppression of the Palestinian People.

A Critical Account of the Myths of Zionism

In *Palestine and Zionism* Yossi Schwartz provides a critical analysis of numerous Zionist myths about the Jews as well as about the Palestinians. He demonstrates that the Zionist claim that Palestine is the historic homeland of the Jews lacks any serious basis.

*Palestine and Zionism* shows that the history of Zionism in the 20th century is a history of colonialism in the service of the Great Powers and directed against the native population – the Arabs. In *Palestine and Zionism* Yossi Schwartz deals with key events – the "Nakba" in 1948, the wars in 1956, 1967 and 1973, more recent events like the Lebanon War, etc. – which were decisive for the expulsion of most Palestinians from their homeland.

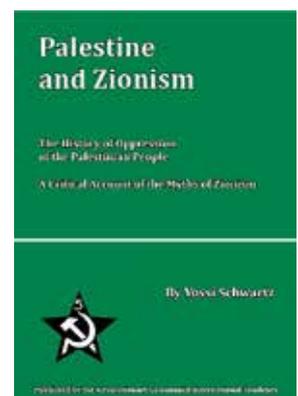
Yossi Schwartz also shows that the Palestinian people have heroically resisted against the occupation resulting in two Intifadas as well as the successful defense of Gaza against the Israeli aggression in three wars (2008/09, 2012, 2014). The author also analysis the shameful betrayal by the PLO leadership by signing the Oslo Agreement in 1993.

In *Palestine and Zionism* Yossi Schwartz defends the right of national self-determination for the Palestinian people and

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

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

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



## Kenya: Successful Event on the Pan African Women's Day

*Report (with Pictures) by the Revolutionary Socialist League (Kenya), 12 August 2019*

On Friday, 9th August 2019, the working class women in Kenya, led by the Revolutionary Socialist League, organised the Pan African Women's Day in Nairobi. The event was organized by the RSL in conjunction with the Social Justice Centers Working Group and the All African People's Revolutionary Party. It was held at the Mathare Social Justice Center. The theme was 'Organise! Educate! Liberate!' The commemoration of the day was attended by 150-200 people, mostly from among the comrades of the RSL as well as Social Justice Centers and a section of the urban working class dwellers.

The event was moderated by Irene Asuwa and Lena Anyuolo of the RSL, and the speakers included Julie Wanjira from the Mathare Social Justice Center and Njoki Wamai, a professor of political science from the United States International University (Nairobi).

Solidarity messages from the RCIT and the Venezuelan

people were presented by Irene Asuwa.

The event ended by the participants making a resolution to;

- 1) Build a strong proletarian women's movement in Kenya to spearhead the feminist struggle.
- 2) Join revolutionary organisations, such as the RSL, to advance the course of the liberation of not only the women, but the working class in general.

These resolutions were to be followed through by point men and women selected from amongst groups which people broke into.

The solidarity message from Almedina Gunić, the International Women's Secretary of the RCIT, can be read here: <https://www.thecommunists.net/rcit/rcit-greetings-to-pan-african-women-s-day-9-8-2019/>



Public meeting on Pan African Women's Day, organised by the Revolutionary Socialist League (Nairobi, 9.8.2019)

## Greetings from the RCIT to the Pan African Women's Day

*Message from Almedina Gunić, International Women's Secretary of the RCIT, 9 August 2019*

**I**ntroduction: The following message has been read out at an event in support of Pan African Women's Day. It was organized by the Young Socialist League in Kenya.

\* \* \* \* \*

Dear comrades, brothers and sisters!

All of us women from the working class and the poor – we live in a system, which exploits us, which oppresses us for what we are.

We are paid less money by the capitalists although we do the same work like men. As women in regions like Black Africa, Latin America, South and Central Asia we suffer from imperialist exploitation.

We are put under pressure to care for the household, for husbands and children and all others ... excluding ourselves.

As women we are told to do put energy into looking beautiful and lovely.

At the same time we are under danger to be attacked, to be forced to submit our bodies to the things some violent men want us to do. We are told to be nice and to remain silent because this is what "good girls" do. And you know what? This is bullshit!

Silence gives our capitalist oppressors time and space and power.

We are told to be caregivers, and we will give care. We will give care to all of our exploited and oppressed brothers and sisters in the world! We as women of the working class and poor are the ones to change the course of history. We are the ones to fight for the liberation against imperialism! We are the ones to smash the class system! Not just in one village, one city or one country – but all around the world!

The *Revolutionary Communist International Tendency* (RCIT) salutes all brothers and sisters fighting to end women's oppression. We fight for the socialist revolution and, comrades, there will not be a revolution without women like us! *Aluta continua!*

## Zimbabwe: Neoliberal Austerity means Misery for the Masses But also better life for the middle class and prosperity for the comprador bourgeoisie

By Daud Sibanda, Correspondent in Zimbabwe, Revolutionary Communist International Tendency (RCIT), 25 July 2019

History has taught us and the world over that neoliberal policies do not work for the poor but for the rich. What it does is that it widens the inequality gap between the poor and the rich. At the same time, it places the middle class in a better position and leaves them temporarily well off but not rich.

This vicious cycle repeats itself all over again endlessly with no permanent solution to the inherent problems and contradictions of system of capitalism. Capitalism only creates temporary reliefs and in the process creates new major complex problems.

In Zimbabwe we have seen financial and fiscal authorities/technocrats failing to learn from history and falling for the same trappings of the past mistakes made by their predecessors. It has been tried several times before to implement these neoliberal policies to no avail, without any positive results but only negative ones.

Currently we have seen the financial gurus, the so called technocrats adopting these neoliberal policies in the form of Zimbabwe is open for business, austerity for prosperity and a wholesome of other fiscal policies that have only aggravated the already bad economic situation and state we are in. This mess has just gotten messy, these are just but fancy changed names and nothing new. Churning one blueprint after another has become the norm especially in Africa, blueprints that don't address the real fundamental problems on the ground but issues to do with serving the interests of imperialists elsewhere and a few comprador bourgeoisie classes.

Unfortunately, poor people are the most exposed and af-

ected by these measures. Fuel has been increased twice, and we are experiencing a runaway inflation rate, ballooning by each day/month. The annual inflation rate hit 175 percent in June. (1)

Power load shedding and frequent water cuts have become daily food and a normal trend. Zimbabwe is generating less than half of its peak winter electricity demand. Its largest hydropower plant, Kariba, is operating at low capacity – officially due to a drought but in fact because of corruption and state incompetence. (2)

Prices of basic commodities are skyrocketing without any remorse or arrest measures in sight. Because of these measures the poor people can no longer afford a decent meal and can no longer afford decent transport to work. The state, despite increasing the fuel prices and leaving the people at the mercy of the cartel vultures, has introduced only a temporary relief in the form of cheap public transport. However, this is not enough to cater for the large numbers of the working people. Hence people shove and push to board these buses and some even get into the bus via windows. This is what the poor of people Zimbabwe have been reduced to – barbaric animals.

It is high time for socialists to organize and to fight against these never-ending series of neoliberal attacks!

### Footnotes:

- 1) <https://www.enca.com/business/zimbabwe-inflation-rate-soars-175>
- 2) <https://www.enca.com/business/zimbabwes-econet-weighs-drastring-measures-over-untenable-power-cuts>



### RCIT Africa Program

## Manifesto for the Revolutionary Liberation of Black Africa

Adopted at the 2<sup>nd</sup> 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

## Puerto Rico: US Colony in Revolt!

### Down with all corrupted capitalist politicians! For a workers and popular government!

By Yossi Schwartz, Revolutionary Communist International Tendency (RCIT), 12 August 2019

Last week the former governor of Puerto Rico Rosselló was forced to step down following weeks of massive anti-government protests. Protests were sparked by the release of private chat messages that exposed Rosselló and 11 top aides and Cabinet members exchanging profanity-laced, homophobic and misogynistic messages.

On July 21, 2019 Rosselló was forced to relinquish his role as president of one of the two main political parties in Puerto Rico and vowed not to seek reelection in 2020. But that was not enough for many Puerto Ricans. On July 22 hundreds of thousands paralyzed the capital, marching to call for the governor's immediate resignation.

During some of the protests, people chanted "*Ricky resign and bring the board with you!*" referring to the fiscal oversight board established by Congress to manage the island's horrible debt. Since its inception, Puerto Ricans have denounced the austerity measures imposed by the board — which is comprised of un-elected officials appointed by the White House.

Puerto Rico's unbeloved Justice Secretary Wanda Vázquez Garced was sworn in Wednesday afternoon as the third governor that island has had in less than a week. This is a reflection of the crisis of the junta serving US imperialism, facing the popular uprising.

Hours earlier, the highest court declared unconstitutional the governorship of former Gov. Ricardo Rosselló's hand-picked successor Pedro Pierluisi on grounds he had not been confirmed as secretary of state by both chambers of the legislature.

The Supreme Court decision in defense of the local capitalist system is not what the protesters demand. The decision is like replacing cholera with syphilis. Ricardo Rosselló was forced to resign because protesters have voiced opposition to him to Vázquez and Pierluisi.

The hated corrupted Pierluisi said on leaving that it is a time when we must all unite for Puerto Rico, leaving behind, ideological or personal agendas.

Vázquez said last Wednesday said in the statement released via Twitter that she respect the court ruling. Yes she respects the court acting for the ruling Junta but she has no respect for the majority of the Puerto Ricans still suffering from the effects of the, Hurricane Maria that violently hit the island in September 2017.

In April this year US President Trump lashed out at Puerto Rico's local lawmakers as grossly incompetent. Trump was reacting after the US Senate blocked billions of dollars in disaster aid for Midwestern states, in part because

Democrats said a proposed \$600 million in nutritional assistance to Puerto Rico fell short of its needs.

"*Puerto Rico got far more money than Texas & Florida combined, yet their government can't do anything right, the place is a mess — nothing works,*" Trump wrote on Twitter. He also stated, incorrectly, that Puerto Rico had received \$91 billion in aid from the federal government. In fact, the \$91 billion is the budget estimates of how much the island could receive over the next two decades.

At that time Gov. Ricardo A. Rosselló of Puerto Rico, the loyal servant responded to Trump, said: "*Mr. President, once again, we are not your adversaries, we are your citizens*". (1)

Trump has been widely criticized as too slow to help the devastated island. Aides and allies said that Trump had vented privately that Puerto Ricans had complained too much, and he had also noted privately that Hurricane Maria, which 3000 people as a result of the storm and its effects, was not as bad as Hurricane Katrina, in which 1,833 — were killed. Trump also implied that Puerto Rico was not part of the United States, noting that local elected officials "*only take from USA.*" Hogan Gidley, a White House spokesman, seemed to underscore the view in the White House that Puerto Ricans were not Americans when he twice referred to the island as "*that country*" during an appearance on MSNBC.

For weeks, Mr. Rosselló has asked the White House for a private meeting with Mr. Trump to lay out the island's case for why it desperately needs federal funds for rebuilding after Hurricane Maria. But Mr. Rosselló's request has gone unanswered, and he has tried instead to communicate with the president publicly, saying in cable news interviews, in official appearances and on Twitter that he fears Mr. Trump has been misled about Puerto Rico's needs.

#### Puerto Rico: an American Colony

On the eve of the Spanish-American war in 1898, Puerto Rico was in the process of becoming a sovereign and independent nation for the first time in its history since it was "discovered" by the Spanish in 1493. Before it was able to become an independent state, the American Navy bombarded the capital city of San Juan, exiling the Spanish leadership from the island, and imposed the American dominance.

The American imperialists invented a new term, "*estado libre asociado*" (freely associated state), in order to justify the colonial dominance over Puerto Rico. Cases like Puer-

## Comunismo Revolucionario

### Spanish-language Journal of the RCIT

Order the journal via our contact address: [rcit@thecommunists.net](mailto:rcit@thecommunists.net)

to Rico are known as the “Insular Cases”, i.e. territories of the United States that are nevertheless not considered to be “part” of the United States.

To justify the colonization of Porto Rico the people of Porto Rico were described as savages and cannibals. For example William B. Bate, former U.S. Senator for Tennessee and a major general of the Confederacy said: “*Masses of mongrels, “peoples incapable of self-government, “savages addicted to head-hunting and cannibalism.”*” (2)

In the 1930s the movement for national independence was crashed by the US federal government through overt censorship and the repeated jailing of revolutionary leaders, like Pedro Albizu Campo who was jailed in 1936 for organizing Puerto Rican workers. (3)

Nelson A Denis in his book “*War Against All Puerto Ricans: Revolution and Terror in America’s Colony*” documented the murdering, torturing, and imprisoning Puerto Rican patriots who demanded and fought for Puerto Rico’s right to self-determination. The leader of the independence movement, Pedro Albizu Campos, was imprisoned, tortured, and subjected to lethal radiation poisoning in his prison cell.

From the 1930s through the 1990s, the FBI kept secret files on over 100,000 Puerto Ricans. These files were known as “*carpetas.*”

As Nelson Denis wrote: “*The carpetas were given additional teeth by Public Law 53, which became known as La Ley de la Mordaz (the Law of the Muzzle). For 10 years, from 1948 through 1957, Law 53 made it a felony to say a word, sing a song or whistle a tune about independence. If you sang La Borinqueña, or owned a Puerto Rican flag, you could be imprisoned for 10 years. Today, many people complain about “government intrusion” into our private lives, as if it were something new. But it is not new. Puerto Ricans suffered all of this, and much worse.*”

### Perspectives

The political system of the island since the 1950s has been wholly determined by the question of the legal status of Puerto Rico. The two biggest parties of the island, the PNP and the PPD, share different views of what our relationship to the mainland United States ought to be. One party favors statehood, while the other favors the continued existence of the ethically repugnant colonial status. Puerto Rico’s colonial status means islanders pay every federal tax except for the federal income tax. Those who criticize Puerto Rico as “*enjoying the benefits of being American without paying the same taxes as everyone else*” completely miss

or ignore the basic fact that Puerto Rico does not enjoy any sort of congressional representation. Puerto Ricans who live in the island are also blocked from voting in presidential elections. (4)

The RCIT supports the right of self-determination of the Puerto Ricans. However to escape the US domination it is necessary to free the workers and the poor from the grip of the two capitalist parties and form a revolutionary workers party fighting for a workers and oppressed government as part of a world socialist revolution. Such a party will appeal to the workers and the oppressed in all the world and most importantly in the USA to prevent an invasion of the Island.

### Footnotes

- 1) Michael Burke: Puerto Rico’s governor to Trump: ‘We are not your adversaries, we are your citizens’, 04/02/2019, <https://thehill.com/homenews/news/437004-puerto-ricos-governor-to-trump-we-are-not-your-adversaries-we-are-your-citizens>
- 2) Andrés Ruiz Puerto Rico: The Last Colony Oct 5, 2017 <https://arc-digital-media/americas-historical-treatment-of-puerto-rico-shames-us-all-de51bbc78300>
- 3) Becky Little: Puerto Rico’s Complicated History with the United States, 22.09.2017 <https://www.history.com/news/puerto-ricos-complicated-history-with-the-united-states>
- 4) Andrés Ruiz Puerto Rico: The Last Colony

\*\*\*\*\*

We refer readers also to other articles of the RCIT on the United States:

Yossi Schwartz: United States: The Need for a Labor Party, 23 July 2019, <https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/north-america/united-states-the-need-for-a-labor-party/>

Yossi Schwartz: The Racists Who Attack Rashida Tlaib, 15.05.2019, <https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/north-america/the-racists-who-attack-rashida-tlaib/>

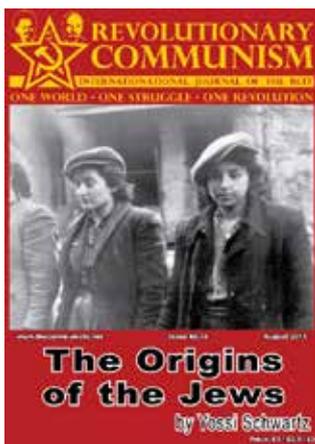
Robert Gibbs: The USA as a Settler Nation, 27 January 2019, <https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/north-america/the-usa-as-a-settler-nation/>

Yossi Schwartz: Massacres, Plundering and Land Grabbing: The Similarity and Dissimilarity between the U.S. and Israel, 27.11.2018, <https://www.thecommunists.net/theory/the-similarity-and-dissimilarity-between-the-u-s-and-israel-in-massacres-plundering-and-land-grabbing/>

RCIT: Central America / Mexico / U.S.: Solidarity with the Migrants’ Caravan! 01.11.2018, <https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/latin-america/central-america-mexico-u-s-solidarity-with-the-migrants-caravan/>

Michael Pröbsting: US Presidential Election: The Victory of Donald Trump is a Historical Turning Point, 09.November 2016, <https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/north-america/trump-victory/>

Adam Beltz and Nina Gunić: US: Michael Brown, Eric Garner, Trayvon Martin — For a Revolutionary Black Liberation Movement! 13.12.2014, <https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/north-america/ferguson/>



## Publications of the RCIT

# The Origins of the Jews

By Yossi Schwartz, July 2015

Chapter I: What are the origins of the Jews?

Chapter II: The Rise of Anti-Semitism

Chapter III: Anti-Semitism and Zionism

Chapter IV: The Russian Revolution:

Bolshevism, the Bund, and Stalinism

# Drilling in the Aegean: We do not fight for their Hydrocarbons!

## Intensification of the Rivalry between Greece and Turkey

*Statement of Kokkino Nima, 18 July 2019*

**Note of the Editorial Board:** *Below we publish a statement of Kokkino Nima, a Trotskyist organization in Greece. The RCIT strongly supports this statement as it elaborates a revolutionary and internationalist position of opposition against the militarist and chauvinist policy of the Greek bourgeoisie. The RCIT has always shared such an approach (see e.g. our article by Max Bonham: On the Escalating Greek-Turkish Tensions, <https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/africa-and-middle-east/escalating-greek-turkish-tensions/>)*

\*\*\*\*\*

### The Turkish drilling in the Aegean

With the recent beginning of the Turkish drilling in the west of Cyprus, the Greek-Turkish rivalry in the Aegean and the Eastern Mediterranean has accelerated. The meeting of the Foreign and Defense Governmental Council (KYSEA) on 16/6/2019, the statements of the Greek, Cypriot, Turkish and French governments, the debate in Brussels to impose financial sanctions on Turkey on behalf of the European Union are only a few episodes of the “series” that has been playing over the past few years in the whole region.

Bourgeois media, the Greek and Greek Cypriot bourgeoisie, and part of the Greek left, are referring to the Turkish drills in the EEZ as “Turkish aggression” against which Greece ought to “defend” itself. But is that the case? The events of the last few years, and especially the last few months, rather contradict this claim.

### Greece as a “strategic ally” of the United States

In recent years, with the role played by Greece in conditions such as the signing of the Greece-EU-Turkey Agreement that defines the role of NATO war ships in the Aegean, the agreement on the accession of North Macedonia

to NATO, with the announcement of new bases of NATO in Greece by the former SYRIZA government and the common war exercises with Israel, it is clear that the “strategic ally” of the US and the major powers of the EU in the Eastern Mediterranean is no longer Turkey, but Greece.

The signing of the EastMed pipeline (to export gas to Europe via Greece) last March, from the tripartite Greece - Cyprus - Israel - in the presence of the US, further strengthened the axis of Greece - Cyprus - Israel - Egypt. This project, combined with discussions about the Greek-Bulgarian pipeline IGB and the TAP pipeline, practically exclude Turkey from the East-West energy play. It is a game of billions of dollars worth of money for all involved parties.

Together with moves such as the May agreement on the docking of French warships on Cypriot bases, it is clear that Turkey is financially and militarily trapped, which has also been highlighted the bourgeois media, former government officials as well as prominent political representatives of the Greek bourgeoisie and its allies. The “race” for the extraction of hydrocarbons in the Aegean is part of this “great game”.

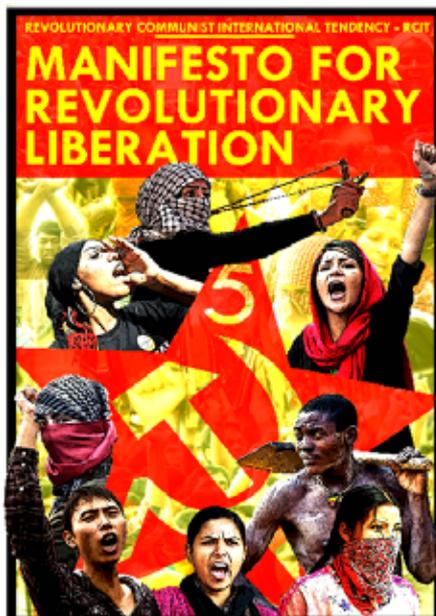
### The “race” for drilling

The Greek government, together with the main allies of Cyprus - Egypt, Israel, France and the United States – “delimit in practice” the EEZ, by signing “unilateral” conditions for energy (see EastMed) and making their military presence felt in the claimed areas of the Aegean.

Turkey, in fact, disputes the above “delimitation” by operating drilling and military ships in these areas.

The situation in the Aegean is out of control, especially since the profits of multinational giants such as Exxon-Mobil are at stake, on the one hand, and Turkey is excluded from the economic exploitation of energy resources in the Aegean, on the other.

Measures such as the purchase of Turkish S-400 from Tur-



## Program of the RCIT

# Manifesto for Revolutionary Liberation

*Adopted at the 1<sup>st</sup> 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*

key and the talk of imposing sanctions on Turkey in case it starts the drilling (including even exclusion Turkey from all “high-level dialogues” that hasn’t stopped till the moment these words are written) underline it. According to the Turkish Navtex drilling will begin by early September, despite the clear statements by France, Egypt and the State Department that this “illegal drilling” must stop.

It is clear that developments can become “hot” at any moment.

### The attitude of the Left

In such a situation, the attitude of the Left must clearly be the following:

a) *Against the extraction of hydrocarbons*: The billions of exploitation of the Aegean’s energy deposits will go exclusively into the pockets of the capitalist corporations and not of the laborers. The profit for capitalists does not mean a profit for the poor, as we have been experienced in Greece as the austerity continues despite the profits of the big Greek companies. Moreover, the Gulf monarchies are eloquent examples of the fact that under the domination of a bourgeoisie, petrodollars can very well be combined with extreme poverty and oppression. At the same time, the drilling in the Aegean poses massive dangers for environmental destruction in the Aegean.

b) *Against war and against all imperialist powers*: Greece is by no means “defending itself”. This is apparent from the fact that the new government of *New Democracy* continues the aggressive language of the former SYRIZA government. The narrative about “defending the homeland” in the event of an attack by Turkey is misleading, since in reality it is Greece which is currently the “strong player” with the support of the United States, Israel and France. No, Greece is currently not in a “defensive position” but

rather shows its “teeth” with having the highest spending on military equipment (as a share of GNP) of all NATO members and by expanding its military presence in the Aegean. An anti-imperialist position which refers exclusively to the “Turkish aggression” is misleading since that would conceal the Greek aggression (and at the same time the aggression of its allies such as the US and France).

c) *Against the own bourgeoisie at home*: The basic duty of the working class in each country is to oppose its national bourgeoisie since it alone can overthrow it. The left must not follow a policy of adapting to the interests of the Greek bourgeoisie in the name of a “Turkish danger”. Such a policy would essentially mean support for the increase of Greece’s capitalist profits as well as for its geopolitical adventures that could provoke military tensions or even war.

d) *International solidarity of the working class in each country*: Proposals from nationalist voices such as the “unilateral declaration” of the EEZ or the extension of territorial waters to 12 miles, which have recently embarked in public debates, are not only unscrupulous (the “Law of the Sea” international conventions do not actually support them, as if this were the case, the devotees of these views would have sought support from the International Court of Justice in The Hague long ago). Such chauvinist proposals are also detrimental to the Greek working class and, at the same time, to the workers of Turkey. The proclamation of EEZs in the way supported by the most rabid voices of the Greek and Greek Cypriot right means virtually complete exclusion of Turkey from any economic exploitation of underwater resources, and a drastic limitation of the cruise of Turkish fishermen to the Aegean.

In the next period, the Left must take united initiatives for real mass actions against the war. They must state clearly that “we are not fighting for their oil and not for extracting hydrocarbons in the Aegean!”

## Books of the RCIT

### Michael Pröbsting: Greece - A Modern Semi-Colony

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

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

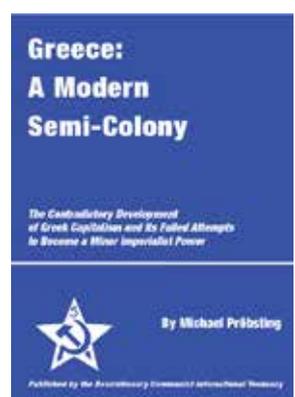
The following paragraphs are the back cover text of the book which gives an overview of its content.

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

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

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

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



# Britain: Boris Johnson Determined to Impose a No Deal Brexit

## Resistance on the streets and general strike to bring down this government!

By Joseph Adams, RCIT Britain, 13 August 2019

**B**oris Johnson who has succeeded Theresa May as Prime Minister and Tory leader has revenged himself on his opponents. He has sacked half the cabinet and appointed leading Brexiteers to important cabinet positions – including Dominic Raab as Foreign secretary and Priti Patel as Home Secretary. His government majority is down to one after the result of the Brecon and Radnor By-election where the sitting Tory was defeated by the Liberal democrats supporting a remain position. Politics in Britain is dominated by clear divisions between Brexit or Remain.

Dominic Raab, Johnson's Foreign Secretary, has stated it will be easier to negotiate with the EU after No deal on the 31<sup>st</sup> October thereby rejecting the EU's withdrawal proposals agreed with Teresa May.

*"Dominic Raab has claimed Britain will be in a better position to negotiate a "good deal" with the European Union if it crashes out of the bloc before the end of October. The foreign secretary believes a no-deal scenario could provide more leverage in the context of a free trade agreement and resolve long-standing issues such as the Irish backstop". [1]*

### The Threat to the Union

Johnson and the Brexiteers by proceeding on a course to crash out of the EU without an agreement threaten the United Kingdom. The *Act of Settlement* of 1701 established a union with Scotland, the other two nations of Wales and Northern Ireland became part of Britain later under devolved powers as did Scotland. Northern Ireland with the Good Friday agreement is now a power sharing authority with Britain temporarily suspended with direct rule from Westminster. All three countries voted with a majority to remain within the European Union in the 2016 Referendum.

Johnson has no mandate to enforce a no deal Brexit in those countries and faces massive opposition to his no deal scenario. Johnson has recently visited all these countries. He desperately needs the support of the Democratic Unionist Party, a right wing racist party in Northern Ireland, to have a majority in Parliament. Most of the Brexiteers want to reject the Backstop – a limited customs union agreed in the Good Friday agreement but opposed vehemently by the Brexiteers and the DUP.

*"Boris Johnson has said it is up to the EU to compromise to avoid a no-deal Brexit, after his demands for the backstop to be scrapped were met with a flat refusal from the Irish Taoiseach, Leo Varadkar. In comments that showed he is preparing to blame the EU if the UK ends up leaving without a deal, Johnson said he was not aiming for a no-deal Brexit but the situation was "very much up to our friends and partners across the Channel". A spokesman for Varadkar said: "The Taoiseach emphasized to the prime minister that the backstop was necessary as a consequence of decisions taken in the UK and by the UK government. "Noting that the Brexit negotiations take place between the UK and the EU, the Taoiseach explained that the EU was united in its view that the withdrawal agreement could not be reopened".*

[2]

Boris Johnson is facing the situation of the breakup of the Union. The Backstop or limited customs union if dead will mean a reversion to a hard border between England and Ireland an EU state and problems this will cause problems for the British bourgeoisie as well as the Irish bourgeoisie.

In Northern Ireland Sinn Fein, which is part of the power sharing government with the DUP and a petit bourgeoisie party, has stated that if a no deal proceeds on the 31<sup>st</sup> October the Northern Ireland electorate should have a ballot to decide on reunification of Ireland as the Irish electorate did not vote for Brexit but the opposite to remain the EU.

*"It would be "unthinkable" if a no-deal Brexit was not followed by a poll on Irish reunification, the leader of Sinn Fein has warned Boris Johnson, also telling the prime minister that no one believed he was impartial on Northern Ireland. In the longer term, we have advised him that constitutional change is in the air. He can't say that he hasn't been told," Mary Lou McDonald said after meeting Johnson at Stormont on Wednesday morning any Brexit but particularly no deal, "represents in anybody's language a dramatic change of circumstances on this island, and ... it would be unthinkable in those circumstances that people would not to be given the opportunity to decide on our future together", McDonald said". [3]*

### A Second Referendum in Scotland over Independence

Nicola Sturgeon, the leader of the Scottish National Party and First Minister in Scotland, is opposed to a no deal scenario and wants a close relationship with the European capitalists and bourgeoisie. After Boris Johnson visited Scotland she told him that Scotland voted for a Remain position opposed to the Brexit position advocated by Johnson and his supporters. It is the ruling class in the upper echelons of the SNP who believe a second referendum is the only way to be part of the European Union and break away from Britain.

*"Scotland's first minister, Nicola Sturgeon has written to Boris Johnson to tell him that she is "looking forward" to discussing with him her proposals for a second independence referendum. Using her first letter to the new prime minister to remind him of Scottish government analysis which found that a no-deal Brexit could cost 100,000 jobs across Scotland, she writes: "Given your public comments about leaving the EU on October 31 with or without a deal, "come what may" and "do or die it is now – more than ever – essential that in Scotland we have an alternative option. Stating that her government would continue the parliamentary progress of legislation to enable a second referendum on independence, which Sturgeon has indicated she would like to hold before 2021, she tells Johnson: "The right of the people of Scotland to determine their own future is a basic democratic principle that must be respected." [4]*

Sturgeon's real reason is the survival of the capitalist class in Scotland and for that purpose she needs Scotland as an independent country within in the European Union. Her bleeding heart about Scottish jobs is so much window

dressing and not to be believed.

Under such circumstances such a second referendum on independence in fact becomes a referendum about membership in Britain or in the European Union. In other words, it would be a referendum about membership in one or another imperialist state. Marxists can not support any of these two options. During the first referendum in 2014 there existed arguments to lend critical support for independence given the significant support this option had among the politically active sectors of the working class. However, as things are today, we would under such circumstances not advocate neither “independence” (i.e. membership in the EU) nor remaining in the United Kingdom.

### A General Election is imminent

Boris Johnson faces a number of obstacles but he could still remain as Prime Minister even if a no confidence motion was successful. Johnson has very close relations with Nigel Farage. Farage is the leader of the Brexit party which counts racists and fascists amongst their members responsible for assaults and physical attacks against migrants and Muslims in Britain. We have fixed term parliaments and as Teresa May found out to her costs this is a parliament supporting the remain position.

Johnson’s government is Islamophobic and racist creating concentration camps like Belmarsh and Yarlswood where many migrants and refugees are incarcerated without trial or due process. The Immigration Service and the Home Office secretly locks migrants and refugees away removes their visas and then deports them back to countries where they are likely to be executed or shot.

If Johnson fails to get the support from parliament he may call a snap General Election. The main opposition party, the Labour Party, is riven by being a split Party between the neoliberal Blairite wing led by Tom Watson, the deputy leader, and Jeremy Corbyn. Corbyn is a left reformist leader who remains a hostage to the right wing and is unable to break out of the noose they have put around him. At all costs Watson and his cronies must stop Corbyn

remaining leader and for an election under his leadership. The PLP is composed of careerists and opportunist former Blairites who favour alliances with the SNP, Liberal Democrats and other bourgeois capitalist parties. This is why they have witch-hunted Corbyn’s supporters with the absurd accusation of “anti-Semitism” and got many either suspended or expelled from the Labour Party. Socialism is anathema to these Blairites. They need to turn the party into a fully acceptable instrument for the ruling class.

*“The aim of the Zionists and Blairites is to use antisemitism as a weapon to drive out all pro-Corbyn supporters and socialists in the Labour party and turn the Labour party once more into a pro-capitalist and pro-austerity party tied to British imperialism. Anti-Semitism is a red herring used by the pro-imperialists in the Labour party like Blair, Watson and others to prevent the election of a Corbyn-led anti-austerity government. The Blairites and Zionists have strong connections with Mossad, the secret intelligence service of the Israeli state, and are determined to purge the Labour party of socialists and anyone who criticises Zionism or the state of Israel”.* [5]

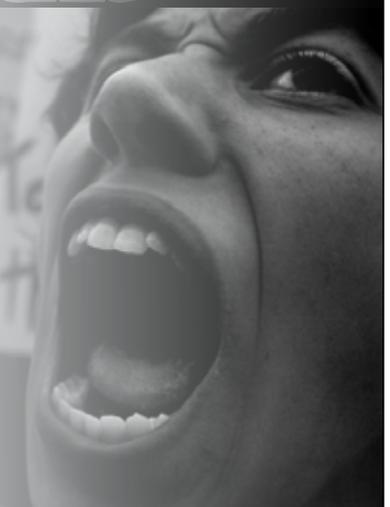
The Blairites know that with trigger ballots their days as MP’s are over. Their main task is to form alliances with Anti-Brexit Tories the SNP and the Liberal Democrats to form a possible National government but at all costs stop the election of a Corbyn-led government. John McDonnell has stated that to prevent a hard Brexit that Jeremy Corbyn should form a caretaker government and call on Her Majesty the Queen to install Corbyn as ca caretaker Prime Minister.

*“John McDonnell has doubled down on his pledge that Labour would reject a government of national unity and instead would push for Jeremy Corbyn to form a government or for a general election, in a move that appeared to stymie plans being prepared by Tory rebels. McDonnell told audience at an Edinburgh festival fringe event that it would be unsustainable for Boris Johnson to remain as prime minister if he no longer had a Commons majority. The shadow chancellor said that if the Conservative leader failed to quit he would not “want to drag the Queen into this but [he] would be sending Jeremy Corbyn in a cab to Buckingham Palace to say ‘we’re taking over”.* [6]

## Pamphlets on the EU and Brexit

- \* **Marxism, EU and Brexit**
- \* **The British Left and the EU-Referendum**
- \* **The Reformist Pipe Dream of a “Socialist” European Union**

Written by Michael Pröbsting  
(International Secretary of the RCIT)



### Neither Remain or Brexit! For Revolutionary Defeatism!

The RCIT has stated on previous occasions that Brexit is a reflection of the global crisis of capitalism as well as of the accelerating rivalry between imperialist states.

*"The upcoming elections in the European Union take place in a climate of crisis and decay. The looming next Great Recession has already resulted in the decline of industrial production in Germany and Italy. The never-ending Brexit crisis is a direct expression of the conflict between warring camps of the ruling classes of Europe". [7]*

Revolutionaries should help the workers vanguard not to follow any bourgeois imperialist camp. No support for an independent imperialist national state (Brexit) nor for staying within the imperialist European Union (Remain). We advocate instead a revolutionary defeatist position against both bourgeois imperialist options. We call socialists to campaign for abstention in any referendum on EU membership and for independent and international class struggle.

In this period of great changes, conflicts and immense revolutionary possibilities the RCIT in Britain calls for maximum unity of revolutionary activists. The RCIT believes that this can only be done with a daring perspective for revolutionary change.

The RCIT in Britain puts forward the following transitional demands.

*\* Expel Tom Watson and his gang of wreckers from the Labour Party. Close down all disciplinary procedures and committees and reinstate all socialists expelled back into membership of the Labour Party. Critical support for a Corbyn-led Labour Party in*

*case of general elections!*

*\* For Open Borders - no immigration controls! Migrants and refugees to speak their own language and wear their own dress and practice their own religion. No to Islamophobia and racism. For armed defence guards to protect communities threatened with fascist or police provocation.*

*\* For a Free Red Palestine from the River to the Sea.*

*\* For a general strike and to bring down this reactionary and racist government.*

*\* No to Remain or Brexit. Abstention in case of a new referendum on EU membership.*

*\* For a Revolutionary Workers Government. For a United Socialist States of Europe. Build the 5<sup>th</sup> International. Join the RCIT in Britain.*

#### Footnotes

- 1) <https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2019/jul/29/dominic-raab-uk-will-be-better-able-to-negotiate-with-eu-after-no-deal-brexite>
- 2) <https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2019/jul/30/johnson-varadkar-clash-over-irish-backstop-phone-call-brexite>
- 3) <https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2019/jul/31/sinn-fein-border-poll-ireland-unity-must-follow-no-deal-brexite>
- 4) <https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2019/jul/25/nicola-sturgeon-calls-for-new-scotland-independence-vote>
- 5) <https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/europe/uk-defend-chris-williamson-and-others-against-the-zionist-witch-hunt/>
- 6) <https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2019/aug/07/labour-prefers-election-to-unity-government-to-stop-hard-brexite>
- 7) <https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/europe/socialists-and-the-eu-elections-2019/>

# 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.

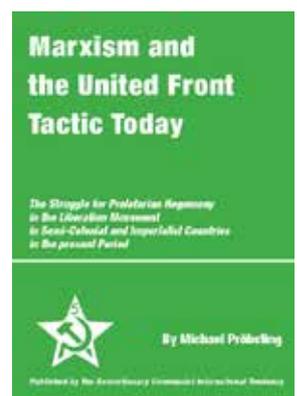
The following paragraphs are the back cover text of the book which give an overview of its content.

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.



# 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 5<sup>th</sup> Workers International on a revolutionary program! Join the RCIT!

*No future without socialism!*

*No socialism without a revolution!*

*No revolution without a revolutionary party!*

