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Workers and Oppressed Unite!

English-Language Journal of the Revolutionary Communist International Tendency (RCIT), No. 103, March 2020

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Picture on the Cover: Chinese policemen patrolling at the Wuhan Tianhe Airport, https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/c/c9/Policemen_wearing_masks_patrolling_Wuhan_Tianhe_Airport_during_Wuhan_coronavirus_outbreak.jpg

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

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Syria: Don't Let Idlib Die!

Support the heroic Syrian people fighting in the last trenches against the barbarous onslaught by Assad and Putin!

Statement of the Revolutionary Communist International Tendency (RCIT), 10 February 2020

The barbarous killing machine under the command of Assad, Putin and Rouhani rolls without mercy over village after village, town after town. Faced with superior Russian Air Force, Iranian militias and heavy artillery and left without any support from abroad, the Syrian liberation fighters are forced to retreat more and more. In the last weeks, we saw the loss of Maarat al-Numan and Saraqib. Other towns might follow soon.

People are fleeing in panic as they don't want to live under the conditions of the brutal tyranny of Assad which has murdered hundreds of thousands Syrians in the last years. According to United Nations, nearly 700,000 civilians have been displaced since early December, including nearly 100,000 in the last week alone – 80 percent of them women and children!

No doubt, this is the final battle of the Syrian Revolution! If the liberation forces don't succeed in stopping the assault now, the Syrian Revolution – one of the longest revolutionary struggles in modern history beginning in March 2011 – will be finally crushed.

The Turkish government of Erdoğan is facing a huge dilemma. It wants to keep its alliance with imperialist Russia at any cost. On the other hand, if Assad is allowed to conquer Idlib Erdoğan would have to deal with additional millions of Syrian refugees – in addition to the 3.5 millions who are already living in Turkey. Hence, Erdoğan conducts cynical zigzag manoeuvres like the Astana and Sochi deals, sending 2,500 Syrian fighters to Libya (when, at the same time, Idlib is about to fall!), and threatening Assad by sending Turkish military to Idlib. It should be clear now to everyone that Erdoğan is a “guardian of the Muslim ummah” in words only. In contrast, Erdoğan is a friend of Putin – the butcher of the Chechen and the Syrian people – in deeds!

The rallying cry of the workers and popular organizations around the world must be now: “Don't Let Idlib Die!” The *Revolutionary Communist International Tendency* (RCIT) calls for international solidarity with the Syrian people and the heroic liberation fighters. Contrary to the Islamophobic defamations of the Stalinist and semi-Stalinist friends of Putin and Xi, contrary to the arrogant silence of liberals and pseudo-socialist centrists – the truth is that the struggle of the Syrian people is “a war of liberation and independence”. It is a just popular struggle against the Assad tyranny which is a mere puppet of Russian imperialism and the Iranian dictatorship.

The RCIT denounces the dirty deals of Erdoğan with Putin and Rouhani! We say: if Turkey wants to help the Syrian Revolution, it should immediately scrap the deals of Astana and Sochi and stop sending Syrian fighters to Libya. Instead of sending military convoys to build useless military posts in Idlib, it should give state-of-the-art arms to the rebels so that they can bring down the Russian warplanes and destroy the heavy artillery and tanks of the enemy.

We warn that the Turkish army in Idlib should not be trusted. Since Erdoğan desires to keep his alliance with Putin the butcher, it is quiet likely that he will strike again a treacherous deal against the Syrian Revolution. As a result the Turkish troops could be used to expel, disarm or crush the Syrian liberation fighters and to hand over parts of Idlib to the regime.

We appeal once more to all authentic socialists, consistent democrats and all righteous Muslim and non-Muslim people to stand by the Syrian people in this difficult time! We reiterate our call from June 2019 and urge those forces to unite in organizing a global solidarity campaign in defense of the Syrian Revolution. We propose that such an international united front campaign should focus on the following:

* *Organization of global days of solidarity action.*

* *Obstruction of all efforts to support and legitimize the Assad regime.*

* *Stepped up pressure on governments, especially in Europe, to open borders for refugees.*

* *Support efforts for humanitarian aid for the civilian population in Idlib.*

* *Support for the legitimate right of Syrian liberation fighters to acquire material aid (including weapons and volunteers) to defend themselves against the barbarous onslaught by Assad and Putin.*

* *Organization of a political struggle against the pro-Assadist and Islamophobic criminal forces that are slandering the struggle of the Syrian people for their freedom.*

Brothers and sisters, we appeal to you not to abandon the Syrian people in this most difficult hour! Rally now under the slogan: Defend Idlib - Defeat Assad and the Russian-Iranian Occupiers! Don't Let Idlib Die!

International Bureau of the RCIT

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/>. Our call “Save the Syrian Revolution!” has been published in six languages and can be read here in English: <https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/africa-and-middle-east/call-save-the-syrian-revolution/>.

Syria: How Much Does the Pentagon Pay for the YPG?

On the regular subsidies of U.S. imperialism for its mercenaries in Syria

By Michael Pröbsting, International Secretary of the Revolutionary Communist International Tendency (RCIT), 24.2.2020

As it is well known, U.S. imperialism controls the Eastern part of Syria (about 1/3 of the whole country). They did achieve this under the pretext of the so-called “War on Terror” against the reactionary forces of Daesh/IS. While the U.S. provided the air force, artillery and Special Forces, most troops under the command of the Pentagon were not Americans but fighters of the Kurdish YPG/SDF. The YPG provides until today the main forces for the U.S. control of Eastern Syria.

In the history of colonialism and imperialism, it has been often the case that the masters did not use their own troops to achieve their goals but rather local forces. They are usually cheaper than the own imperialist soldiers and, furthermore, reducing the potential losses among them also reduces the potential political costs at home.¹ Hence, the British colonialists often used Indian troops for their military operations in South Asia. The U.S. has strongly relied on their Afghan allies since the beginning of their occupation in 2001. In the case of Syria it is the Kurdish YPG which provides the main contingent of the U.S.-led forces on the ground. In fact, the YPG/SDF acts as mercenaries for U.S. imperialism in Syria.

Naturally, mercenaries are not for free but have to be paid. Recently published articles revealed how much U.S. imperialism is paying for its allies in Syria. According to this information, the Pentagon plans to spend \$900 million in the so-called fight against Daesh/IS in 2021. This means a 30% cut from current year levels – reflecting the increasing difficulties of U.S. imperialism to keep the level of global engagement of its military. In fact, as the RCIT has repeatedly pointed out, the U.S. is a Great Power which is in decline as its days as absolute hegemon are over.²

The largest part of the Pentagon’s budget for this purpose, \$645 million, shall go to the Iraqi forces allied to the U.S. As it is well known, U.S. influence in Iraq is crucial for Washington in its conflict with Iran.³

\$200 million of the Pentagon’s Anti-IS budget shall be paid for the YPG/SDF.⁴ That sum should finance about 10,000 YPG/SDF fighters plus weaponry. This year, the YPG/SDF received \$300 million from the Pentagon.⁵

There can be no doubt that the total sum which the YPG/SDF gets from U.S. imperialism is higher. First, there are also other U.S. departments which support these merce-

naries. Among them are the U.S. State Department, the CIA as well as other U.S. agencies. In addition, there are also hidden payments. For example, in a recently released audit, “the Defense Department’s inspector general said the special operations joint task force for the US-led defeat-IS mission failed to properly account for nearly \$716 million in American taxpayer-funded weapons for the Syrian opposition.”⁶

These figures are not surprising for Marxists. They confirm once more that the YPG/SDF acts as mercenaries for U.S. imperialism. It is a shame that irrespective of their role as “*Servants of the Dollar*”, numerous so-called “left-wing” parties and groups still uncritically hail the YPG leadership as “*progressive*”, “*internationalist*” or even “*socialist*”. In fact, the YPG leadership betrayed the interests of the Kurdish liberation struggle as they failed to link this with the Great Arab Revolution which started in 2011. Instead they rather looked for a deal with the Assad dictatorship and offered their service to U.S. imperialism.⁷

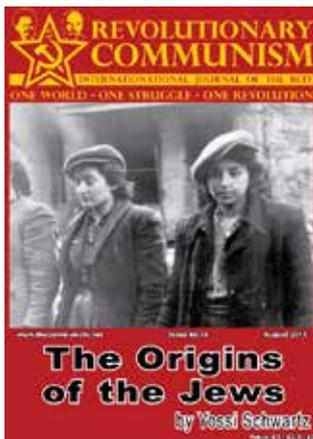
We repeat that it is the duty of authentic democrats and socialists to support the popular uprising in Syria and other countries in the Middle East and to combine them with an anti-imperialist strategy directed both against U.S. as well as Russian imperialism.⁸

Footnotes

1 As we have pointed out in past works, degenerated Western imperialist societies today have a pretty low acceptance limit for losses of their own soldiers. They are willing to kill indiscriminately people in the South but are highly sensitive for losing some of their own. Israel lost the Lebanon War in 2006 against Hezbollah because the public opinion felt that 121 dead Israeli soldiers were too many. For more on this see e.g. the chapter “*The Moral Crisis in the Western Imperialist Countries*” (pp. 229-230) in our book by Michael Pröbsting: *Anti-Imperialism in the Age of Great Power Rivalry. The Factors behind the Accelerating Rivalry between the U.S., China, Russia, EU and Japan. A Critique of the Left’s Analysis and an Outline of the Marxist Perspective*, RCIT Books, January 2019, <https://www.thecommunists.net/theory/anti-imperialism-in-the-age-of-great-power-rivalry/>

2 See on this e.g. the above mentioned book “*Anti-Imperialism in the Age of Great Power Rivalry*”.

3 See on the confrontations between the US and Iran the following RCIT statements: *The U.S. Aggression against Iran and Revolutionary Tactics. Defend Iran against any imperialist aggression! But no political support for the reactionary Mullah Regime in Teheran! Continue the popular liberation struggles of the*



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

Syrian, Iraqi, Yemeni and Iranian people!, 06 January 2020, <https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/africa-and-middle-east/the-u-s-aggression-against-iran-and-revolutionary-tactics/>; Yossi Schwartz: Iraq: Down with U.S. Imperialism, 31.12.2019, <https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/africa-and-middle-east/iraq-down-with-u-s-imperialism/>; Michael Pröbsting: What did the latest Near-War between the U.S. and Iran Reveal? Some Notes on the Inner Contradictions of the US Policy in the Middle East, 11 January 2020, <https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/africa-and-middle-east/what-did-near-war-between-u-s-and-iran-reveal/>; Michael Pröbsting: Iranian General Soleimani: Neither Anti-Imperialist nor Pro-People, 14 January 2020, <https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/africa-and-middle-east/iranian-general-soleimani-neither-anti-imperialist-nor-pro-people/>; Aramco Attack: Defeat the US/Saudi/Israeli Warmongers! Defend Iran against any imperialist aggression! But no political support for the reactionary Mullah Regime in Teheran! 16 September 2019, <https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/africa-and-middle-east/aramco-attack-defeat-the-us-saudi-israeli-warmongers/>; Strait of Hormuz: Escalating Tensions between the US/UK and Iran. Drive the Great Powers out of the Middle East! But no political support for the reactionary Mullah Regime in Teheran! 22 July 2019, <https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/africa-and-middle-east/escalating-tensions-between-the-us-uk-and-iran/>; Iran: Down with Trump's Sanctions and Military Threats! But no political support for the reactionary Mullah Regime in Teheran! 11 May 2019, <https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/africa-and-middle-east/down-with-trump-s-sanctions-and-military-threats-against-iran/>; Warmongering in the Middle East: Down with all Imperialist Great Powers and Capitalist Dictatorships! 13 May 2018, <https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/africa-and-middle-east/joint-statement-warmongering-in-the-middle-east/>

4 Jack Detsch: Pentagon slashes funding for Islamic State fight, February 10, 2020 <https://www.al-monitor.com/pulse/originals/2020/02/pentagon-slash-funding-islamic-state-fight-iraq.html>

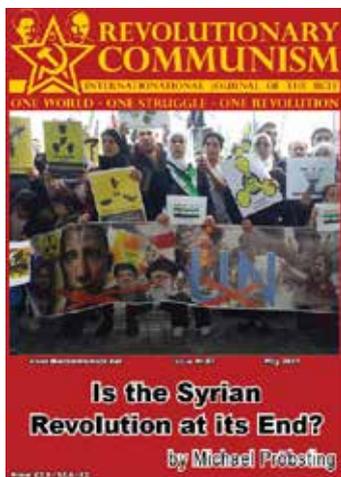
[html](https://www.al-monitor.com/pulse/originals/2020/02/sdf-syria-avoid-fight-budget-trump.html)

5 Jack Detsch: SDF avoids fight with Trump over budget cut, February 20, 2020 <https://www.al-monitor.com/pulse/originals/2020/02/sdf-syria-avoid-fight-budget-trump.html>

6 Ibid

7 On the role of the YPG/SDF see also RCIT: Syria: Assad Regime and Kurdish YPG Strike a Reactionary Deal, 15 October 2019, <https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/africa-and-middle-east/syria-assad-regime-and-kurdish-ygp-strike-a-reactionary-deal/>; Syria: The Shameful Alliance of the Saudi Monarchy and the "Left-Wing" YPG, 4 July 2019, <https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/africa-and-middle-east/shameful-alliance-of-saudi-monarchy-and-ygp-in-syria/>; The Revelations of a U.S. General on Washington's Allies in Syria. Another Blow to the Stalinist Myths about the Character of Syrian Liberation Fighters and the Role of the Kurdish SDF/YPG, 27.10.2017, <https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/africa-and-middle-east/revelations-of-u-s-general-on-washington-s-allies-in-syria/>; Kissing the Feet of the Saudi Chainsaw-Crown Prince. On the Shameful Response of the Kurdish YPG on the Killing of the Saudi Journalist Kashoggi, 20.10.2018, <https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/africa-and-middle-east/the-shameful-response-of-the-kurdish-ygp-on-the-killing-of-the-saudi-journalist-kashoggi/>

8 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/>. Our latest statement is this: Syria: Don't Let Idlib Die! Support the heroic Syrian people fighting in the last trenches against the barbarous onslaught by Assad and Putin! 10 February 2020, <https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/africa-and-middle-east/syria-don-t-let-idlib-die/>



Publications of the RCIT

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

By Michael Pröbsting, April 2017

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

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

A RCIT Pamphlet, 24 pages, A4 Format

Rally in Defense of the Syrian People in Idlib

Report (with Pictures and Video) from a Rally in Vienna on 26 January 2020, Austrian Section of the RCIT

About 70 Syrian migrants held a rally in the centre of Vienna (Austria) to show their support with the Syrian people in Idlib. We demonstrated at a time when the butchers Assad and Putin are launching decisive attacks against the last liberated territory in the Northwest of Syria. Hundreds of thousands of people have been forced to flee in recent weeks.

A delegation of the Chechen migrant community also participated in the rally. They showed their solidarity with the Syrian people and also drew attention to the

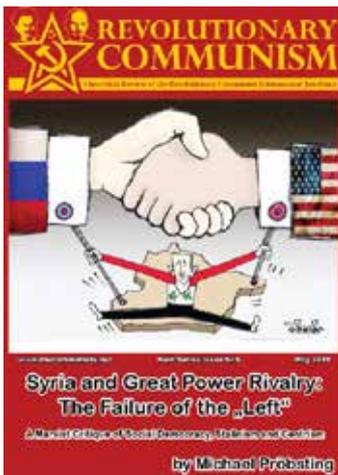
oppression of the Chechen people. By the Putin regime.

The rally was addressed by Michael Pröbsting, International Secretary of the RCIT. Our comrade denounced the regime of Assad and Russian imperialism. He emphasized the importance of continuing the support for the liberation struggle of the Syrian people. He also stressed our solidarity with the Chechen people.

See pictures of the rally and a video clip of Michael Pröbsting's speech here: <https://www.thecommunists.net/rcit/syria-rally-in-solidarity-with-idlib-26-1-2020/>



Rally in solidarity with the Syrian Revolution (Vienna, 26.1.2020)



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

Trump's "Peace" Plan: Only a Successful Intifada Will End the Crooked Deal of the Century

By Yossi Schwartz, *Internationalist Socialist League (RCIT Section in Israel / Occupied Palestine)*, 05.02.2020

Trump's plan is a boomerang hitting Trump-Netanyahu in the face.

We live in a revolutionary period characterized on one hand by an extreme reactionary phase of the ruling classes and the growing struggle of the working class, the poor peasants, the poor urbanized workers and the lower middle class on the other. The outcome of events is the result of the sharpening class struggle. The various reformists and the right wing centrists who are unable to understand it are pushed to the right going through splits and even dissolve themselves sometimes.

In this article we want to analyze the reasons why Trump-Netanyahu's plan is most likely to fail. This plan assumes that Israel is in alliance with Egypt, Jordan and Saudi Arabia will endorse this plan as part of their strategic alliance backed by the USA against Iran. In their calculation they did not expect that the fear from the masses in the Arab states will force these servants of imperialism to denounce the plan. They believed that what they want is what they will get. That the announcement of this plan will secure Netanyahu victory in the coming elections.

The new robbery plan of Donald Trump was received with mixed reaction by the right wing Zionists. Netanyahu's supporters see it as a great victory, but to the right of Netanyahu, politicians like Bennet, the minister for the security of Israel and Shaked of the "Right Party" see it as a betrayal, as it calls for giving up 70% of the West Bank occupied by Israel in 1967. What is worse from their per-

spective that the plan mentions a Palestinian state in part of the 1967 occupied lands. General Gantz, the head of the "Blue and White" Party of the so-called center in Israel, stated on Monday last week that he will work to implement Trump's peace plan for the Middle East immediately after the elections in March. "The president's peace plan is a significant and historic milestone," he said.

The leader of the left Zionists block (Labor-Meretz -Gheser) opposes the Plan. Peretz explained that this plan will create a bi-national state and what Israel needs is a state with a Jewish majority. A Jewish Democratic state. This racist view is considered in Israel a dangerous extreme left view. Ironically, he added that the left in Israel walk on the road of Rabin. In reality Rabin's plan was essentially the same as Trump's plan. Or even worse.

"In September 1989, Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak proposed that Israeli and Palestinian delegates meet in Cairo to begin preparation for Palestinian elections. He also publicized his Ten Points Plan for implementation of the Israeli initiative, based on a similar document composed within the Labor Party and given to him by an advisor to Shimon Peres. The Likud rejected Mubarak's plan, for it included the participation in the elections of Palestinians from East Jerusalem and promoted the exchange of land for peace. Following a visit to Cairo, Rabin proclaimed that the Ten Points Plan was considerate of Israeli requirements, as it did not mention the PLO, nor the right of the Palestinians for self-definition or the establishment of a Palestinian state in the West Bank and Gaza Strip." (1)

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.

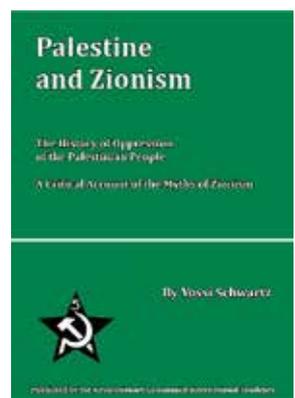
Yossi Schwartz also shows that the Palestinian people have heroically resisted against the occupation resulting in two Intifadas as well as the successful defense of Gaza against the Israeli aggression in three wars (2008/09, 2012, 2014). The author also analysis the shameful betrayal by the PLO leadership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



In the US, the more reactionary wing of the Democratic party sees the plan as a step in the right direction. Indeed it is another step in the direction of the right. In the direction of the evangelist Christians and the right wing messianic Zionists!

Nancy Patricia Pelosi (D'Alesandro), the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives controlled by the Democratic party representing the reactionary wing of this imperialist party, said that there appears to be a basis for negotiation. She said so during a press conference to discuss the congressional delegation she led to Israel to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the liberation of the Auschwitz extermination camp. According to Brian Thomas, a journalist with a blog named the Federalist Papers, Pelosi grew up in Baltimore, the daughter of the Democratic Jr. As a young girl, she managed her father's book of people who owed him political favors. According to Thomas Pelosi's father, Thomas D'Alesandro Jr. was a close associate of the notorious mobster Benjamin "Benny Trotta" Maglione, as well as several other criminals.

We do not have the means to verify it, but one thing is sure he was a very strong supporter of the Zionist movement.

That event in Jerusalem was a carnival of hypocrites. All the representatives of the imperialist butchers and their loyal servants were invited to this orgy. Putin the butcher of the Syrian people, the representative of the small Island "Great Britain", the president of Germany, the Prime Minister of France the butcher of the blacks in West Africa. Who was not invited? Most of the survivors of the Auschwitz extermination camp. This was exposed by the president of the Ukraine. During the carnival the "Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky announced that he and his delegation will give up their seats at an international Holocaust event in Jerusalem so that survivors of Nazis' genocide of Jews could attend instead." (2)

This carnival was a prelude to Trump's plan.

In the background of this celebration is the ruling class of Israel attempt to build opposition against the international criminal court, which is investigating the war crimes against the Palestinians. During the celebration, Netanyahu the P.M of Israel called for sanctions against ICC officials that in Israel the International Criminal Court is considered an Anti-Semitic. (3)

Another reason for the gathering was to solicit support for Trump-Netanyahu scheme to annex parts of the West-Bank occupied by Israel in 1967.

The third motive why all these imperialists and their servants participated in this carnival but not the least is the campaign allegedly against Anti-Semitism which is used by these hypocrites to attack all progressive movements and political figure who oppose the crimes of Israel against the Palestinians by branding them as Anti-Semites. We saw it in Britain in the case of the left wing in British labor party where 300 left wing members were removed from the party and we see it in the USA in the case of Sanders and the four elected women who support the Palestinians: Omar Iahd Minnesota), Rashida Tlaib (Michigan), Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (New York) and Ayanna Pressley (Massachusetts) These women are in the more left wing of the Democratic Party. In July last year, Trump said about them: "When will the Radical Left Congresswomen apologize to our Country, the people of Israel and even to the Office of the

President, for the foul language they have used, and the terrible things they have said," Trump tweeted. "So many people are angry at them & their horrible & disgusting actions! We all know that AOC and this crowd are a bunch of Communists, they hate Israel, they hate our own Country, they're calling the guards along our Border (the Border Patrol Agents) Concentration Camp Guards, they accuse people who support Israel as doing it for the Benjamin's. they are Anti-Semitic, they are Anti-America, we don't need to know anything about them personally, talk about their policies. I think they are American citizens who are duly elected that are running on an agenda that is disgusting, that the American people will reject."

The more left leaning wing of the Democratic party opposes Trump's plan. Berni Sanders tweeted: "The United States can bring unequalled leadership to resolving the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, but we must use that leadership to promote a just and durable agreement. Any acceptable peace deal must be consistent with international law and multiple UN resolutions. It must end the Israeli occupation and enable Palestinian self-determination in an independent state of their own alongside a secure Israel. Trump's so-called 'peace deal' doesn't come close, and will only perpetuate the conflict. It is unacceptable."

Senator Elizabeth Warren tweeted out that "Trump's 'peace plan' is a rubber stamp for annexation and offers no chance for a real Palestinian state."... "Releasing a plan without negotiating with Palestinians isn't diplomacy, it's a sham. I will oppose unilateral annexation in any form—and reverse any policy that supports it."

Ihan Omar tweeted "This is not a peace plan. It is theft. It is erasure. <https://twitter.com/jstreetdotorg/status/1222216530747891713>"

Rashida Tlaib (D-MI) retweeted a post from human rights attorney Noura Erakat: "They want to put us in permanent, high-tech cages and call it peace."

The problem with these politicians is that they remain in the Democratic Party and have spread the illusion that the Democratic Party in power will stop the Israeli state from oppressing the Palestinians. Let us remember for example that Obama guaranteed funding from the State Department and Pentagon accounts each year for the next decade, starting in 2018. The package was a follow-on to the \$30 billion, 10-year memorandum of understanding signed in 2007.

"In Europe, the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Josep Borrel said that the E.U. will study the Deal of the Century and that it "urges both sides to show a sincere commitment to a two state solution," Channel 13 reported. British Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab stated "This is clearly a serious proposal, reflecting extensive time and effort... We encourage them (the Israeli and Palestinian leaders) to give these plans genuine and fair consideration, and explore whether they might prove a first step on the road back to negotiations. Jürgen Hardt, a foreign policy spokesman for Angela Merkel's CDU/CSU alliance in parliament, said that while he welcomed Trump "sticking with the two-state solution," he also worried that "probably some of the demands he mentioned towards Palestinians concerning the territories will not open the door for negotiations. The Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas rejected the Trump plan as soon as it was unveiled on Tuesday, saying a Palestinian state without Jerusalem was impossible. Hamas and the Islamic Jihad quickly rejected US President Donald Trump's plan after it was unveiled Tuesday, saying "all options" were open to respond to it." (4)

Very strong words but the so called security arrangements between the Israeli forces of oppression and the armed forces of the PA aiming at preventing a new intifada will continue.

The Arab League and especially Egypt and Saudi Arabia were ready to support Trump but these servants of US imperialism were afraid from the rebelling masses and of the possible new Intifada and thus they announced they oppose the plan.

A person has to be blind not to realize that only solution is a well-coordinated revolutionary struggle of the masses in the Arab states and Iran led by a revolutionary leadership of the working class that will establish red democratic state from the river to the sea in Palestine that will replace the Zionist state from the river to the sea. The result of the working class revolution of the region that will form a socialist federation of the Middle East.

* DOWN WITH THE THEFT PLAN OF THE CENTURY!

* FOR A NEW POPULAR INTIFADA A PART OF THE REGIONAL UPRISING OF THE MASSES!

* BREAK THE SECURITY AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE PA AND ISRAEL!

* NO VOTE FOR ANY ZIONIST PARTY IN THE COMING ELECTIONS!

* FOR A RED DEMOCRATIC PALESTINE!

Footnotes

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3) <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/jan/21/netanyahu-calls-for-sanctions-over-icc-war-crimes-investigation-israel>

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Occupied Palestine: Rally against Trump's "Steal of the Century"

Report (with Pictures and Video) from a Rally in Vienna on 3 February 2020, Austrian Section of the RCIT

About 100 people, mostly Palestinian and other Arab migrants, assembled in front of the U.S. embassy in Vienna (Austria). They denounced the so-called "Peace" Plan of the Trump Administration which in reality is not the "Deal of the Century" but rather the "Steal of the Century".

The single speech at the rally was made by Michael Pröbsting, International Secretary of the RCIT. Our comrade emphasized the RCIT's support for the liberation struggle of the Palestinian people. He called for the unconditional

right of return for all Palestinian refugees. He also emphasized that Jerusalem is the rightful and historic capital of the Palestinian people. Michael Pröbsting also stressed the need for international solidarity with the Palestinian liberation struggles.

See pictures of the rally and a video clip of Michael Pröbsting's speech here: <https://www.thecommunists.net/rcit/occupied-palestine-rally-against-trump-s-steal-of-the-century-3-2-2020/>



Rally in solidarity with the Palestinian People (Vienna, 3.2.2020)

Israel / Occupied Palestine: Trump's "Peace" Plan

By Adam Smith, *Internationalist Socialist League (RCIT Section in Israel / Occupied Palestine)*, 29 January 2019

Donald Trump formally announced his "Peace Plan", or more accurately called, the Bantustan Plan. Regarding the word peace, we should be reminded of Chomsky's saying:

"To be sure, that concept of "peace process" is too broad. Everyone wants peace, even Hitler and Genghis Khan. The question always is: On what terms? Under whose direction? In our highly disciplined intellectual culture, the answer to those questions is a virtual reflex: On Washington's terms, and under its direction."

The plan includes many, many reactionary elements and it is hard to see even a single silver lining for the Palestinians. The plan's main points are:

- * Recognition of Jerusalem as Israel's capital
- * Israeli Annexation of West Bank Settlements
- * Security/Military Control of the West Bank will remain under Israeli hands.
- * The possibility of incorporation of majority Palestinian 48' area into the Palestinian Authority (meaning Israel will no longer have to pay them welfare benefits, etc.)
- * Allow for Jewish prayer in Al Haram Al Sharif
- * Disarmament of Hamas, the wavering of the Right of Return and stopping the support payments to Palestinian prisoners

On the Israeli side, Israel has two main commitments, the recognition of the Palestinian Authority as a state and a temporary 4 year freeze on settlement growth. For example, only a very limited amount of Palestinian refugees will be given a choice of a refuge in an Arab League country or the so called new State of Palestine.

Do not believe the false promises of economic aid, the people of Iraq can tell you all about them. The formula of economic aid in exchange for disarmament is a current favorite of the Netanyahu government, but the reality is that all the gains Palestinians have gotten are because they chose to resist.

While many analysts dismiss the plan as an election campaigning strategy (for Netanyahu as well as for Trump), it represents the continuous rightward shift of the bourgeoisie in the West, and its dangerous potential should not be downplayed. In addition the lukewarm response of the Palestinian Authority shows its role as a lackey for the U.S. and Israel.

Down with Trump's Bantustan Plan!

Down with U.S. interference in the Middle East!

For mass protests against the Zionist Regime and the recent "Peace Plan"!

Rally in Support with the Popular Uprising in Iraq

Report (with Pictures and Videos) from a Rally in Vienna on 2 February 2020, Austrian Section of the RCIT

About 100 migrants from Iraq and other Arab countries assembled in the centre of Vienna (Austria). They called for support with the popular uprising in Iraq where people, many of them youth, are demanding the downfall of the corrupt regime. Speakers at the rally also denounced the brutal crackdown of the mass protests in Iraq in which pro-Iranian militias play a central role.

The rally was addressed by several male and female speakers from Iraq as well as by Michael Pröbsting, International Secretary of the RCIT. Our comrade emphasized once more the RCIT's support for the popular uprising.

He denounced the reactionary interference in Iraq by the Iranian Mullah regime as well as by U.S. imperialism. He also emphasized the need to fight for a workers and popular government. Michael Pröbsting also stressed the need for international solidarity on the basis of support for all liberation struggles.

See pictures of the rally and video clips of Michael Pröbsting's speeches here: <https://www.thecommunists.net/rcit/rally-in-support-with-the-popular-uprising-in-iraqi-2-2-2020/>



Michael Pröbsting speaks at a rally in solidarity with the Iraqi popular uprising (Vienna, 2.2.2020)

2019 Corona Virus: Oppose the Global Wave of Chauvinist Hysteria!

Workers and oppressed: Do not trust the ruling class and its media!

A Statement of the Revolutionary Communist International Tendency (RCIT), 05.02.2020

1. The global public seems to be under the spell of the 2019 Corona Virus. The media in Asia, Europe and other parts of the world are dominated by panic-mongering about “*the danger from China*” as the new virus seems to have originated in the Chinese city Wuhan. Some are even talking about the “*Yellow Peril*” – a racist color-metaphor stemming from the epoch of Western colonialism. People from China are banned from entering countries, airlines on all continents are cancelling flights to and from China, and Asian migrants are experiencing increasing racist hostility in the public. The Italian government has declared a six-month state of emergency today after two (!) Chinese tourists tested positive for the coronavirus.

2. The Stalinist-capitalist dictatorship in China itself reacts to the crisis by brutal bureaucratic measures. Close to 60 million people remain under lockdown in Wuhan and at least 15 other cities. The regime utilizes the fear in order to increase the control and surveillance over its population. It certainly needs such distractions because its economy experiences a slowdown since some time and also because it partly lost control over Hong Kong since the beginning of the popular uprising in June 2019.

3. The global hysteria about the 2019 Corona Virus has already significant consequences for the economy and this will most likely worsen. Factories and shops are closing in China, transport is cut, etc. China’s stock market already experienced a dramatic crash and, according to Bloomberg, global stock exchanges lost \$ 1.5 trillion since 20 January. If the ruling classes continue this wave of chauvinist hysteria, the economic consequences will be far more dramatic.

4. This is not to downplay the seriousness of the 2019 Corona Virus. Until now, 492 people have died and more than 24,500 people have been infected across 25 countries. However, socialists need to point out that societies experience regularly flu epidemics which cause many more losses of life. For example the overall all-cause influenza-attributable mortality in the 2017/18 season was estimated to be about 152,000 deaths in Europe alone! It is worth pointing out that even the UN’s *World Health Organization* advises the governments not to impose travel or trade restrictions on China saying such measures can cause “*fear and stigma*”.

5. There can be no doubt: the reason for the global hysteria of the ruling classes does not lie in health precautions but rather in *political calculations*. The *Revolutionary Communist International Tendency (RCIT)* emphasizes that the hysteria around the 2019 Corona Virus objectively serves the following objectives:

a) The ruling classes in China as well as in many other countries exploit the hysteria in order to justify the vast expansion of surveillance and control of its population.
b) They also utilize this hysteria in order to wipe up patriotism and suspicion against “*foreigners*”, people “*from outside*” or simple “*others*”.
c) China’s regime utilizes the hysteria also in order to create a climate of fear so that anxious people put all their

hopes in the state forces.

d) The ruling classes in other imperialist states utilize the global hysteria in order to wipe up anti-Chinese chauvinism and to advance their stakes in the ongoing rivalry between the Great Powers. US Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross cynically suggested that the outbreak of the 2019 Corona Virus is an opportunity for the US.

e) Likewise, reactionary forces outside China exploit the crisis in order to foster suspicion and hatred against Chinese or, more generally, against Asian migrants.

f) The ruling class will exploit the 2019 Corona Virus (and subsequently China) in order to find a culprit for the Great Recession which has recently begun. In fact, while the global measures to supposedly contain the spreading of the virus deepen the slump, the capitalist world economy has entered a recession already in the second half of 2019. The truth is that the reasons for this Great Recession are the same like those for all the others in the past: the frantic drive for profit of the capitalist corporations provokes again and again in economic crashes of the world economy.

6. The RCIT welcomes spontaneous popular initiatives which are countering the chauvinist hysteria. Examples for this are the #*Jenesuispasunvirus* campaign in France in defense of Asian migrants or informative campaigns of doctors in order to counter the widespread fake news which only foster panic.

7. The RCIT calls workers and popular organizations to unite across the borders and to stand up against the global campaign of the ruling classes to exploit the 2019 Corona Virus for their ill intentions.

** No to the lockdown of people in Wuhan and other cities by China’s Stalinist-capitalist regime!*

** For systematic and complete health screening of all people who might have had contact with the virus. This screening must be free for all people but should be mandatory. The same is necessary for any potential treatment which should include quarantine if necessary.*

** Oppose any entry ban for people from China!*

** For health screens for all travelers and for immediate health care for free if any case of infection is detected.*

** No to general travel or trade restrictions on China!*

** Rally to stop any campaign against Chinese or Asian migrants!*

** Create international teams of experts and medical staff in order to develop cure and preventive vaccination as soon as possible! All developments in this field must be accessible to the global public and have to be monitored and controlled by workers and popular organizations.*

** Build additional health care facilities and hospitals! (China has demonstrated how fast such construction projects can be realized if the will for it exists!)*

** All necessary projects in the struggle to protect public health must be financed by taxes of the rich!*

** Nationalize the pharmaceutical corporations under workers control and utilize the resources in a centralized and effective way to develop drugs against widespread illnesses like influenza, corona virus, cholera, HIV/AIDS, etc.!*

Coronavirus: “I am not a virus” ... but we will be the cure!

The chauvinist campaign behind the “Wuhan Coronavirus” hysteria and the revolutionary answer

Article by Almedina Gunić, Revolutionary Communist International Tendency (RCIT), 02 February 2020

The 2019-nCoV (short for: 2019 novel Coronavirus) dominates the news since more than two weeks now, broadly labeled as the “Wuhan Coronavirus” respectively “Wuhan Virus”. Travel bans were announced by the U.S., followed by Australia. Western European countries like Britain withdraw the majority of their staff in embassies and consulates from China (1).

Revolutionaries, however, need to distance themselves from the sensational hype and take a sober look at this phenomenon. #Jenesuispasunvirus (“I am not a virus”) was initiated by migrants from various countries like China, Vietnam, Cambodia and many more who live in France and experienced a massive increase of chauvinism lately (2). We need to understand and learn from the experiences that our brothers and sisters from various Asian countries made since the media hype started.

Information on the virus itself which is given by doctors, health workers and research institutes help us to get an idea about the virus itself. But it is our Marxist worldview that provides us with the methodological framework to draw the correct conclusions in order to deal with measures implemented by the ruling class. It is our Marxist worldview which guides us in elaborating a revolutionary stance even in such events like the spread of a virus. In the end of the day, it is the task of our class – the proletariat – to solve all fundamental problems of the human society.

Hard Facts on 2019-nCov

The 2019-nCov is a virus which shares some similarities with already known diseases like the so-called SARS (Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome or SARS-CoV) and MERS (Middle East Respiratory Syndrome or EMC/2012 or MERS-CoV). All three diseases are a form of zoonotic human coronavirus. This means that they most likely started with an infection passed to human by animals like some species of bats in the case of SARS-CoV and eventually 2019-nCov and camels in the case of EMC/2012. It is not excluded that some intermediate host linked these viruses between the named animals and humans. However, after the infection all three viruses are spread from human to human as the viruses mutate and adapt to the specifics of our bodies. All three forms are part of the Coronavirus family which is named after the appearance of the viruses being reminiscent with a worn crown (3).

2019-nCov is not well researched yet as it most likely infected patient zero (first human infected by the virus) in December 2019 or sooner, giving medical researches not enough time to fully understand its character. However, it seems that patient zero was *not* infected at the Huanan seafood market (Wuhan) but rather a later infected person “brought” the infection to the market where it spread rapidly (4). The morbidity (number of infections in a population group) is not clear yet, although we know that worldwide 11,955 laboratory-confirmed cases of 2019-nCoV infection have been reported until 1st February. The

same source states that the number of deaths is 259, which doesn’t give an exact answer to the mortality (ratio of how many died in a statistic group of people) but gives a certain premature idea (5). A commentary published by the NPO institute Molecular Diversity Preservation International (MDPI) states: “A range of disease has been observed highlighted by fever, dry cough, shortness of breath, and leukopenia; patients have included mild cases needing supportive care to severe cases requiring extracorporeal membrane oxygenation; however, compared to SARS-CoV (10% mortality) and MERS-CoV (35% mortality), the 2019-nCoV appears to be less virulent at this point with the exception of the elderly and those with underlying health conditions.” (6)

The basic reproduction number of 2019-nCov might be 3.11 (i.e. how many people are infected by one patient), although approximately only 5% of the cases in Wuhan may be known yet (7). The incubation period seems to be something around 6 days (8).

In simple words one can say that as far as we know, 2019-nCov was most likely caused by an animal like a bat infecting a human, potentially transmitted via another host but is spread by human-to-human contact since then. It seems to be similar contagious to the flu, although we don’t know if it is spread via air, sneezed droplets or other ways. It is absolutely unclear how many people have been in contact with the virus without an outbreak of infection respectively how many people have functioned (“only”) as a host. Therefore we only estimate that the virus is less deadly than SARS-CoV and MERS-CoV but more deadly than Influenza (the flu) compared to the overall contact it gets. Mutations of the virus are developing, which is a general virus behavior. Very dangerous mutations might or might not happen as with other viruses. Last but not least the origin of the first infections seems *not* to be the Huanan Market (Wuhan).

The Perception of 2019-nCov

The virus itself may or may not become a severe threat to mankind, a danger always looming on the medical horizon. However, the way the bourgeoisie and its media deal with the virus is quite exceptional. One of the most chauvinist examples of bourgeois media coverage on 2019-nCoV is the French paper “*Courrier picard*”. The printed issue from the 26th January had the words “*Alerte Jaune*” (Yellow Alarm) on its cover and the title “*Nouveau péril jaune?*” (New Yellow Peril) on the leading article (9). The racist phrase “Yellow Peril” has a long history in the Western world to describe threats from the continent of Asia which are destroying the culture, the economy and health of Western societies. It is arch-reactionary and was very often used in France in the time of colonialism (10).

In addition to the USA and Australia, countries like Singapore, Mongolia and Guatemala have announced travel restrictions respectively travel bans from Chinese visitors. Italy has even declared the state of emergency for

the next six months because of two (!) Chinese tourists in Rome, who were diagnosed with 2019 -nCoV infection. The spokesperson of the WHO, Chris Lindmeier put it rightly: "As we know from other scenarios, be it Ebola or other cases, whenever people want to travel, they will. And if the official paths are not opened, they will find unofficial paths." (11). The major threat is not 2019-nCov, it is the potential for chauvinism and bonapartism. The major threats are the steps that have been and will be taken by the ruling classes against the workers and oppressed under the pretext of security. China has already forced the people of Wuhan into quarantine, allowing only minimum interaction between the citizens (12).

The progressive protests in Hong Kong (13), which had mainly the youth on the streets fighting against the bonapartist regime in China may come under a reactionary influence with some blue ribbons joining the protests (14). The RCIT strongly oppose any collaboration between the protesters in Hong Kong with pro-establishment forces. In addition some activists have raised reactionary accusations similar to the chauvinist Yellow Peril-trend in France. It is true that the imperialist Chinese regime can not be trusted in its implementation of the correct measures against the virus. However, any chauvinism against the people from Wuhan and other parts of China must be opposed by any means!

Irrespective of all of these developments, the Chinese imperialist state has shown how centralized it deals with the outbreak of 2019-nCov. A whole new emergency hospital, the Huoshenshan Hospital with 1,000 beds for patients infected by 2019 -nCoV was build in only 9 days (15)! The Western imperialists' approach shows a combination of chauvinism towards the people of the continent of Asia and the general increase of inner-imperialist tensions. However, for the more neoliberal, less state-capitalistic Western imperialists such an efficient and centralized reaction by the Chinese state is so far beyond their understanding. The only explanation they have for such an efficient reaction is: the 2019 -nCoV is a bigger threat than known yet and Chinese imperialists are hiding information. It is beyond the horizon of the lobbyist structured

U.S. and the ideals of the Western imperialist version of free market to create such a facility irrespective of the costs in shortest time.

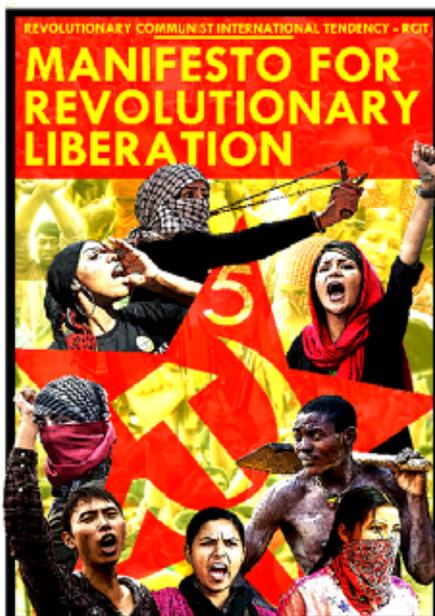
Even with all resources at hand, the government of the U.S. had nothing similar done in 2009 and later on as the so-called "swine flu" infected 60.8 millions, killing between 8,868 and 18,306 patients in the United States in only one year! The (H1N1)pdm09 virus (swine flu) killed 151,700-575,400 people worldwide without a single state declaring travel ban for US-citizens (16). This demonstrates again that the paranoia around the 2019 -nCoV is simple chauvinism against Chinese people and people from Asia in general.

Not to speak about the fact that so many other diseases are killing people in poor semi-colonial countries like the war-driven Yemen where a Cholera outbreak infected 686,722 people and killed 1,093 – mainly children – between 1st January 2018 and 12th May 2019 (17). Another example is the HIV/AIDS infection where the estimated regional death toll stood at a total of 2.2 million people in Sub-Saharan Africa in 2001 (18). Even from a pure medical point of view, it is unreasonable to participate in any hysteria with 2019 -nCoV when so many more people in the world die from other diseases. However, it is the imperialist arrogance where the lives from the Western respectively the imperialist citizens (in case of Japan, Russia, China) count more than thousands or even millions of lives from people living in semi-colonial countries.

Revolutionary Answers

Now, with all the facts clear and the bigoted, chauvinist motives of the people behind the hysteria made visible, it is important to draw the correct conclusions out of the current situation.

First, revolutionaries have to oppose any form of chauvinism that occurs against people from Asia (or any other part of the world). This chauvinism can appear openly articulated like in the newspaper "Courrier picard" and the Yellow peril ideology. But it can also be far more hidden like it is in the case of the double standard towards deal-



Program of the RCIT

Manifesto for Revolutionary Liberation

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

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

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ing with diseases coming from China with the 2019-nCoV and diseases coming from the U.S. like the (H1N1)pdm09. Therefore revolutionaries should even oppose general travel bans and forced quarantine. This doesn't mean to ignore the necessity of protection against 2019-nCoV and other diseases. However, the answer is to implement health screens for all travelers and to offer immediate health care for free if any case of infection is detected.

Second, revolutionaries should demand that both cure and preventive vaccination must be developed as soon as possible. This means that experts and medical staff all around the world have to collaborate in order to fulfill these tasks in short time. All developments in this field must be accessible for the global public and have to be monitored and controlled by the international workers movement. Health care facilities and hospitals must be built in the same tempo as it was the case with the Huoshenshan Hospital in order to offer sufficient treatment.

Third, the general quarantine for all people in Wuhan and other places has to be lifted and replaced by systematic and complete health screening of all people who might have had contact with the virus. This screening must be free for all people but should be mandatory. The same is necessary for any potential treatment which should include quarantine if necessary. The results however, should only be accessible for the health staff and the patients. All information must be protected by the workers movement in order to prevent any outrage against infected people.

The costs of all measures must be financed by the multinational corporations, especially the pharmaceutical

industry which needs to be nationalized under workers control. We must fight for these and other revolutionary demands via protests and strikes and general strikes.

2019-nCoV is a virus and its cure has to be developed by medical experts. However, we as the working class are the class which leads mankind into a future of freedom and health. We are the ones to fight against the ruling classes, against capitalism and imperialism. We are the ones to fight for a revolutionary uprising, a world revolution against this class system. A system which is responsible for the unnecessary dead of billions of people in so many forms! Let us make sure that no brother or sister must die in misery anymore!

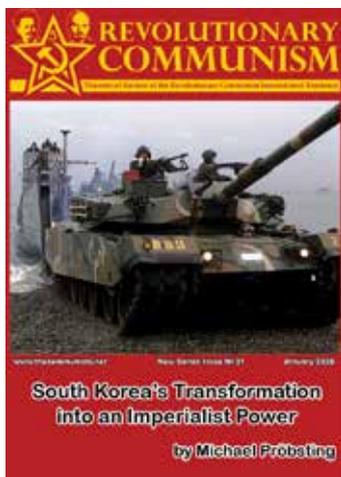
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Publications of the RCIT

South Korea's Transformation into an Imperialist Power

On the nature of South Korean monopoly capital and the ensuing programmatic tasks of the workers vanguard

By Michael Pröbsting, December 2019

The Relevance of the Issue * Definition: What Constitutes a State as Imperialist? * Historical Background: Extraordinary Conditions Allow for Rapid Industrialization * South Korea as a Highly Industrialized, Modern Capitalist Country * South Korean Monopoly Capital: Domination of Domestic Market * South Korean Monopoly Capital: Global Players on the World Market * South Korean Monopoly Capital: The Role of Capital Export * On Some Political Issues Resulting from South Korea's Imperialist Transformation * The Emergence of a Labor Aristocracy and Inequality within the South Korean Working Class * The Political Role of South Korean Imperialism and its Limited Independence * The Stalinist Myth of South Korea Being Still a Neo-Colony of U.S. Imperialism * The Mistaken Conception of Sub-Imperialism * The Program of Revolutionary Defeatism * Anti-Imperialist Tasks in South Korea Today * Appendix: A Historic Analogy: Marxist Tactics in Germany in 1891 and 1914 * Capitalist Development in South Korea and Taiwan (1996)

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2019 Corona Virus: No to the Anti-Chinese Chauvinism in South Korea!

Joint Statement of the Revolutionary Communists (RCIT Section in South Korea) and the RCIT's International Bureau, 06.02.2020

1. South Korea – like many other places in the world – is under the spell of the 2019 Corona Virus. Similar to other countries, reactionary forces – including right-wing politicians – are wiping up a chauvinist hysteria against the Chinese people. They have initiated an online petition campaign calling the government for an immediate ban of Chinese tourists. This petition received more than 650,000 signatures within a short time. A popular Seoul seafood restaurant frequented by Chinese tourists posted a sign saying "No entry for Chinese" before taking it down after an online backlash.

2. This hysteria is not based on any medical facts but on reactionary political calculations. Since the outbreak of the 2019 Corona Virus crisis there have been 17 confirmed cases in South Korea and not a single death. Let's remember: The 2009 flu pandemic (often called "swine flu") which originated in Mexico and the U.S. was much more devastating. It is estimated that 11–21% of the global population contracted the illness, and 151,700–575,400 died. Among them were 108,234 South Koreans of whom 170 people

died. (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2009_flu_pandemic_in_Asia)

3. It is characteristic that the same reactionary forces, which today demand a ban of Chinese people, did not raise any similar demands in 2009. The reason is pretty obvious: they are staunch supporters of U.S. imperialism and, hence, opponents of its main rival - imperialist China.

4. We call the workers movement in South Korea to oppose this chauvinist hysteria against the Chinese people! Our enemies are imperialist *states* and their *capitalists* – not the ordinary people! We oppose U.S., Chinese as well as South Korean imperialism. We call for international solidarity between the workers and popular masses of these countries against our common enemy – the capitalist bosses!

5. It is in this spirit that we fully support the statement "2019 Corona Virus: Oppose the Global Wave of Chauvinist Hysteria!" which has been issued by the *Revolutionary Communist International Tendency* (RCIT) on the 5th February (see statement above).

COVID-19: The Hypocrisy of Anti-Chinese Chauvinism in the West

On the rate of mortality of the COVID-19 pandemic in comparison with Influenza

by Michael Pröbsting, International Secretary of the Revolutionary Communist International Tendency (RCIT), 14.2.2020

Since the outbreak of the 2019 Corona Virus disease (now officially called COVID-19) a wave of chauvinist hysteria against Chinese people (or, more general, against Asians) has swept the countries of the imperialist West. This has resulted in entry bans for Chinese in a number of countries and attacks on Chinese or other Asian migrants as well as tourists.¹ Furthermore, a number of countries have reduced or cut air traffic with China.

As those familiar with the RCIT's programmatic objectives are aware, we are intransigent opponents of the Stalinist-capitalist regime in China. We denounce China as an imperialist Great Power and elaborated on this in various books, pamphlets and articles.² Likewise, we have stated repeatedly our solidarity with the mass protests in Hong Kong³ as well as our unconditional support with the Muslim Uyghurs who face brutal national oppression by the Stalinist-capitalist dictatorship.⁴

The RCIT has also denounced in its documents the regime's brutal response to the disease as close to 60 million people remain under lockdown in Wuhan and at least 15 other cities.

However, this does not reduce our equally intransigent opposition against China's imperialist rivals – the Great Powers in the West. In particular, as we stated in our statements, we remain staunch opponents of the policy of the ruling classes in imperialist states which “utilize the global hysteria in order to wipe up anti-Chinese chauvinism and to advance their stakes in the ongoing rivalry between the Great Powers.”⁵

In this short article we want to provide a few facts which expose the sheer hypocrisy of the Western imperialists. As is well known these states try to justify their Anti-Chinese policy by referring to the huge threat of the COVID-19 disease which originated in Wuhan (China).

As of 14 February 2020 there are 64,464 officially confirmed cases and 1,384 official deaths.⁶ These are serious figures and, as our comrade Almedina Gunić has elaborated in detail, this disease has to be fought on the basis of a serious anti-capitalist health program.⁷

However, compare these figures now with the following developments which are currently taking place in other

countries or which took place only recently. The U.S. currently faces a serious wave of influenza. According to official figures, from 1 October 2019, through 1 February 2020, there have been between 22 and 31 million people infected and between 12,000 and 30,000 people have died because of this illness.⁸

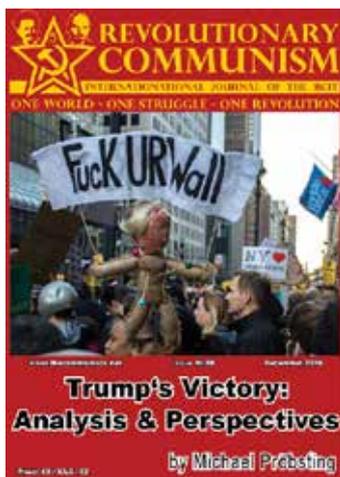
To understand the magnitude of this figure in comparison to the current 2019 Corona Virus pandemic, one has to take into account that China's population is 4.3 as large as the U.S. So the U.S. figure would translate; if this influenza hypothetically would take place in China, to 53,000 – 129,000 death. In short, the current influenza in the U.S. is a far worse disease than the current COVID-19 which originated in China!

To give another example from the recent past: An estimated 80,000 Americans died of flu and its complications in winter 2017-18 which was the disease's highest death toll in at least four decades.⁹ According to the World Health Organisation, “worldwide, these annual epidemics are estimated to result in about 3 to 5 million cases of severe illness, and about 290 000 to 650 000 respiratory deaths.”¹⁰

In short, we see that these waves of influenza are much worse and a much more significant threat to the people in the U.S. and around the world. However, has anyone heard about the entry ban for people with influenza or for Americans in general, about the cancellation of air traffic to the U.S., about calls for a lockdown of millions in big cities, etc.? Surely not! Is it not obvious that the global hysteria about the 2019 Corona Virus only serves to create fear and chauvinist hatred against Chinese and other Asian people?!

Footnotes

1 See on this e.g. Lucy Campbell: Chinese in UK report ‘shocking’ levels of racism after coronavirus outbreak. Asian community faces verbal and physical abuse in aftermath of first recorded cases of virus in Britain, 9 February 2020, <https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2020/feb/09/chinese-in-uk-report-shocking-levels-of-racism-after-coronavirus-outbreak>; KLM apologizes after airliner crew's coronavirus toilet note sparks outrage in South Korea, 14 February 2020, <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-china-health-southkorea-klm/klm-apologizes-after-airliner-crews-coronavirus-toilet-note-sparks-outrage-in-south-ko>



Publications of the RCIT

The Meaning, Consequences and Lessons of Trump's Victory

By Michael Pröbsting, November 2016

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

A RCIT Pamphlet, 40 pages, A4 Format

[rea-idUSKBN2080NE](#)

2 On the RCIT's analysis of the Great Power rivalry and China's rise as emerging imperialist powers see the literature mentioned in the special sub-section on our website: <https://www.thecommunists.net/theory/china-russia-as-imperialist-powers/>. In particular we refer to the book by Michael Pröbsting *Anti-Imperialism in the Age of Great Power Rivalry. The Factors behind the Accelerating Rivalry between the U.S., China, Russia, EU and Japan. A Critique of the Left's Analysis and an Outline of the Marxist Perspective*, RCIT Books, January 2019, <https://www.thecommunists.net/theory/anti-imperialism-in-the-age-of-great-power-rivalry/>. See also, by the same author, *The China-India Conflict: Its Causes and Consequences. What are the background and the nature of the tensions between China and India in the Sikkim border region? What should be the tactical conclusions for Socialists and Activists of the Liberation Movements?* 18 August 2017, Revolutionary Communism No. 71, <https://www.thecommunists.net/theory/china-india-rivalry/>. The China Question and the Marxist Theory of Imperialism, December 2014, <https://www.thecommunists.net/theory/reply-to-csr-pco-on-china/>; 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/publications/revcom-number-4>.

3 See on this RCIT: 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! 01 August 2019, <https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/asia/solidarity-with-the-general-strike-in-hong-kong/>; 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/>; 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/>

4 See on this Michael Pröbsting: China: Defend the Muslim Uyghurs against Oppression! 18.10.2018, <https://www.thecom->

[munists.net/worldwide/asia/china-defend-the-muslim-uyghurs-against-oppression/](https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/asia/china-defend-the-muslim-uyghurs-against-oppression/); Michael Pröbsting: 37 Signatures Are Worth a Thousand Words. On a letter of 37 states, including Muslim countries, sent to the United Nations defending China's treatment of the Uyghurs in Xinjiang, 16 July 2019, <https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/asia/37-states-defend-china-s-treatment-of-uyghurs/>

5 For the RCIT's analysis of the 2019 Corona Virus pandemic and the programmatic alternative see our statement: 2019 Corona Virus: Oppose the Global Wave of Chauvinist Hysteria! Workers and oppressed: Do not trust the ruling class and its media! 5.2.2020, <https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/global/2019-corona-virus-oppose-the-global-wave-of-chauvinist-hysteria/>; 2019 Corona Virus: No to the Anti-Chinese Chauvinism in South Korea! Joint Statement of the Revolutionary Communists (RCIT Section in South Korea) and the International Bureau of the RCIT, 6.2.2020, <https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/global/2019-corona-virus-no-to-the-anti-chinese-chauvinism-in-south-korea/>.

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9 Associated Press: CDC: 80,000 people died of flu last winter in U.S., highest death toll in 40 years, 26 September 2018, <https://www.statnews.com/2018/09/26/cdc-us-flu-deaths-winter/>

10 WHO: Influenza (Seasonal), 6 November 2018 [https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/influenza-\(seasonal\)](https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/influenza-(seasonal))

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 Secretariat

Down with French Neo-Colonialism in West Africa!

Protest against the imperialist “Operation Barkhane” / “Coalition for the Sahel”!

Joint Statement of Anti-Imperialist and Socialist Organisation, 12 February 2020

1. We, the undersigned organizations, protest against the decision of French President Emmanuel Macron and the leaders of Mali, Burkina Faso, Chad, Niger and Mauritania (the so-called “G5 states”) to intensify their so-called “fight against terrorism” in the region.

2. Contrary to their claims, the so-called “Operation Barkhane” / “Coalition for the Sahel” does not serve the interests of the African people. The 4,700 French soldiers and their local proxies operate solely in order to secure the political and economic interests of French imperialism as well as of other Great Powers in the region and to keep the local ruling classes in power. In addition, the campaign shall stop refugees crossing the Mediterranean Sea and entering Europe.

3. We welcome the popular resistance in the region without necessarily sharing the ideology of the political organizations involved. We call for “Open Borders” and defend the right of people from the South to enter Europe. We call for an international solidarity campaign against the imperialist intervention in West Africa. Africa can only be free when the imperialist troops and monopolies are expelled and when the capitalist system will be replaced by a socialist society!

* *Down with the Operation Barkhane / “Coalition for the Sahel”! Expel all imperialist troops!*

* *Defeat the imperialist forces and their G5 lackeys! Victory to the popular resistance!*

* *No to the genocide against the people of Ambazonia by the Cameroon government, backed by French imperialism!*

* *Open the Borders – Refugees are welcome in Europe!*

* *For a united and socialist Africa free from imperialist oppression and capitalist exploitation – the only road to end poverty, homelessness and underdevelopment!*

Revolutionary Communist International Tendency (Brazil, Mexico, Pakistan, Kashmir, Sri Lanka, South Korea, Israel/Occupied Palestine, Yemen, Nigeria, Kenya, Russia, Britain, Germany and Austria), www.thecommunists.net

Revolutionary Socialist League (Kenya), <https://redflagkenya.wordpress.com/>

Nyayo ya Mwafrika / African Footprints (Tanzania)

Revolutionary Socialist Vanguard (Sympathising Section of the RCIT in Nigeria), <https://revolutionarysocialistvanguard.wordpress.com/>

Pan-African Consciousness Renaissance (Nigeria), <https://m.facebook.com/pacorenaissance/?ref=bookmarks>



RCIT Africa Program

Manifesto for the Revolutionary Liberation of Black Africa

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

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

A RCIT Pamphlet, 24 pages, A5 Format



What the RCIT Stands for

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

No future without socialism!

No socialism without a revolution!

No revolution without a revolutionary party!

