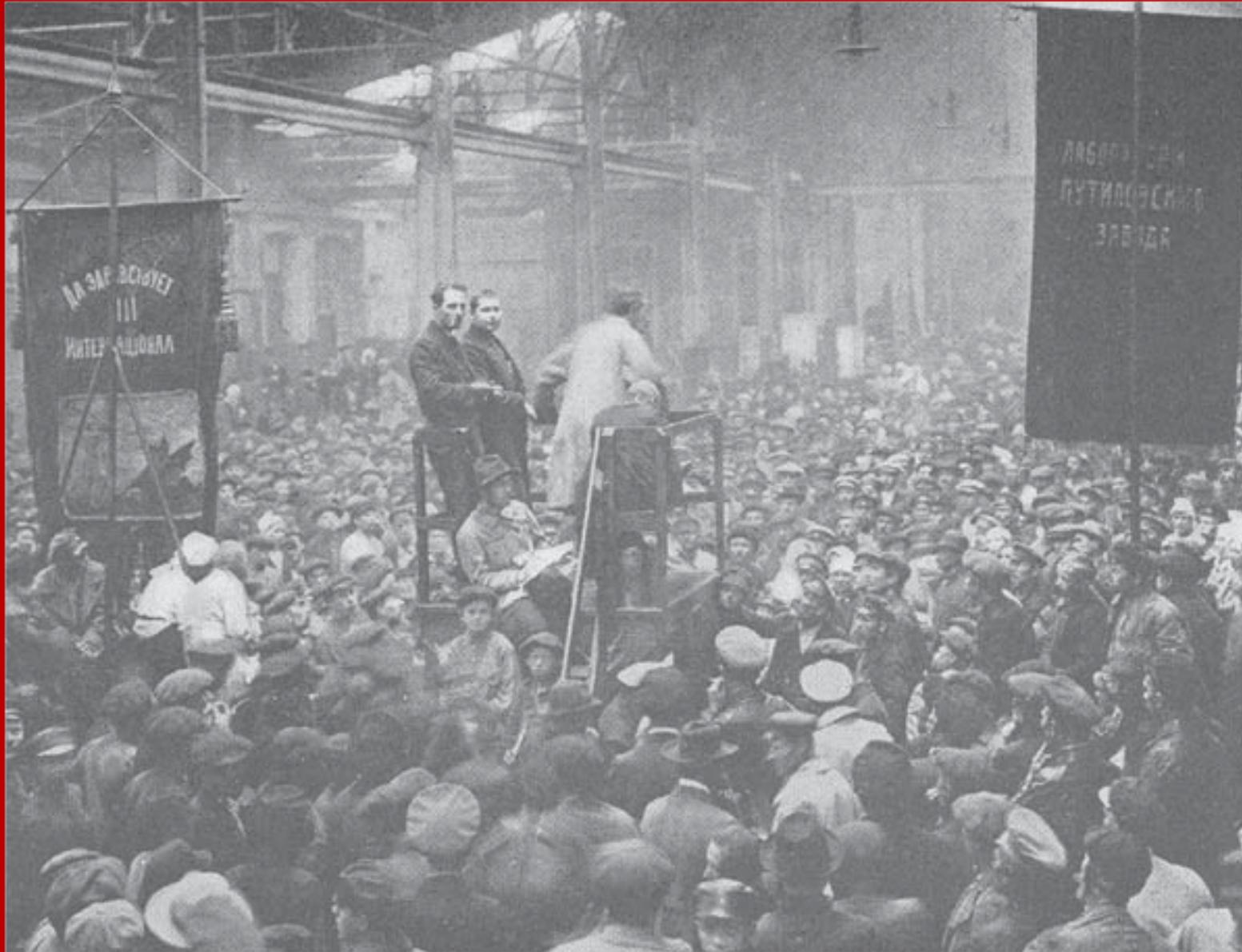




REVOLUTIONARY COMMUNISM

Theoretical Review of the Revolutionary Communist International Tendency



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May 2020

Revolutionary Unity against COVID-19 Global Counterrevolution

Health Program * WHO and World Bank on COVID-19 * ILO Study
Lockdown and the Left (Nigeria, Spain) * Israel: Arab Electoral List

English-Language Theoretical Review of the Revolutionary Communist International Tendency (RCIT), New Series No.37, May 2019

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Picture on the cover: Mass Meeting of the Bolshevik Party in the Putilov Factory (St. Petersburg) in the early 1920s. The banner reads "Workers of all countries and oppressed peoples, unite!"

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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Act Now because History is Happening Now!

A call to all revolutionary organizations and activists to join forces against the global counter-revolutionary offensive under the cover of COVID-19

Open Letter of the Revolutionary Communist International Tendency (RCIT), 26 March 2020

Comrades, brother and sisters!
The ruling classes around the world – from China to the U.S., from France to Argentina, from India to Nigeria – are currently waging a gigantic counterrevolutionary offensive against the working class and the popular masses. As the capitalist world economy experiences a slump of 1929 dimensions, they viciously throw millions of workers on the streets, cut wages and attack labor rights. As they rightly fear a militant response of the workers and oppressed, they drastically increase state repression in order to suppress any revolutionary explosions.

In order to confuse and paralyze the masses, they utilize the COVID-19 crisis for their political goals. Spreading fear and panic, they put hundreds of millions of people under lockdown and suppress their rights to demonstrate and to assembly. In many countries we experience the most severe attack on democratic rights since decades if not since 1945. In other words, the COVID-19 crisis is a cover for a major global counterrevolutionary offensive.

Shamefully, large sectors of the official workers movement and the so-called “left” capitulate to this pressure and support those anti-democratic attacks, claiming that their main purpose would be to fight the Corona Virus. We call these supporters of authoritarian attacks the Lockdown Left.

The *Revolutionary Communist International Tendency* (RCIT) has analyzed the COVID-19 crisis from the very beginning. We warned in a series of statements and articles about the *political counter-revolutionary nature* of these events and outlined a revolutionary response.

Comrades, we are experiencing a major historic situation. It is no less significant than situations like the collapse of Stalinism in 1989-91 or the 9-11 events and the consequential imperialist war against Afghanistan in 2001.

We consider it of utmost urgency that those revolutionary forces which refuse the capitulation of the Lockdown Left join forces. At the moment, large sectors of the workers vanguard are confused, paralyzed and lack a clear perspective. However, things will change. Sooner or later, the tremendous political and social contradictions which are currently accumulating will explode. For this we need to prepare. We must lose no time for this!

Comrades, we are convinced that it is of utmost urgency that all revolutionaries who have not capitulated to the reactionary offensive immediately start closer discussion and collaboration. We must unite our efforts in order to fight against the global bourgeois offensive and the consequences of COVID-19 and the Great Recession. If you have a similar assessment of the situation and agree that we need to jointly fight against the global counter-revolutionary offensive, we urge you to contact us as soon as possible. If you have relevant documents on this issue, please send them to us and we would be glad to publish them on our website.

Those interested in such discussion and collaboration should not waste time and start concrete joint work. We

suggest to create a kind of international bloc which collaborates on a regular basis and which initiates wherever possible concrete international campaigns. We are willing to consider all ideas and proposals for such collaboration. We from our side suggest a platform like the following as a political basis for such a bloc.

- 1) Recognition of the reactionary nature of the current global counterrevolutionary offensive of the ruling classes under the cover of the COVID-19 crisis.
- 2) Down with the state of emergencies, the expansion of the police state and surveillance technologies! No to all mass lock downs and suppression of the right to demonstrate and to assembly!
- 3) Free mass testing and free hospitalization of those infected by the Corona Virus! For the radical expansion of the public health sector under workers and popular control! Expropriation of all large private health institutions! For international cooperation to quickly develop effective vaccines respectively a cure!
- 4) Fight against all austerity attacks! No sacking, no wage cuts, no attacks on labor rights!
- 5) International Aid for the people in the Global South! Cancel all public and household debts! Expropriate the multinational corporations under workers control!
- 6) Intransigent struggle against the Lockdown Left within the workers and popular mass organizations!

Comrades, brothers and sisters! This is a crucial historic turning point in world politics. The time has come to join forces on the basis of a program of struggle! Do not hesitate, act now because history is happening now!

* * * * *

The RCIT has published numerous statements and articles on the COVID-19 crisis of which several have been translated into different languages. They are all collected at a special sub-page in our website: <https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/global/collection-of-articles-on-the-2019-corona-virus/>

In particular we draw the attention of readers to our new Manifesto:

COVID-19: A Cover for a Major Global Counterrevolutionary Offensive

We are at a turning point in the world situation as the ruling classes provoke a war-like atmosphere in order to legitimize the build-up of chauvinist state-bonapartist regimes

Manifesto of the Revolutionary Communist International Tendency (RCIT), 21 March 2020, <https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/global/covid-19-a-cover-for-a-major-global-counterrevolutionary-offensive/>

A Revolutionary Action Program to fight COVID-19

Workers and Oppressed: Don't trust the State of the Rich and Powerful! Trust only Yourselves!

12 points against the crisis by the Revolutionary Communist International Tendency (RCIT), April 2020

The pandemic caused by the novel Coronavirus 2019 (or - as it was renamed - SARS-CoV2) is used by various bourgeois states worldwide to implement a lockdown, to suppress democratic rights and to force people to apply "social distancing". Many self-proclaimed leftists argue that the lockdown measures are necessary and should be supported in order to prevent the collapse of the healthcare system. This is completely wrong!

In one study of the *Imperial College of London* the scenario of a full lockdown is described as the most effective of all measures based on the current amount of hospital beds, intensive care units, etc. The scenario is based on a duration of at least 5 (!) months which is indeed the minimum time span for an epidemic to flatten under the given circumstances. It is nearly impossible that the bourgeoisie will keep the full lockdown for so long making the measures ineffective to begin with. Most bourgeois governments have failed to prevent the virus from spreading, as well as to develop a health infrastructure to fight the epidemic. Right now, health workers around the globe are forced to work under poor and dangerous conditions, and are being repressed when they complain about this.

However, spreading fear and panic about the pandemic and mobilizing massively the state apparatus allows a perfect distraction from the real reasons of the current great recession: the crisis and decay of capitalism. In addition the few weeks of lockdown give the ruling classes enough time to establish a "new normal" were our democratic rights are massively reduced under the cover of a permanent threat by COVID-19 and similar pandemics.

The RCIT has analyzed in numerous articles and documents the real reasons for the Lockdowns. We opposed these measures from the very first moment. Without democratic rights to demonstrate and to assemble, we can not fight against the current economic attack or for any immediate health care measures. Neither is a lockdown necessary for successfully fighting the pandemic as we can see in South Korea.

Below we present a short Action Program against the current health crisis. It is a minimum program for the immediate tasks in the struggle against the pandemic. Any long-term solution is impossible as long as the ruling class - owning the economy and controlling the state apparatus - remains in power. Liberation is only possible when the

working class and the popular masses overthrow capitalism and open the road to an international socialist society without exploitation and oppression!

The following demands can only be realized if the workers and oppressed organize themselves in action committees, in trade unions and popular mass organizations, etc. Only if the masses have their own fighting organization will it be possible to force the capitalists to make any concessions and to organize aid for those in need.

The RCIT calls all revolutionaries to collaborate internationally in order to defend our class and all oppressed against the attacks of the bourgeoisie and the threat by the new coronavirus.

Comrades, brothers and sisters: Act Now because History is Happening Now!

To All Revolutionaries: Join Forces and Fight Back!

#1: Reject the ban of assemblies, rallies, demonstrations, strikes and other democratic rights by any means necessary! Oppose the Lockdown! Fight against any surveillance! Hack and reprogram or destroy artificial intelligence used by the state, the repression apparatus and their lackeys!

#2: For an international solidarity campaign to focus all forces on helping our brothers and sisters in the Global South to survive the pandemic! Such a solidarity campaign must include practical help like aid supplies of food, hygienic products, medication and many more. Fight for the immediate cancellation of all debts! The campaign must include help to fight other diseases like HIV and Ebola! Nobody should die from preventable diseases - free vaccination, medication and therapy in all semi-colonial countries, put under control of the local health staff, the workers and poor but financed by the expropriation of the multi-national corporations!

#3: Organize and support a broad health campaign by the international labor movement and the organizations of the oppressed in order to inform the public how to prevent an infection. This includes proper way of washing hands, sneezing into one's elbow, not touching the face and covering the mouth and nose when you attend gatherings, public places, etc. Organize action committees, supported and guided by health workers to actively spread information on proper prevention measures.

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#4: Help people who feel sick respectively observe any symptoms (like a running nose, a cough, etc.) to stay at home without worrying for their job via strong and militant trade union work. Popular committees should also support the urban and rural poor who are self-employed via collection of financial aid in the time of illness! Oppose all wage cuts, sackings and austerity packages!

#5: Inform people who stay at home because of symptoms to immediately contact a doctor in case of severe health problems. Also doctors should be contacted via phone if people have a suspicion that they are infected. Mobile phones, food, sanitary products, etc. should be provided by the labor movement if needed.

#6: Mobilize progressive doctors and experts by the labor movement and the organizations of the oppressed to volunteer their medical support to the poor.

#7: Demand the mass production of testing kits, respiratory protective devices, etc. Fight for internationally coordinated research programs by teams of medical experts to jointly develop a vaccination respectively a cure for the new coronavirus. Their work must be monitored by the labor movement! Organize demonstrations and strikes up to the expropriation under workers control for companies which produce respectively could produce medical facilities as well as the pharmaceutical industry. The life of people must not depend on greedy profit calculations of private corporations!

#8: Encourage people older than 60 years respectively people with underlying health condition to engage in activities with others for a shorter period of time during the spread of viruses like the coronavirus, the flu and other infectious diseases. They should meet with others more of-

ten but shorter instead of long meetings at home. Friends, families and others must be rigid in their own hygiene and prevention control.

#9: Fight for the immediate employment of hygiene and prevention teams to support the healthcare workers who should assign restocking, passing documents to other health departments, feeding of patients free from dysphagia and similar tasks to these semi-skilled teams. Administrative tasks should be limited to a minimum and if possible delegated by the skilled healthcare workers in order to concentrate on the care for the patients.

#10: Healthcare workers must get proper rest, massive increase of their wage, access to healthy food and water for free 24/7 and must be tested regularly in order to prevent weak immune system and infections! Organize political strikes for a massive investment in the health care system financed by the expropriation of the super-rich! Don't stay at home and let them alone! Fight for them because they fight for us!

#11: Organize self-defense units to protect infected people against any chauvinist respectively reactionary attacks. The health of the self-defense units must be monitored by health workers and the team members of the units should not rotate. Additional self-defense units must be organized in order to protect mobilizations like rallies and strikes against attacks of the repression apparatus and to defend migrants against racist attacks.

#12: Focus on political mobilizations and activities to fight against the massive attack on our democratic rights and the threats on our health! All revolutionaries need to join forces based on a revolutionary program to fight against the reactionary offensive of the ruling classes!

Books of the RCIT

Michael Pröbsting: The COVID-19 Global Counterrevolution

What It Is and How to Fight It

A Marxist analysis and strategy for the revolutionary struggle

In *The COVID-19 Global Counterrevolution* Michael Pröbsting analyses the dramatic events in spring 2020 which have opened a new historic era. A triple crisis has shocked the world. The Third Depression has begun, characterized by a devastating economic slump of the capitalist world economy which is certainly no less dramatic than the crisis which started in 1929.

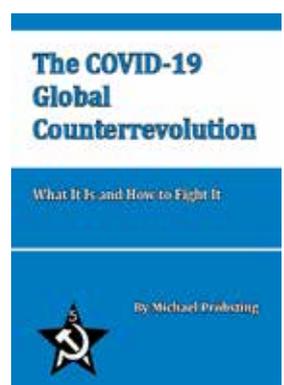
In addition, there is a wave of anti-democratic attacks of a scale which has not been seen in the imperialist countries since 1945. This has triggered a global turn towards Chauvinist State Bonapartism and the creation of a monstrous Leviathan-like state machinery.

And finally, the world faces COVID-19 – a pandemic which endangers many lives and which is exploited by the ruling classes in order to spread fear, to deflect attention from the capitalist causes of the economic crisis and to justify the turn towards chauvinist state bonapartism.

The COVID-19 Global Counterrevolution also shows that large sectors of the reformist workers movement and the

so-called left fail to understand the meaning of this triple crisis. Similar to the situation in 1914 after the beginning of World War I we can observe a gigantic wave of opportunist capitulation by many self-proclaimed socialists as they support or at least do not denounce the global lockdown and the suppression of democratic rights which the ruling classes are imposing in the name of combat against the pandemic. *The COVID-19 Global Counterrevolution* offers a Marxist analysis of this historic crisis and elaborates a revolutionary perspective for the struggles ahead.

The book contains an introduction and 6 chapters plus an appendix (176 pages) and includes 5 figures and a diagram.



How could WHO and World Bank exactly predict COVID-19?

The shady role of the Global Preparedness Monitoring Board

Article by Almedina Gunić, Revolutionary Communist International Tendency (RCIT), 26 March 2020

A meeting between the World Health Organization (WHO) and the World Bank Group was held in Geneva in September 2018, resulting in the foundation of a new (imperialist) body called the “Global Preparedness Monitoring Board (GPMB)” (1). Before we deal with the concrete character and history of the GPMB and its board members, we have to take a look on a very interesting document published by the GPMB which is its first annual report on global preparedness for health emergencies.

The headline of the paper is “A WORLD AT RISK” (2) and it covers the scenario of a pandemic, calling for a “whole-of-government” and a “whole-of-society” approach to such a situation. One of the key sentences of the paper is: “The world is not prepared for a fast-moving, virulent respiratory pathogen pandemic.” (3) The paper itself was published in September 2019, three months before the outbreak of a “fast-moving, virulent respiratory pathogen pandemic”, now called COVID-19. This is a very accurate fortunetelling especially if one looks at the timeline of publication.

The Purpose of Pandemic Preparation

The paper argues: “The world is at risk. But, collectively, we already have the tools to save ourselves and our economies. What we need is leadership and the willingness to act forcefully and effectively.” (4) Each and every revolutionary should be alarmed by those words. We have witnessed the beginning of the capitalist crisis with the big recession in 2008/2009, there have been the revolutionary developments in the Arab countries since 2011 and, most importantly, the global wave of class struggles and popular uprisings – in Chile, Ecuador, Iraq, Lebanon, Hong Kong, France, etc. – since summer 2019. It was only a matter of time when a global counterrevolutionary offensive will begin. A pandemic as a threat which needs coordinated reaction by the ruling classes worldwide is an excellent cover for a suppression and demobilization of all revolutionary movements. It is indeed the project of the bourgeoisie to save themselves and their economy.

The following passage of the paper shows clearly that the ruling class is fully aware of the broad mass resentment and the lack of trust in their institutions. “Trust in institutions is eroding. Governments, scientists, the media, public health, health systems and health workers in many countries are facing a breakdown in public trust that is threatening their ability to function effectively. The situation is exacerbated by misinformation that can hinder disease control communicated quickly and widely via social media.” (5) It is not by accident that governments and media are named at the beginning of this quote. It is revealing that such a pessimistic assessment is not limited to this or that specific country but is seen as a general global trend, i.e. characteristic for the general world situation.

The paper furthermore says: “Efforts on national and local preparedness planning too often lack an effective “whole-of-government” and “whole-of-society” approach. Other parties that must be engaged include national agencies beyond the health ministry, local governments, traditional and religious leaders,

civil society, the research and security communities, the private sector, the media and operational experts.” (6) We can currently see how effective most governments, mainly in the imperialist countries, have indeed managed within a short time to integrate traditional and religious leaders and the civil society, including the leadership of the workers movement, in their anti-democratic offensive covered by the fight against COVID-19.

“Emergency laws are not tough enough”

In this article we will not repeat the RCIT’s analyzes of the current developments of the COVID-19 crisis. We have done this extensively in numerous articles starting in early February 2020 (7). In particular we refer readers to our recently published programmatic manifesto: “COVID-19: A Cover for a Major Global Counterrevolutionary Offensive” (8).

In the report, the GPMB appeals a number of times that the bourgeois governments need to prepare themselves and the society for a crisis: “Preparedness. The ability (knowledge, capacities, and organizations systems) of governments, professional response organizations, communities and individuals to anticipate, detect and respond effectively to, and recover from, the impact of likely, imminent or current health emergencies, hazards, events or conditions. It means putting in place mechanisms which will allow national authorities, multilateral organizations, and relief organizations to be aware of risks and deploy staff and resources quickly once a crisis strikes.” (9) What is really meant with the call for preparedness by an imperialist body like the GPMB should be clear for any revolutionary.

Luckily for those who still haven’t learned to read between the lines, Ilona Kickbusch – member of the GPMB Board – makes it clear in a recent article on COVID-19: “Difficulties have also emerged because many EU countries have federal structures that place the responsibility for health at regional, state, and local level, leaving national health ministers with little power, as emergency laws are not tough enough (...) At the same time, the health crisis also provides room for manoeuvring to create long-term structures for joint responses in the future. (...) If Europe uses this moment of crisis well it could come out stronger.” (10)

Irrespective of that, maybe the GPMB report was just meant to be a paper like CONOP 8888, the more or less famous anti-zombie document and training program of the U.S. Pentagon (11) with a more realistic worst-case scenario for a global health crisis. Maybe it was just meant to be a warning that the health system is not prepared for a pandemic. Even in this case, the content of the paper proves again the real, counterrevolutionary nature of the current mobilization of forces by the ruling classes. CONOP 8888 was meant to prepare agents to deal with protest movements up to revolutionary uprisings, using the zombie reference as a code. “A WORLD AT RISK” prepares the G7 respectively the G20 to implement a coordinated, global offensive in case of a pandemic. However, the GPMB board is maybe honestly surprised by the hypothetical scenario becoming reality in such a short time. Or maybe everything is not such a coincidence at all.

What is the GPMB exactly?

The creation of the *Global Preparedness Monitoring Board (GPMB)* started in a time of crisis of the *World Bank Group*. This crisis is mainly a result of the decline of the United States as the imperialist hegemon: “*The World Bank has weathered U.S. disinterest before, eventually being rescued by a global crisis or change in U.S. administration. How much damage is done now depends on how long the current partisanship lasts, whether the administration goes from disinterested to hostile, and how other donor countries—and World Bank management—respond. While the rise of China poses a long-term challenge, the disinterest of Trump in multilateral matters poses a more daunting and more immediate problem.*” (12) The global influence of the new Eastern imperialist power China is reflected in its various economic projects like the *Belt and Road Initiative (BRI)*. However, it is also marked by its growing economic influence in semi-colonial countries weakening the monopoly of the *World Bank Group* in its function as loaner: “*A sharp drop in World Bank lending now could put it in the perilous position of being a development agency with a negative net resource flow—receiving more in loan repayments from poor countries than it sends out in new loans.*” (13)

Today, the *World Bank Group* happily steps in as a provider of massive new loans to a number of countries worldwide in order to cope with COVID-19. *World Bank Group* President David Malpass announced on the 23rd March 2020: “*The World Bank Group, including IFC and MIGA, could deploy as much as \$150 billion over the next 15 months. I need to raise a related concern. This crisis will likely hit hardest against the poorest and most vulnerable countries, those roughly 75 poorest countries drawing on IDA. Many were already in a difficult debt situation, leaving no space for an appropriate*

health and economic response. We are ready to frontload IDA19 with up to \$35 billion and identify additional resources.” (14) This “noble” gesture of the *World Bank Group* immediately solves its own existential crisis.

The *World Health Organization (WHO)* on the other hand stated in the GPMB annual report: “*Member states need to agree to an increase in WHO contributions for the financing of preparedness and response activities and must sustainably fund the WHO Contingency Fund for Emergencies, including the establishment of a replenishment scheme using funding from the revised World Bank Pandemic Emergency Financing Facility.*” (15) In times of a pandemic like COVID-19 the almightiness of the WHO in terms of health measures comes in handy to guarantee a massive increase of WHO contributions by its member states not only for now but also for the future.

Furthermore, it comes not by surprise that the board of GPMB includes persons like Jeremy Farrar, the CEO of the NPO *Wellcome Trust*. (16) The President of the *Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation*, Dr. Cris Elias is also a GPMB Board member (17). Jeremy Farrar is also on board of the *Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI)* which is funded by *Wellcome Trust*, the *Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation*, the *World Economic Forum* and the governments of Norway and India (18). Unsurprisingly CEPI is currently working on four different types of vaccines against the new coronavirus (19). In 2018 a partnership was established between CEPI and the pharmaceutical multinational company *Inovia Pharmaceutical* (20), which has started to work on a vaccine against the corona-virus family long before COVID-19. At the beginning of this year, it was already in phase 2 of clinical testing (21).

Another big multinational corporation that started early with vaccination testing against the corona-virus family is

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.

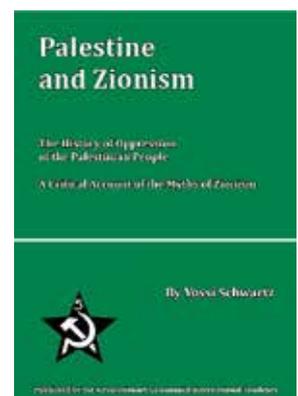
Yossi Schwartz also shows that the Palestinian people have heroically resisted against the occupation resulting in two Intifadas as well as the successful defense of Gaza against the Israeli aggression in three wars (2008/09, 2012, 2014). The author also analysis the shameful betrayal by the PLO leadership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



GlaxoSmithKline which recently started cooperating with China's Clover Biopharmaceuticals (22). GlaxoSmithKline is the successor of the Glaxo Wellcome Corp. which is the founder of already mentioned Wellcome Trust (23). Other noteworthy members of the *Global Preparedness Monitoring Board (GPMB)* are Dr. George F. Gao, the Director of the *Chinese Center for Disease Control and Prevention* and Prof. Veronika Skvortsova, former *Minister of Health of the Russian Federation* (24). Dr. George F. Gao's education included the function as a *Wellcome Trust/MRC Postdoctoral Research Assistant* from 1995-1998 and the work as part of the *Wellcome Trust (UK) International Research Fellowship* from 1999 to 2001 (25).

Conclusions

To sum it up: Pharmaceutical industry is most likely the biggest winner of the COVID-19 crisis. It has so much influence within the GPMB board, which is a body of both WHO and World Bank. Half a year ago, the GPMB has published an exact prediction of a pandemic that is happening right now. The *World Bank Group* is rescued in its function as a greedy loaner to semi-colonial countries. The *World Health Organization (WHO)* gains massive influence (and money) becoming one of the most important imperialist institutions in this crisis and most likely for the future. The various bourgeois states and regimes save themselves from the wave of revolutionary uprisings with the active help of civil society and are able to implement surveillance techniques and anti-democratic measures without any resistance. The massive recession appears as a natural consequence of the pandemic, smothering the fact that it is the result of the capitalist crisis itself.

Comrades, brothers and sisters, this is like the case of 9/11 and the war against Afghanistan. The U.S. led invasion was planned before September 11 happened, but it was presented as a direct reaction to the attack against the World Trade Centre. The counterrevolutionary offensive that is now happening worldwide is implemented under the cover of fighting COVID-19, but it was prepared long before the virus spread.

Footnotes:

- (1) "Global Preparedness Monitoring Board convenes for the first time in Geneva", The World Bank Press Release, 10 September 2018, <https://www.worldbank.org/en/news/press-release/2018/09/10/global-preparedness-monitoring-board-convenes-for-the-first-time-in-geneva>
- (2) "A WORLD AT RISK, Annual report on global preparedness for health emergencies", Global Preparedness Monitoring Board (GPMB), September 2019, https://apps.who.int/gpmb/assets/annual_report/GPMB_annualreport_2019.pdf
- (3) Ibid, p.15
- (4) Ibid, p.6
- (5) "A WORLD AT RISK, Annual report on global preparedness for health emergencies", Global Preparedness Monitoring Board (GPMB), p. 15, September 2019, https://apps.who.int/gpmb/assets/annual_report/GPMB_annualreport_2019.pdf
- (6) Ibid, p. 24
- (7) "Collection of Articles on the 2019 Corona Virus", Revolutionary Communist International Tendency (RCIT), <https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/global/collection-of-articles-on-the-2019-corona-virus/>
- (8) "COVID-19: A Cover for a Major Global Counterrevolutionary Offensive. We are at a turning point in the world situation as the ruling classes provoke a war-like atmosphere in order to legitimize the build-

- up of chauvinist state-bonapartist regimes", Manifesto of the Revolutionary Communist International Tendency (RCIT), 21 March 2020, <https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/global/covid-19-a-cover-for-a-major-global-counterrevolutionary-offensive/>
- (7) "A WORLD AT RISK", p. 41
- (8) The Big European Shut Down COVID-19 pandemic reflects the EU's powerlessness to act coherently on health matters—but it also reveals a path forward, by Ilona Kickbusch and Susan Bergner, Think Global Health, 16 March 2020, <https://www.thinkglobalhealth.org/article/big-european-shut-down>
- (11) "Pentagon document lays out battle plan against zombies", by Jamie Crawford, CNN, 16 May 2014, <https://edition.cnn.com/2014/05/16/politics/pentagon-zombie-apocalypse/index.html>
- (12) "The fate of the World Bank during a divided US government", by Christopher Kilby, BROOKINGS, 7 November 2018, <https://www.brookings.edu/blog/future-development/2018/11/07/the-fate-of-the-world-bank-during-a-divided-us-government/>
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The Close-Down Policy is killing

Article by Yossi Schwartz, Revolutionary Communist International Tendency (RCIT), 12 April 2020

There is an attempt by the capitalist states that impose close-down policy to prove that the South Korean method of dealing with the Corona has not proven itself. This false argument is based on the fact that there are still cases of Corona in South Korea.

“South Korea has been held up as a paragon for containing the corona virus, lauded by the world for flattening its curve, but it is now bracing for a possible second wave (...) The other world, however, keeps its eye firmly on the slight daily uptick in the country’s number of cases.” (1)

As of 9th April South Korea confirmed 10,423 cases of infection including 204 deaths after the first case of coronavirus in the country on 20th January. As of the same date, 6,973 patients were released from quarantine after making a full recovery from the virus. In total, over 494,000 people have been tested until now. (2)

In contrast to other capitalist states that claim that the old people are in risk, in South Korea the young men were infected more than others. In the countries where old people die from coronavirus it is often enough from poor health respectively poor care. In addition many countries count their death toll by infection of coronavirus as main cause irrespective of the fact that other illnesses might be the main reason for the death.

The following shows the South-Korean coronavirus death toll by age (3):

Below 10 years old	1.24%
10-19	5.32%
20-29	27.25%
30-39	10.64%
40-49	13.35%
50-59	18.38%
60-69	12.66%
70-79	6.62%

Just compare it to the USA where there have been 502,000 cases reported with close to 19,000 people who died (4) or Britain with over 73,000 cases and 9,000 deaths. (5)

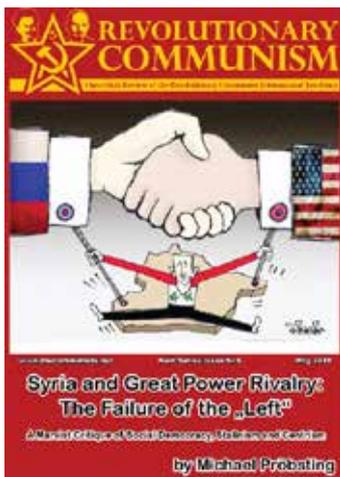
Not only this, but anyone who cares to learn from history knows that there were three waves of the Spanish Influenza. Even the flu we all now is seasonal. Thus a new wave of the coronavirus in South Korea is not a big surprise nor does it prove that the South Korean method is not a better method to fight the epidemic in contrast to the close-down policy.

The Case of the Spanish Flu

A look at the USA makes it clear that the close-down policy only increases the inequality. The native Indians, Inuit, Inuk of North America and the black communities are the most vulnerable groups and the main victims in the close-down policy.

This is not the first time that the first people of North America and the Afro-Americans are hit by the capitalists system in America the worst way. The influenza pandemic of 1918-19, also known as the Spanish flu and scientifically known as H1N1 virus (to which the swine flu belong as well), was such a case. It spread with astonishing speed around the world, from India to Australia and to the Pacific islands. In just 18 months at least a third of the world’s population was infected. One should not forget that today the worldwide spreading of a virus is far easier because of globalisation.

There are different estimations of how many people died from it, varying between 20 million to 50 million or even up to 100 million deaths. The pandemic of the Spanish flu may have killed as many or even more than the imperialist First World War but the reason for the death toll by



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

Spanish flu are to find in WW1. The soldiers didn't die because they were defending democracy or the fatherland like the propaganda of the ruling classes told them that days. They died because of the capitalists' greed and the H1N1 virus had it easy to become such a severe epidemic because of the destruction, the hunger, the injuries and the general misery caused by the imperialist war.

The epidemic began in the USA in March 1918 in a training facility, Camp Funston, that housed 50,000 men. It began with one infected person and within a few hours, more than a hundred other soldiers were infected. One month later American troops brought the virus with them when they arrived in Europe. European and North American mass media did not report the outbreaks because of censorship. Only in neutral Spain, the press reported freely about the new epidemic with the result that Spain was blamed for it and the epidemic named even Spanish flu.

Today, racists blame China rather than the economic crisis and the pollution of the earth and the atmosphere, which the capitalist mode of production is responsible for. During the influenza of 1918-1919, indigenous people were at much higher risk. Remote indigenous populations were especially vulnerable. Many Native Americans and Pacific Islanders were annihilated by the influenza. Native Americans suffered hideously, with mortality rates four times higher than in the white population. (6)

The Navajo of the Southwestern United States in particular experienced high mortality. Same is true for the oppressed today, although the capitalist propaganda creates the impression that the plague is "socially neutral," infecting people across nationalities, ethnic groups, and classes.

In Britain, 2.5 % of the total population died, although almost 30% were infected. In the United States, 28 % of the population was infected and 2.5 percent died. (7)

Among the Native Americans, there was great variation by tribe. According to the US Public Health Service in 1919, less than 1 percent of the Native Americans of Oklahoma, Wyoming, Kansas, and Michigan died from influenza, compared to the 4 to 6% in Arizona, Colorado, Mississippi, New Mexico and Utah. Among Alaskan Natives entire communities were stricken and some towns were even abandoned. In the vicinity of the town of Marshal, 30% of all males and 10 % of all females died! (8)

The available literature suggests several factors that explain the level of mortality like age and gender, class and availability of resources (nursing, food, shelter), the condition of health and prior disease experience, community organization and communication infrastructure. Old people and very young and pregnant women were especially vulnerable. It came in three different waves. Among the Navajo it estimates a total mortality from the three waves of was as high as 10%. (9)

Studies show that many Navajo died from influenza because there was no one to care for them; abandoned family members died of starvation. The Navajo were dispersed in "camps," with many families living at some distance from other Navajo. During the epidemic, all family members might catch the disease at the same time, and "since families resided alone, no one was available to tend the sick. Their dispersion did not keep them from catching the disease but was sufficient to prevent them from obtaining assistance". (10) This by itself prove that the close-down

cannot stop the virus and may cause more deaths.

Money for the Tribes withheld

Today we see the same pattern. At least 321 people were infected by 4th April at the Navajo nation that crosses three western states with an increase of 51 cases and 13 fatalities in a single day, the most in Indian Country. Police started issuing citations to anyone who violates a stay-at-home order. Experts say (that today) more than 5 million people who identify as American Indian and Alaskan Native are especially vulnerable: "When you look at the health disparities in Indian Country — high rates of diabetes, cancer, heart disease, asthma and then you combine that with the overcrowded housing situation where you have a lot of people in homes with an elder population who may be exposed or carriers — this could be like a wildfire on a reservation and get out of control in a heartbeat," said Kevin Allis, chief executive of the National Congress of American Indians." (11)

The American Indians live in small homes, where the virus can easily spread among family members. The Houses often lack electricity and running water so washing hands is more difficult. They suffer disproportionately from hypertension, asthma, cancer, heart and cardiovascular disease that put them at a higher risk of death from the coronavirus. American Indians are 600 times more likely to die of tuberculosis and nearly 200 times more likely to die of diabetes than other groups. More than a quarter under age 65 lack health insurance. (12)

The virus spread through the population of 350,000 Navajo, which means that infection increased from 71 to about 270 in just a week. Zes, an Indian chief, says that the Navajo couldn't get federal funding for American Indians allocated by Congress in early March fast enough because he had to apply for it through the Center for Diseases Control and Prevention. Nez said money should have come directly to the tribe, so he could quickly buy protective gear for health workers: "I think you really need to let the people know the federal government again is short-changing tribes throughout the country. We're always at the bottom of the list. That money has already been given to the states. What they want us to do is beg for money." (13) From California to New York, tribal presidents and chiefs expressed similar frustration. When the economy shut down last month, so did the casinos and tourism that funded their way of life which left about 640,000 workers losing their jobs, suddenly facing dramatic poverty.

"A third stimulus package passed by congress on 27th March included \$10 billion for American Indians but allocating the funds could take weeks. Poor health facilities are another concern. At the Oglala Sioux in South Dakota, President Julian Bear Runner said the federal Indian Health Services facilities "are not well equipped." For the tribe's 50,000 members, there are 24 coronavirus test kits, six ventilators and four beds set aside for quarantine at the Pine Ridge Hospital."(14)

The Inuit communities are having high rates of death as well. "The long-standing disparities that exist in the way of healthcare and health conditions ... put our people, our communities, at much greater risk," said Dalee Sambo Dorough, chair of the Inuit Circumpolar Council, an organization that represents 180,000 Inuit across Canada, the

United States, Russia and Greenland.

Based in the US state of Alaska, she said the risk of novel coronavirus, also known as COVID-19, spreading in Inuit communities is exacerbated by persistent infrastructure problems, such as overcrowded housing, a lack of sewage systems, and unsafe drinking water. Alaska's Department of Environmental Conservation estimates that more than 3,300 rural homes that are occupied year-round don't have potable water.

"Overcrowding is a huge issue," Dorough told Al Jazeera. "When you then compound that with a respiratory transmission of the coronavirus, that alone can be devastating. [But] it's not only the overcrowding - it's the lack of potable water, also just the lack of actual healthcare facilities". (15)

Coronavirus and Racism: A Double Threat

The coronapandemic is infecting and killing black Americans at a disproportionately high rate, according to a Washington Post article: "The emerging stark racial disparity led the surgeon general Tuesday to acknowledge in personal terms the increased risk for African Americans amid growing demands that public-health officials release more data on the race of those who are sick, hospitalized and dying of a contagion. A Post analysis of available data and census demographics shows that counties that are majority-black have three times the rate of infections and almost six times the rate of deaths as counties where white residents are in the majority." (16)

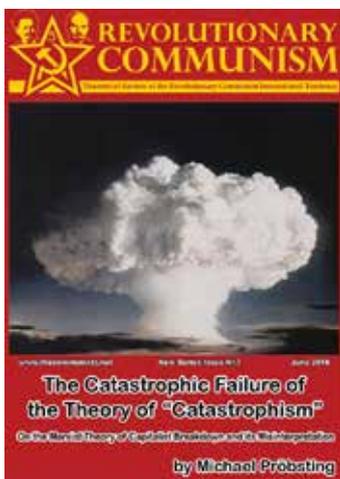
In Milwaukee County African Americans account for about 70% of the dead but just 26% of the population. It is similar in Louisiana, where 70% of the people who

have died were black, although African Americans make up just 32% of the population. Race data was released in Washington for the first time showing that the disease has killed African Americans in disproportionately high numbers. Nearly 60%(!) of the District's 22 fatalities were black, but African Americans make up about 46% of the city's population. (17)

African Americans' higher rates of diabetes, heart disease, and lung disease are well-documented. No wonder that the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention only released figures by age and gender (Effective 4th April), defacto trying to cover the racist character of U.S. imperialism. This manoeuvre was so obvious that hundreds of doctors joined a group of lawmakers, the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law, including senators from the Democratic Party like Elizabeth Warren, Cory Booker (first African-American U.S. Senator from New Jersey) and Kamala D. Harris (first senator of either Jamaican or Indian ancestry) to demand that the federal government release daily race and ethnicity data. They demand that the data should include coronavirus testing, number of patients and their health outcomes: "Elected officials and public-health experts have pointed to generations of discrimination and distrust between black communities and the health-care system. African Americans are also more likely to be uninsured and live in communities with inadequate health-care facilities.

As a result, African Americans have historically been disproportionately diagnosed with chronic diseases such as asthma, hypertension and diabetes — underlying conditions that experts say make covid-19 more lethal." (18)

Many Afro-American people hold low-wage and essential jobs, such as food service, public transit and health



NEW RCIT PUBLICATION!

The Catastrophic Failure of the Theory of "Catastrophism"

By Michael Pröbsting, May 2018

*On the Marxist Theory of Capitalist Breakdown and its Misinterpretation
by the Partido Obrero (Argentina) and its*

"Coordinating Committee for the Refoundation of the Fourth International"

Introduction * A Note on the PO's term "Catastrophism" * What did the Marxist Classics Say? A Brief Overview * Empirical Evidence for the Long-Term Decline of Capitalism * What will come after Capitalism? * Epoch and Periods * The Current Historical Period which Opened in 2008/09 * Empirical Evidence for the Decay of Capitalism in the Present Historic Period * The Dialectical and the Mechanistic Interpretation of Cycles on Capitalism * Permanent Collapse? No, there is Collapse and Collapse * Consequences of "Catastrophism" (I): Confusion on Capitalist Restoration * Consequences of "Catastrophism" (II): Confusion on China and Russia as Capitalist Powers * Excuse: The Theory of "Long Waves" and Dialectical Materialism * From Economic Crisis to Revolutionary Situation? * Can the Crisis of Leadership be Solved without an International Democratic-Centralist Organization? * Conclusions * Footnotes

A RCIT Pamphlet, 32 pages, A4 Format

care, that required them to continue to interact with the public. Compared to white people, blacks have lower levels of health insurance coverage and are less likely to have insurance coverage through an employer. The closedown of non-essential businesses has effected Black and Latino workers at a higher rate. William Rodgers, chief economist at the Heldrich Center for Workforce Development at Rutgers University, estimated that the true rate of unemployment is likely 20.7% percent for African Americans rather than the official rate of 4.1%, and 18.7% for Latino workers, as opposed to the official rate of 6%. (19)

Coronavirus spreads faster in places with higher density, such as cities. Black Americans are more likely to live in urban counties than suburban or rural ones. In these locations, black Americans are more likely to live in crowded places which is the perfect hotbed for any contagious disease. Thus the Coronavirus is killing a bigger number of people because of pollution - a direct result of the unclean energies the capitalists use - but the racist exploitative system might kill even more.

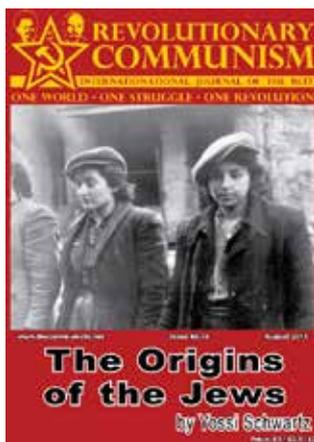
Lockdown is not a measure that can stop the plague effectively but rather isolates the oppressed, increasing the suffering and the rate of death among North American Indians, Inuit and Black people. The close-down policy is trying to mask the worst recession since 1929 as well as the preparation of Bonapartist measures to fight effectively - not against the virus but rather the protests and uprisings to come. As our brothers and sisters from the North American Indians, Inuit, the Afro-American and Latino communities are the ones to be effected the most by the epidemic in the United States it makes it even more obvious how important their participation and leadership in revolutionary struggle is and will be.

In the end of the day, their knowledge and concrete experience with the racist, sexist and imperialist class system makes our brothers and sisters the strongest force for the ruling class to fear.

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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

The Corona Pandemic is not the Problem but only a Symptom of the Decay of the Capitalist System

What can we learn from China?

Article by Yossi Schwartz, Revolutionary Communist International Tendency (RCIT), 27 March 2020

China did not have hospitals serving the majority of people until the middle of the 20th century. The health care providers were mainly small private clinics, individual healers and religious or charity institutions. Hospitals existed only for the royal family and high-ranking officials and military personnel. Hospitals serving the general public began in China in the eighteenth century in the form of missionary hospitals controlled by Western Churches.

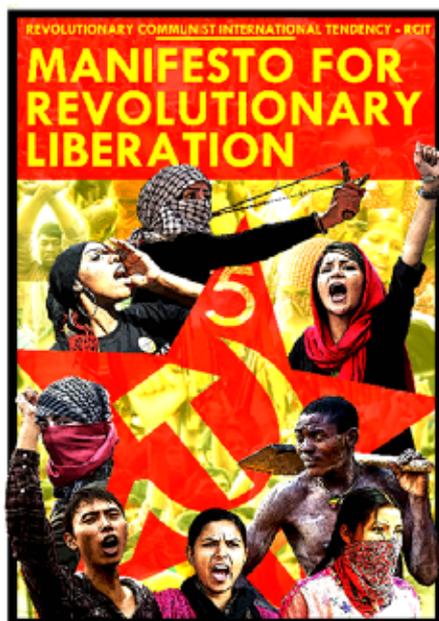
The Health Department in China during the Qing Dynasty was established in 1905 and was a department within the Police Agency. It was used as a system for political control¹. The Qing dynasty was the last royal dynasty, It ruled China from 1644 until 1912. It was not ethnic Han Chinese but Manchu that occupied China in the seventeenth century. Under their rule the Han Chinese were forced to adopt the traditional Manchu *queue*: a male hairstyle in the form of shaved forehead and a long braided ponytail. From the 18th century the population grew fast while the economics based on agriculture lagged behind. The rulers were corrupted and under their rule the population suffered from land shortages, inadequate food production and several famines. The peasants and the workers in the cities suffered from high levels of taxation. These conditions led to the start of the Taiping Rebellion in Guangxi province, southern China, in 1851. The rebellion was suppressed by the imperial government, though it took 12 years and cost about 20 millions of lives.

After 1912, when the dynastic system was abolished, the Chinese Nationalist Party promised to create modernized western-style health service in the area under its direct control. After 1927 the Nationalist Government started to build the healthcare sector. Prior to the 1949 revolution there were 768 hospitals, however only 248 of them were government-funded, the other 520 were private hospitals².

After the victory of the Chinese Stalinists in 1949, the Stalinist government led by Mao began to modernize the public health service. It relied on the Soviet Union's model and by 1965 there existed more than 230 medical educational institutions. The total number of medical professionals was over 200,000. General hospitals were built in the provinces and clinics in the villages. The government opened disease-prevention centers in addition to treatment service. It cultivated so-called barefoot doctors (farmers worked often barefoot on the the fields), to improve undeveloped rural health care service. Medical education opportunities were open to nearly everyone. To provide medical care to the villages the medical training was reduced to less than three years. The health care system was based on preventive medical service rather than treatment-based service. Barefoot doctors worked in the underdeveloped rural areas for the purpose of prevention of diseases³.

Today's Healthcare in China

From the 1980s, when China began its motion toward becoming a capitalist state, all of this changed. Workers who earn these days 300 Dollars a month prepare medicines by themselves to provide their sick parents because cancer medicine in the pharmacy costs 2000 Dollars at least. An article of the New York Times describes a case symbolic for the situation of many poor workers in China: "In July 2017, Mr. Zhang started making WZ4002, yet another drug. It was discovered in 2005 by the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute in Boston but has not been approved by regulators in the United States or China. His mother told Mr. Zhang that it caused dizzy spells. Earlier, she had come down with a severe bout of diarrhea after taking one of the homemade drugs and had to be hospitalized for a month."⁴ But he can still order the raw ingredients



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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for drugs like this online at a fraction of their official prices. So he keeps making them, like many other desperate and poor people.

The following is another account of the health care these days: *"The introduction of capitalism and the retreat of the state meant that health care was no longer free. Hospitals became profit-driven. And with limited accountability, they were widely accused of predatory behavior. A culture of mistrust and inequality now plagued the system. Here's what that looks like today for ordinary Chinese. It's 5 a.m., and about 100 people have gathered in a line in downtown Shanghai. This isn't the line to the movies or a holiday sale. It's the entrance to the Shanghai Cancer Center at Fudan University. Those who were willing to lose a night's sleep trying to get a spot in line now have one question in their mind: "Will I be able to see a doctor today?" The scalpers are out, and they're selling spots in line. China's line scalpers symbolize a greater dysfunction. The chance of seeing a doctor here is directly related to how big your wallet is. Corruption is inherently part of the system. And in rural areas, it's worse. But leaving your home in the countryside could have a profound impact on what type of care you can get in the city. Despite its rapid modernization, China still uses what is known as the Hukou system. Your Hukou is defined by your birthplace, and you're only entitled to social services within that region."*⁵

In addition to these examples, the case of Wuhan is of specific interest in order to fully understand the health situation in China. Wuhan is a major manufacturing city with a heavy focus on automobile and medical equipment. The famous German company Bosch has two plants in the city and the French company PSA relocated their China headquarters to Wuhan recently.

Wuhan Tianhe International Airport is the only airport in the mid-China region to have direct flights to five different continents, 109 destinations and 20 countries. Last but not least the high-speed railway lines Beijing to Guangzhou (which is from North to South) and Shanghai to Chengdu (from East to West) operate in Wuhan in addition to the usual train services.⁶ It is therefore not an exaggeration to characterize Wuhan as one of the many industrial strongholds in China, even though the region has struggled in the early past. It is also an example how insufficient health care services have been an issue for China — even before the outbreak.

At the end of 2018 the occupancy rate of hospital beds in Wuhan was already at 94% and the city's medical institutions had a total staff of 136,300 according to Wuhan's health commission.⁷ The population of Wuhan in 2020 is 8,365,000 which means an increase by 1.2% since last year.⁸ The government of China allocated to them additional 10,000 hospital beds since the Coronavirus pandemic started, which means that even now there is one bed for every 836 people which is in average still less than 1.2 beds for every 1,000 people. One has to bear in mind that the rural areas, which represent a big part of the country, have far less healthcare facilities than cities like Wuhan. An epidemic becomes immediately a catastrophic situation for a major part of the population!

COVID-19, Pollution and the Wuhan Protests

It seems that while the outbreak of the new coronavirus increased the health crisis for the people in Wuhan and the whole of China, at least the pollution was reduced.

*"There's been a dramatic drop in pollution across China as the country tries to contain COVID-19, the disease caused by the novel coronavirus. New maps using data collected from NASA and European Space Agency satellites show how nitrogen dioxide, a dangerous gas released by burning fuel, has dissipated since the outbreak (...) Maps depicting nitrogen dioxide levels in Wuhan, China from January 1st through February 25th of last year show the region blanketed in fiery colors, with parts in a deeper red signifying high concentrations of the pollutant. Fast forward to this year, and maps of the same region show a stark difference: they're nearly all blue, showing lower concentrations."*⁹

The pollution in China is mainly a problem in the working class cities. The rich and the political echelons live in relatively non-polluted cities. The top 20 of the worst cities in China concerning air pollution are all located in the central or western regions except of the city Xuzhou, which is in the wealthy east coast province Jiangsu.¹⁰

Wuhan is of specific interest here: *"When world leaders arrive in Beijing, the city typically lays on beautiful blue skies. It's a sign of the Chinese capital's ability to control its notorious smog when it needs to. It's also indicative of the progress China has made in tackling air pollution in recent years, both by shutting down and upgrading elderly factories and passing new restrictions to tackle emissions. That's seen Beijing fall out of the top 100 most-polluted cities in Asia in recent years, with overall pollution levels 10% lower across Chinese cities between 2017 and 2018, according to a report by Greenpeace and AirVisual. Shanghai, the country's largest city and financial capital, has also made environmental advances, such as adopting stringent recycling regulations. At 146 globally on the AirVisual list, Wuhan, in northeastern China, is not among China's most polluted cities, but residents aren't taking any chances. Recent weeks have seen major protests there -- in themselves a rarity in China -- over plans for a new garbage incineration plant."*¹¹ This protest happened from June to July 2019 and surprised the government both in the region and the whole country. The protesters rallied against the planned project to build a new garbage incineration plant in Wuhan.

The propaganda machinery in China might explain the reasons for the anti-pollution protests in Wuhan the same way as usual: *"Teams led by ministerial-level officials are completing inspections of environmental protection efforts across China, with the results having already affected the promotion prospects of thousands of officials (...) Some 18,000 polluting companies have been punished so far, with fines totalling more than 870 million yuan (US\$132.2 million) handed out, and more than 12,000 officials disciplined (...) The scope and severity of the crackdown on lax enforcement of environmental standards has been unprecedented, as has been the response from local governments, who have traditionally turned a blind eye to environmental violations as long as they contributed to local economic growth."*¹²

It doesn't come by surprise that the Stalinist-capitalist regime in China uses the same tactic when it comes to pollution that it used after the new coronavirus spread in Wuhan: Blame it on the local and regional governments and their bureaucrats. However, the protests in Wuhan have been met with full force by the imperialist regime. Police was mobilised at a large scale, a big number of protesters were arrested and even after the protests came to halt the repression apparatus remained their heavy police presence in the city. Just few months later the coronavirus

pandemic started in Wuhan.

Not long ago we were told that the Coronavirus has been suppressed in Wuhan and that "life returned to normal". Thus pollution is back again and so may protests by the residents in Wuhan. Only this time, the militarisation of the city is well developed and the regime as well as its local bureaucrats can easily prevent any mobilisations with the argument that the virus is still a threat.

The healthcare system in China is not providing the resources that are needed although it managed to build a hospital in short time after the epidemic started. Pollution is worsening the living standard of the working class and poor. A recession similar to 1929 is happening in this era of crisis of capitalism.

However, China seems well prepared to deal with all of it and might become the model for many other imperialist countries. The developments of the last 9 months in Wuhan have shown this. And they have shown us the important lesson about the correlation between the threat of epidemics and the realisation of anti-democratic measures.

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Books of the RCIT

Michael Pröbsting: Building the Revolutionary Party in Theory and Practice

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

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

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

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

25 years.

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

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

Building the Revolutionary Party in Theory and Practice

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



By Michael Pröbsting

Published by the Revolutionary Communist International Tendency

For an International Conference on the Struggle against the Global Capitalist Crisis!

Open Letter to the Frente de Izquierda y de los Trabajadores Unidad (Argentina)

By the Revolutionary Communist International Tendency (RCIT), 31 March 2020

Dear comrades of FIT-U and its participant organizations PTS, PO, IS and MST!

Our international organization – the *Revolutionary Communist International Tendency* (RCIT) – strongly welcomes your initiative to organize a conference on the revolutionary struggles in Latin America which should take place in Buenos Aires between 1 and 4 May. (“*Convocatoria a conferencia latinoamericana: Un nuevo escenario en Latinoamérica y la necesidad de una salida socialista y revolucionaria Destacado*”) However, as you are surely aware, it is highly unlikely that this conference can take place given the state of emergency and the suppression of democratic rights for public assemblies. It is even more unlikely that visitors from abroad could travel to this conference.

Naturally, this is a highly regrettable development but most likely it will not be possible to change it for now.

However, we think that your idea for such a conference could and should be modified given the new global circumstances. As you are obviously aware the whole world is currently gripped by a capitalist triple catastrophe – the pandemic, a devastating economic slump a la 1929 and a global turn towards militarized state repression. In such a situation it is extremely urgent to discuss and initiate an international response of revolutionary and socialist organizations.

The alliance of FIT-U possesses excellent attributes to play a key role for such an international response to the global capitalist crisis. As a sizeable force with a number of deputies in national and regional parliaments as well as leaders in workers and popular organizations you have the resources as well as a certain authority for such a project. Even more, allow us to say this, exactly because of your strength, you bear a great responsibility not only for the liberation struggle in Argentina but in the whole world. You could make a difference in order to launch an international response against the global counter-revolutionary offensive.

Naturally, for the reasons mentioned above, such a conference could not be a physical conference. However, given modern means of communication technology it should be possible to organize a kind of virtual international conference. This is surely not an easy undertaking. It would also require a limitation of the number of international participants (probably only one Skype account for every participating organization). Maybe such an international conference has to be divided in several parts. However, these are practical and technical issues which can be discussed and solved.

The important thing is to have the will and to take the initiative for such an international virtual conference. We urge you to take up this responsibility. As we said in a recently published Open Letter: “*Act Now because History is Happening Now!*”

In summary, we make the following concrete proposals:

- 1) To organize an *international virtual conference* focused on the global crisis and the revolutionary socialist perspectives for fight against it;
- 2) Formation of an *international preparation committee* for such a conference
- 3) Establishment of an *international discussion bulletin* which should contain contributions, draft resolutions, etc. from organizations participating in such a conference

The RCIT considers a conference as an extraordinary crucial issue given the current global events. Such a conference could play a role similar to Zimmerwald during World War One. What we are currently experiencing are historic events of no less importance than the collapse of Stalinism in 1989-91. In such a situation, discussion, collaboration and if possible joint campaigns of revolutionary and socialist organizations is of utmost importance!

Your planned conference in Buenos Aires – if modified as outlined above – could play such a role. The RCIT is strongly committed to participate and contribute to such an event.

China's transformation into an imperialist power

**A study of the economic, political and military aspects
of China as a Great Power**

By Michael Pröbsting (International Secretary of the RCIT)

Order the pamphlet via our contact address: rcit@thecommunists.net

3.4 Trillion Reasons

An ILO study shows the consequences of the COVID-19 crisis for the international working class and popular masses

by Michael Pröbsting, International Secretary of the Revolutionary Communist International Tendency (RCIT), 25 March 2020

As everyone knows the capitalist world economy currently faces its worst slump since 1929. While exact predictions about the scale of the crisis are difficult to make – with currently 2.2 billion people under lockdown – there can be no doubt that the economic consequences will be devastating.

Unsurprisingly the bourgeois politicians and business leaders claim that this gigantic slump is because of the Corona Virus. Surely, the widespread draconic lockdown measures have worsened its economic impact. However, as we demonstrated in past documents, there is no doubt that this Great Recession already started before the lockdowns, in fact it already started last year when nobody had heard about the Corona Virus. As we elaborated in an analysis of the world economy published in October 2019, the recession has been caused not by a virus but by the inherent contradictions of the capitalist profit system.¹

In fact, as the RCIT has pointed out repeatedly, it was the Great Recession which came first and this catastrophic crisis of capitalism spurred the ruling classes to look for a pretext to deflect attention from its real causes. They utilize the COVID-19 crisis to spread fear and panic, to lockdown the working class and popular masses and to suppress their rights to demonstrate and to assembly. Hence, the capitalists use this crisis in order to paralyze the resistance of the masses to launch a preemptive strike against them.²

At this point, we do not intend to repeat our economic analysis or our assessment of the COVID-19 crisis. We

rather wish to draw attention to a highly interesting study of International Labour Organization (ILO) which is an institution of the United Nations. This study, published a few days ago, attempts to calculate the economic and social consequences of the recession for the workers and poor.³

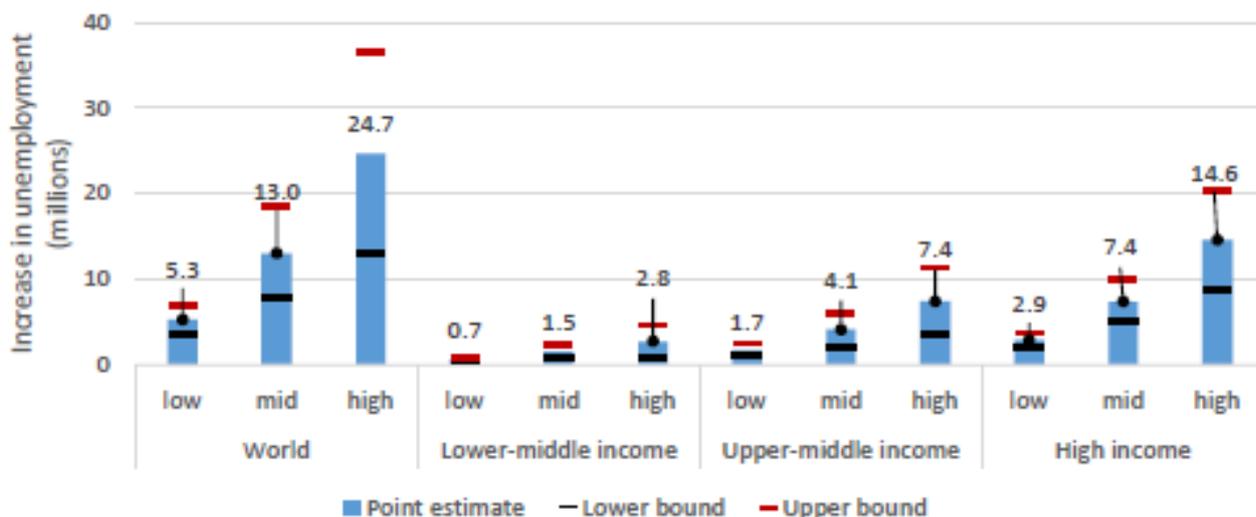
Limitations

Before presenting the most interesting conclusions of this study, we want to point out briefly some limitations of this study. First, things are in full motion as the economic collapse is taking place right now. Under such conditions, a prognosis which was made on 2 March might be outdated on 20 March. In fact, we are convinced that the ILO study underestimates the massive economic repercussions of the economic slump for the working class and popular masses.

Secondly, we also believe that the ILO study strongly underestimates the consequences of the current crisis for the Global South. As we will show below, the ILO authors believe that the impact of the crisis will be much more significant in the imperialist countries than in the semi-colonial world. Again, we think this is wrong.

Nevertheless we consider the ILO study as highly interesting as it indicates that even bourgeois economists recognize the dramatic scale of the crisis for the wages and working conditions for the global proletariat and the rural

Figure 1: Impact of declining global growth on unemployment based on three scenarios, world and income groups (millions)



Note: The figure shows the estimated unemployment impact based on three GDP growth scenarios simulated by McKibbin and Fernando (2020). The error bounds present the range of uncertainty stemming from the unemployment projection model but taking the GDP growth scenario as given.

and urban poor.

Let us now move to the presentation of the most interesting conclusions of this study.

Staggering figures

The ILO expect a “significant rise in unemployment and underemployment (...) preliminary ILO estimates indicate a rise in global unemployment of between 5.3 million (“low” scenario) and 24.7 million (“high” scenario) from a base level of 188 million in 2019. The “mid” scenario suggests an increase of 13 million (7.4 million in high-income countries). Though these estimates remain highly uncertain, all figures indicate a substantial rise in global unemployment. For comparison, the global financial crisis of 2008-9 increased unemployment by 22 million.” (p.3)

In other words, the ILO estimates that unemployment could increase by up to nearly 25 million people – more than it was the case during the Great Recession in 2008-09! Concretely, the ILO expects that the largest number of those new unemployed will be in the so-called “high-income” countries, a bourgeois category which comprises mostly imperialist countries (but excludes the new imperialist power China) As Figure 1 below demonstrates the ILO estimates that these “high-income” countries could experience an increase of unemployment by up to 16.6 million workers.

At the same time, they calculate that unemployment in the so-called “upper-middle income” countries could increase by up to 7.4 million people. This bourgeois category includes China as well as various advanced industrialized semi-colonies like Brazil, Mexico, Costa Rica, Malaysia, Thailand, Tunisia or Turkey. For the so-called “lower-middle income” countries, the ILO expects an increase of unemployment of “only” up to 2.8 million people. This category includes countries like Angola, Congo, Kenya, Sudan, Nigeria, Bolivia, El Salvador, Honduras, Bangladesh, India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Viet Nam, Indonesia, Egypt, or the Ukraine. Interestingly, the ILO does not mention the poorest countries (“low income”) at all!

As noted above, we think that these calculations for the countries of the Global South are much too low. It is evident that the current Great Recession will be at least as devastating as the 1929 crisis was and that it will hit not only the imperialist countries but also, and in particular, the poorer countries. Hence, we expect a much larger increase of unemployment in these countries than the ILO study suggests. As we demonstrated in recent articles, the

so-called “high-income” countries are home of only 18% of total global employment.⁴ This means if unemployment increases in similar proportion in the rest of the world as the ILO expect it for the “high-income” countries, the total increase of the number of unemployed will be much more dramatic!

The ILO study also calculates the loss of income for the workers and popular masses. Again, they apply their three different scenarios for the severity of the crisis’ impact (“low”, “mid” and “high”).

The authors calculate that the number of the so-called “working poor”, i.e. those who live in poverty despite having a job, will dramatically increase in the semi-colonial countries. “Under the mid and high scenarios, there will be between 20.1 million and 35.0 million more people in working poverty than before the pre-COVID-19 estimate for 2020.” (p.5)

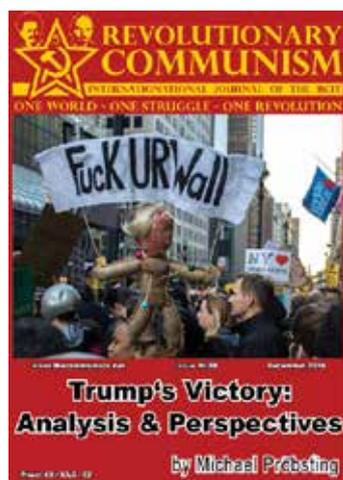
In terms of income losses, the ILO study arrives at the following assessment. “Overall losses in labour income are expected in the range of between 860 and 3,440 billion USD.” (See Table 1) This is a truly staggering figure!

Conclusions

We repeat our words of caution that the ILO study certainly underestimates the severity of the dramatic consequences of the current Great Recession for the working class and popular masses. Exactly for this reason it is highly telling that the authors expect an increase of unemployment of up to 25 million people and gigantic losses in labor income of up to 3.4 trillion US-Dollars!

This brings us to a crucial conclusion. If the current crisis has such dramatic consequences, and if we assume that the advisors of the ruling classes are aware of these calculations, is it not evident that the bourgeoisie takes them into account in their political strategies?! It is exactly because of the devastating consequences of the Great Recession for the working class that the ruling classes must fear political explosions and revolutionary uprisings. Since the ruling classes do not only have their clowns a la Trump, Johnson and Bolsonaro but also intelligent leaders (e.g. Xi, Macron, Merkel, Modi), it is clear that these rulers are seriously considering how they can avoid such revolutionary explosions.

The RCIT has explained in a series of statements and articles since the beginning of the COVID-19 crisis that the ruling classes utilize the panic to advance their political goals. They deflect the attention from the economic slump and paralyze the masses with fear about the Corona Virus.



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

They use the Corona Virus as a pretext to lockdown billions of people and to suppress the right to demonstrate and to assemble. They use this crucial period where people are forced to stay at home in order to build-up *chauvinist state-bonapartist regimes*. The governments all over the world declare a state of emergency, give themselves unprecedented executive powers, send police and army on the streets and expand massive surveillance of the population. In other words, the ruling classes utilize the current crisis to create a new monstrous Leviathan. And at the same time they launch a massive austerity program.

This is why the RCIT has stated repeatedly that the COVID-19 crisis is used as a cover for a *global major counter-revolutionary offensive*. This is why we denounce all those pseudo-leftists who support lockdowns and the suppression of democratic rights as servants of the bourgeoisie.⁵ In contrast to them we immediately recognized the *political counter-revolutionary nature* of these events. The ILO study demonstrates that the bourgeoisie has 3.4 trillion reasons to fear the explosive anger of the masses and to launch a preemptive strike against them.

We conclude this article by pointing out again that the COVID-19 crisis is a historic turning point in world politics of no less significance than the collapse of Stalinism in 1989-91 or the 9-11 events and the Afghanistan war in 2001. At the moment many workers, poor and youth are confused and lack a clear understanding of the nature of these events. This is hardly surprising as the bourgeoisie around the globe mobilize all their political, ideological and military resources to bombard the masses with their reactionary propaganda. Worse, and significantly adding to the widespread confusion in the consciousness of the masses, the huge majority of the official workers movement and the left capitulate to the pressure of the ruling class and praise their anti-democratic counterrevolutionary offensive as “necessary” and “unavoidable” given the COVID-19 crisis. No doubt, this Leviathan Left is useless at best – more precisely they constitute an obstacle to build an authentic revolutionary alternative.

However, building such an alternative is the most important task right now. The current global counterrevolutionary situation will not last indefinitely. It might be over in a few months time. Under the cover of this bourgeois political offensive, massive social and economic contradictions

are accumulating. It is only a question of time that they will explode in domestic political crisis, wars and gigantic class struggles. The task now is to prepare for these events by building a leadership which can aid the vanguard of the working class and the oppressed in its fight against the counter-revolutionary bourgeoisie. In other words, the most urgent task today is the construction of a revolutionary world party. The RCIT calls revolutionaries to join forces in order to advance the building of such a world party!

Footnotes

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Table 1: Estimated decline in labour income and increase in extreme and moderate working poverty (<\$US 3.20 per day, PPP), 2020

<i>Income group</i>	<i>Low</i>	<i>Mid</i>	<i>High</i>	
Labour income (US\$ billion)	-860	-1,720	-3,440	
<i>Extreme and moderate working poverty (millions)</i>				
World	8.8	20.1	35.0	
Low income countries	1.2	2.9	5.0	
Lower-middle income countries		3.7	8.5	14.8
Upper-middle income countries		3.6	8.3	14.5

Note: Working poverty estimates pertain to an absolute poverty threshold (below US\$3.20 at PPP) for 138 low and middle-income countries. This analysis excludes potential impacts on working poverty in high-income countries.

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COVID-19 and the Lockdown Left: The Example of PODEMOS and Stalinism in Spain

by Michael Pröbsting, International Secretary of the Revolutionary Communist International Tendency (RCIT), 24 March 2020

The COVID-19 crisis is a historic turning point in world politics. It is no less significant than events like the collapse of Stalinism in 1989-91 or the 9-11 events and the consequential imperialist war against Afghanistan in 2001.

As the RCIT explained in a series of statements and articles since the beginning of the COVID-19 crisis the ruling classes utilize the panic to advance their political goals. In contrast to nearly all self-proclaimed Marxist organizations we immediately recognized the *political counter-revolutionary nature* of these events. By now the bourgeoisie all over the world combines drastic attacks on democratic rights like mass lockdown and suppression of demonstrations and public assemblies with a massive austerity program. In fact, as we pointed out in the new RCIT *Manifesto* on the crisis, “*what is currently taking place is the build-up of chauvinist state-bonapartist regimes.*” The police and army are on the streets in full force, people are locked up in their houses, and undisguised surveillance a la “Big Brother” takes place. In other words, the ruling classes utilize the current crisis to create a new monstrous Leviathan. And all this happens under the cover of the COVID-19 crisis.

As it is often the case in such situations – one just needs to remember the beginning of World War I – major sectors of the official workers movement and the left capitulate to the pressure of the ruling class. Currently we see that reformist and left-populist parties all over the world are rallying to the calls of the bourgeoisie to “stand together” – which means nothing but support for mass lockdowns and austerity policy under the cover of the COVID-19 crisis. Shamefully, large sectors of the so-called “revolutionary left” also support such crucial reactionary measures of the ruling classes like mass lockdowns and the suppression of public assemblies and demonstrations.

A particular glaring example of such betrayal is the policy of PODEMOS and the Spanish Stalinists. PODEMOS is a bourgeois left-populist party.¹ It constitutes a kind of alliance of different forces. While the group around Pablo Iglesias dominates the leadership, it also includes other significant forces like the *Partido Comunista de España* (PCE, Communist Party of Spain) – the historic party of Spanish Stalinism – and its ally *Izquierda Unida* (IU, United Left). The PCE and IU are both part of the *Party of the European Left* (PEL), a Europe-wide alliance of ex-Stalinist parties like the LINKE in Germany, SYRIZA in Greece or the French PCF.² PODEMOS itself was also part of PEL until last year when the later suffered a split about some tactical questions. Since then the group around Iglesias has been allied with the French left-populist *La France Insoumise* led by Jean-Luc Mélenchon.³

As it is well known, PODEMOS has created a joint government with the social democratic PSOE led by Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez in January 2020. This is a popular front government, i.e. a coalition of reformist and populist forces which serves the capitalist class.

The current COVID-19 crisis demonstrates very clearly that this “left-wing” government does not fundamentally

differ from other bourgeois governments like Macron in France, Kurz in Austria or Johnson in Britain. Like these other governments, Sánchez/Iglesias have put the people in Spain under lockdown and suppress all possibilities for demonstrations and public assemblies. At the same time, the executive power of police and army has substantially increased. They imposed a state of emergency on 14 March, lasting for 15 days.⁴

The PSOE/PODEMOS government already announced that it will extend the state of emergency until 11 April. In contrast to the first time, this must be approved by parliament. However, this is guaranteed after the main opposition party, the conservative People’s Party, said it would support it.⁵

Bombastically declaring “*we are at war,*” this “left-wing” government uses the same militaristic rhetoric like Macron and other bourgeois state leaders. And indeed, police and army control the streets – currently nearly 250,000 police officers and soldiers are deployed across Spain! At the same time, the bosses are sacking hundreds of thousands of people and wages are cut massively. However, the suppression of democratic rights makes it impossible for the workers and oppressed to fight back.

As in other countries, the PSOE/PODEMOS government justifies its state of emergency with the COVID-19 crisis. Until now, about 2,300 people have died. However, they have died – and are continuing to die – despite the lockdown. The same is the case in Italy.

In fact, as the RCIT explained repeatedly, this epidemic can not and does not need to be fought by lockdowns. We have seen in South Korea that the virus can effectively be contained by mass and free testing and hospitalization of those infected. Despite the fact that South Korea was the first country after China where the virus spread, only 120 people have died until now! And all this has been possible without any mass lock down!⁶

However, the main purpose of the mass lock down is not to fight the Corona Virus but to atomize and paralyze the working class and popular masses so that they can not fight back against the attacks of the ruling class. It is characteristic for the bourgeois character of PODEMOS that it is a leading force in this counter-revolutionary offensive!

The same is true for the so-called “Communists” in Spain. Immediately after announcement of the state of emergency, the leadership of the PCE published a statement which leaves no doubt about the unambiguous and enthusiastic support for the draconic measures of the government: “*We support the declaration of state of alert adopted by the Government of Spain and we keep working to adopt the measures needed to prevent the health crisis from becoming an economic and social crisis. These measures should be taken as soon as possible and while this situation lasts. (...) We welcome the declaration of the state of alert, which allows the Government to coordinate and plan measures and functions of any public administration.*”⁷

We note in passing that the same is the case with various other Stalinist forces in Europe. While these Stalinists

claim to be orthodox “Marxist-Leninists” and often criticize the PEL for its “revisionism”, in effect they share the same bourgeois approach. To give an example, we refer to the Austrian Stalinists – the “Party of Labor” which is affiliated with the Greek KKE. In a recently published statement they also lend support to the state of emergency imposed by the coalition government of the Conservative and Green Party on 15 March. This state of emergency was declared after three (!) people have died because of the Corona Virus. Tellingly, in 2017/18 alone 2,800 people died because of Influenza without any actions by the government in response!

Pathetically, the Austrian Stalinists only appeal to the government not to suppress democratic rights for too long! “While many measures to contain the spreading of the Corona Virus COVID-19 are reasonable we also note that these restrictions of freedom of assembly and the massive interference in personal civil rights and liberties as well as in labor rights must be only of limited duration.”⁸

This statement demonstrates very clearly that the Stalinists are fully aware of the nature of the state of emergency which takes place in a period of gigantic democratic and social attacks on the working class. However, they support these measures nevertheless and limit themselves to an appeal to the ruling class to maintain the counterrevolutionary state of emergency for “not too long”! How long is “not too long”? How many workers will have to lose their jobs until the Stalinists say “now it is enough”?

The support of PODEMOS, the PCE and other Stalinists for the counterrevolutionary state of emergency in a period of the worst economic slump of 1929 dimensions demonstrates once more their fundamentally reactionary character.

The counter-revolutionary role of large sectors of the so-called left underlines once more the urgent need to build a revolutionary party – nationally and internationally. The RCIT repeats once more that all revolutionary activists must aid the vanguard to counter the current reactionary offensive of the bourgeoisie which has launched a shock-and-awe attack against the working class and the popular masses. Revolutionaries must explain that the global hysteria about COVID-19 is politically motivated and that only a proper health program, instead of lock-down police state tactics, can help. They must also explain that the workers and popular organizations must not accept the suppression of democratic rights and that they must fight against all attempts of the capitalists to put the burden of the crisis on their shoulders. The RCIT calls revolutionaries to join forces of the basis of such an emergency program!

Footnotes

1 See on this e.g. RCIT: National Elections in the Spanish State: Critical Support for Unidos Podemos! Workers, Migrants and Youth: Don’t trust the Left-Reformist Program of the Podemos/IU-Leaderships! Organize and Mobilize for a Struggle on the Streets, in Workplaces, and in Educational Institutions! 08.06.2016, <https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/europe/spain-election-podemos/>

2 On the RCIT’s analysis of the PEL see e.g. 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, Vienna

2019, pp. 270-276. The book can be read online or downloaded for free here: <https://www.thecommunists.net/theory/anti-imperialism-in-the-age-of-great-power-rivalry/>. See also chapter 13 in 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*, RCIT Books, Vienna 2013, <http://www.great-robbery-of-the-south.net/>; Michael Pröbsting: French Stalinists Join the Bandwagon of Anti-Migrant Demagoguery, 24.09.2019, <https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/europe/french-stalinists-join-the-bandwagon-of-anti-migrant-demagoguery/>

3 See on this e.g. RCIT: Socialists and the EU Elections 2019. Against all imperialist states – both EU as well as national states! Open borders for migrants! For the United Socialist States of Europe! 11 April 2019, <https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/europe/socialists-and-the-eu-elections-2019/>

4 Belén Carreño, Ingrid Melander: Spain goes under lockdown to fight coronavirus, March 14, 2020 <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-health-coronavirus-spain/spain-goes-under-lockdown-to-fight-coronavirus-idUSKBN2110LE>

5 Joan Faus: ‘We are at war’ says Spain of its coronavirus efforts, seeking extended state of emergency, March 22, 2020 / <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-health-coronavirus-spain/we-are-at-war-says-spain-of-its-coronavirus-efforts-seeking-extended-state-of-emergency-idUSKBN219123>

6 See on this e.g. Almedina Gunić: No, most likely it is not COVID-19 that is going to kill you. A manageable epidemic became public enemy number one distracting from the real killers, 16 March 2020, <https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/global/no-most-likely-it-is-not-covid-19-that-is-going-to-kill-you/>; Almedina Gunić: The chauvinist campaign behind the “Wuhan Coronavirus” hysteria & the revolutionary answer, 2.2.2020, <https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/global/wuhan-virus/>; Almedina Gunic: 2019-nCoV and the Virus of Chauvinism. A comparison with measles and the reactionary Anti-Vaxx campaigners, 6.2.2020, <https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/global/2019-ncov-and-the-virus-of-chauvinism/>

7 PCE: In light of the situation created by the expansion of the COVID-19 epidemic and its impact in Spain, 16 March 2020, <https://www.pce.es/in-light-of-the-situation-created-by-the-expansion-of-the-covid-19-epidemic-and-its-impact-in-spain/> (This statement has been published in English language by the PCE itself.)

8 Kämpferische Arbeiterfront statt „Team Österreich“! Stellungnahme des Parteivorstands der Partei der Arbeit Österreichs (PdA), 19. März 2020, <http://partiederarbeit.at/?p=5937>. Here is the German-language original: „So sinnvoll viele Maßnahmen, die derzeit zur Eindämmung der Ausbreitung des Coronavirus COVID-19 in Kraft sind, sein mögen, so sehr ist auch festzuhalten, dass diese Einschränkungen der Versammlungsfreiheit und der massive Eingriff in persönliche Freiheitsrechte und ins Arbeitsrecht nur von befristeter Dauer sein dürfen.“

COVID-19 Crisis in Nigeria: State Repression and the Left

Report by the Revolutionary Socialist Vanguard (Sympathizing section of the RCIT, 13 April, 2020)

The whole narrative of COVID-19 in Nigeria has done nothing but express the chaotic nature of living in every sense. It has showed the deep crises of the Nigerian left as well. This telling revelation would not be so visible were the lock downs not imposed. Following the partial lock down declared by the Federal government several state governments have imposed partial or total lock downs in their states. As earlier mentioned in our statement the rate of state repression, domestic violence and gender based violence has spread like wild fire. The number of casualties attributable to these now exceed the number of deaths recorded from corona virus (13 deaths so far while COVID-19 has caused 10 deaths). Crime rates have also soared with gang feuds now dominating the scene. In Nigeria gang feuds are usually a cover for armed robbery, and burglary.

It should be expected that in a country where almost half the population live in abject poverty lock downs without substantive palliatives would bring revolts. It also means that the common citizens would go into crime because people who eat from hand to mouth have been cut from sources of livelihood. Distribution of palliative and stimulus packages have been scant, it is hard to say whether one percent of Nigerians have gotten any relief packages despite reports of billions been donated to subdue the pandemic. This is because of the utterly corrupt Nigerian bourgeoisie and their minions who would rather split the funds amidst themselves than convert it to much needed relief for the people.

An interesting development is formation of local vigilante

and community self defense groups to halt the activities of marauding raiders although these groups limit the scope of their intervention to fighting gang robbers and cultists, they have not been seen in any coordinated attempt to resist the lock downs.

However, the general confidence level amongst Nigerians for the ruling elite and the Buhari government is seriously waning, thus we can expect more revolts from various quarters of the citizenry. Today's presidential speech has indicated a two week extension of the lock downs. One can only expect such developments to deepen with time.

The acutely parasitic corruption of the Nigerian bourgeoisie has become a byword. Further they are confused and have begun to take critical steps to ensure their own survival like bringing in a group of medical personnel from China. At the same time too, like the imperialists they mobilize all available attention for COVID-19 so as to surreptitiously execute attacks against the people. These attacks range from hikes in tariffs such as electricity which is to begin on April 1; removal of subsidy for oil products and forced implement of the oppressive Integrated Payroll and Personnel Information System (IPPIS), an austerity scheme meant to narrow the earnings of civil servants etc. There has been dilly-dally over whether or not to provide free supply of electricity for citizens for two months but after privatizing the power sector years ago, the distribution companies still claim they need the approval of the presidency to supply tariff-free electricity in this period.

The importation of Chinese medical personnel has sparked serious discontent amidst the people, the kill-

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.

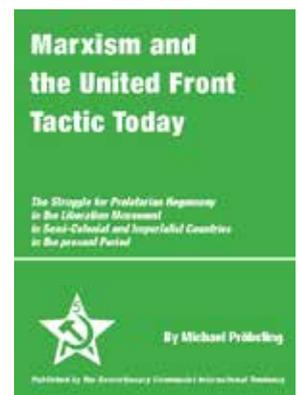
The following paragraphs are the back cover text of the book which give an overview of its content.

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.



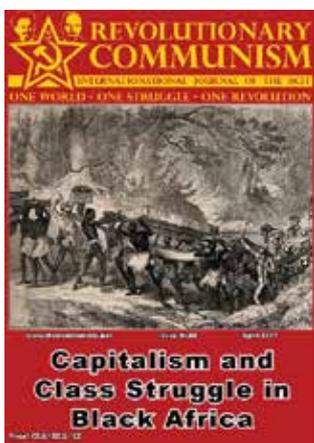
ings for enforcing the lock downs more. Now the Nigerian government is in a frenzy to dance around for more attention by releasing lines for which undue aggression of state forces can be reported. The Minister for Health has just recently challenged the Chinese ambassador over racist treatment of Nigerians in China. Again all of these have been happening for years if not decades, so why is the response coming now?

As earlier stated the Left in Nigeria is in deep crises, while virtually all of the Left forces in Nigeria support the lock downs the inability to have a joint plan of action spells out underlying discord. The virus could have even made this discord more acute. Unsurprisingly, centrist and reformist tendencies of CWI like the Socialist Party of Nigeria (SPN) and the Democratic Socialist Movement (DSM) support the lock downs and travel bans. Sadly, more radical petit bourgeois movements such as the Take-It-Back (TIB) movement also support the lock downs and travel bans. These leftists limit their criticisms to the collapse of the health sector and the failure of the government to distribute stimulus packages. While these positions are obviously correct they are lack practical way forwards since the people who should fight for these demands are under lock down. They defend the lock downs either with the bourgeois science of "isolation" or they invoke solutions from an imaginary scenario where trade unions are controlled by socialists. They say that lock downs implemented by trade union bureaucracies would be more progressive than one imposed by the government. Either ways they support lock downs and call for state of emergencies altogether.

The governments relaxed the lock downs during Easter

periods and these leftists were the first to attack the move claiming it was to the end that more people will be infected so that they can embezzle more money. At most they are of the position that the pandemic must blow over before they begin action despite the fact that there are already brewing issues. One of which is the on-going indefinite strike of the Academic Staff Union of Universities (ASUU) and the Senior Staff Association of Nigerian Universities (SSANU) who joined them because of the Integrated Payroll and Personnel Information System (IPPIS). It is very much likely that the National Association of Resident Doctors (NARD) and Nigeria Medical Association (NMA) will follow suit after the pandemic since they have been expressing loudly certain grievances with the fact that the IPPIS might have extended to them.

Although some bodies like Pan-African Consciousness Renaissance (PACOR) are now calling for a stoppage of the lock downs as they say it is Eurocentric, that is, it doesn't fit the realities in Africa. Yet there are lots of ideological inconsistencies with their position as a whole. Some individual activists have also pushed forward the same claim that the lock downs are not fit for the economic and infrastructural setting of Africa. We think that more of the organizations supporting the lock downs now will oppose it in the nearest future or the ones now opposing will it become popular and replace the traditional ones, at least for the current period. It is also possible that these left forces are pushed into action by random uprisings of the people themselves. We hope to collaborate on joint actions should any of the scenarios come into place.



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

Israel / Occupied Palestine: The Major Mistake of the Arab Joint List

Statement of the Internationalist Socialist League (RCIT Section in Israel / Occupied Palestine), 19 March 2020

On Sunday the leaders of the four parties that form the Arab Joint list decided to recommend “Blue and White” chairman Benny Gantz to President Reuven Rivlin as their choice for the next coalition government. So did the right wing Liberman and it seems as if Gantz has a small chance of becoming the next Prime Minister of Israel.

*Joint List Chairman Ayman Odeh told Rivlin after recommending Gantz: “If Gantz wants to form a unity government, we will be the main opponents. If he wants to form a center-left government – we recommend Gantz. If 61 MKs recommend Gantz, we ask that members of the Joint List recommend him.”*¹

If Gantz will form the new government it will not include any minister from the Arab list, they will support Gantz from the “outside”.

However if Avigdor Liberman from “Israel is our home” (Yisrael Beytenu) that declared many times that this party want to expel the Palestinians citizens of Israel will join Gantz government the Arab Joint list will not be able to support such a government said the leaders of the list.

Meantime President Reuven Rivlin is pushing Benjamin Netanyahu and Benny Gantz to form a unity government on the ground that such a government is necessary to deal with the coronavirus pandemic.

Since Gantz received a majority of recommendations from the 61 MKs of Blue and White, the Joint List, Labor-Meretz and Yisrael Beytenu, Rivlin’s at first said he would give Gantz the mandate to form a government on Monday afternoon, but then he invited Netanyahu and Gantz to meet.

Some MKs from Blue and white party oppose a minority government backed by the Joint List of Arab parties, which is the Blue and White’s only possibility for a narrow, so called in Israel “center-left coalition” (In reality another right wing government).

Netanyahu said he was also ready to discuss a unity government with a rotation in the Prime Minister’s Office. But he said that in such a government, he would be prime minister the first two years while Gantz served as vice prime minister. Gantz so far has rejected this offer.

Whether Gantz will be the next prime minister or not we share the position of many members of Balad who oppose the endorsement of Gantz.

After the election in September, Balad refused to join its allies in the Joint List by endorsing Gantz for the premiership.

At that time Balad that stands for “*the transformation of the State of Israel into a democracy for all its citizens, irrespective of national or ethnic identity*” stated correctly that Gantz Zionist ideology, his right-wing positions are not much different from the Likud. In Haaretz on September 26, 2019, Balad secretary-general and MK Mtanes Shehadeh wrote that Blue and White “*is part of the traditional Right, “Its views on the occupation aren’t very different from Netanyahu’s, It is true for its views on Israel’s character and identity and on economic policy.”*² Only a few days ago Mtanes pointed to the role of Gantz role as the army chief of staff during the 2014 war in the Gaza Strip that killed two thousands Palestinians and to his support for US President Donald

Trump’s plan for Mideast peace and the “annexation” of parts of the West Bank.

Mohammad Darwashe, a political analyst and director at the Givat Haviva Institute, told *The Jerusalem Post* that Balad’s decision is result of the fact that unless it adhered to the positions of Hadash Ta’al and the United Arab List it would be separated from the list and may not be able to win enough votes to enter the Zionist parliament. Balad was also under pressure to join the decision to back Gantz because the other Joint List parties stood with them when MK Heba Yazbak of Balad was facing the possibility of being barred from running in the election.

*“While several Palestinians citizens of Israel praised the Joint List’s endorsement of Gantz, others accused Balad of “hypocrisy” for supporting the move. “Balad has betrayed its voters,” said Samir Abdullah, a supporter of the party from Haifa. “I’m very disappointed with the leadership of Balad for endorsing General Gantz. We see no real difference between Gantz and Netanyahu. Both have been delegitimizing the Arab citizens of Israel.”*³

*“We didn’t recommend Gantz out of love for the man, but because we believe there’s an urgent need to prevent Netanyahu from remaining in power,” a Balad official told the Jerusalem Post. “Netanyahu has been inciting against the Arab citizens for a long time and we consider him a big obstacle to the full integration of the Arabs. On the other hand, we’re hoping that a Gantz-led government would endorse a new and better policy toward the Arabs.”*⁴

Balad issued a statement to justify its capitulation. It says: *“Balad took into consideration the position of our partners in the Joint List, as well as accomplishments that were obtained during the negotiations with Blue and White, first and foremost recognition of the principle of refraining from taking unilateral steps regarding the annexation of some areas of the West Bank and the status quo at the Aqsa Mosque.”*⁵

Balad said that that Blue and White also promised to suspend demolition of illegal houses, to commit to a practical project (relying on the police) to combat violence and crime and an increase in public funds allocated to the Arab sector (which Likud does as well in order to create a larger Arab middle class that puts its own class interest above the workers and the poor peasant and above the repression the Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza).

If Balad and the other Arab parties will be lucky Blue and White will not be the new government because such a government sooner or later will attack the Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza and the police will terrorize the Palestinian citizens of Israel.

Popular front in history

The politics of Hadash, Ta’al and the United Arab List that Balad leaders have endorsed is the politics of the class collaboration – a form of a popular front. Anyone who knows history is aware that this policy is leading to a terrible defeat for the exploited and the oppressed. This was the policy of the Stalinists in the 1930s during the economic crisis. It began in France in 1936 when a section of the capitalist

class realized that they needed the collaboration of the reformist workers parties to prevent a socialist revolution. This led to the formation of the Blum's government. At the beginning the working class in France celebrated believing that such government will improve the conditions of the masses.

The workers occupied factories to ensure that their demands were met: a forty-hour work week, higher wages, paid vacations, and union rights. Blum's government imposed the Matignon Accords of June 7, granting across-the-board wage increases of 20 percent, two weeks paid vacation, collective bargaining rights, and the establishment of unemployment insurance.⁶

Instead of fighting for a socialist revolution, Maurice Thorez – the leader of the French Stalinist party – announced that, *"It is important to know how to end a strike when satisfaction has been obtained."*

The bourgeoisie fought against the Matignon Accords. Capital fled the country, production dropped, unemployment rose, and the middle class that supported the government turned to the right. The hopes that had been raised turn into demoralization of the working class.

In July 1936, José Giral, the prime minister of the Popular Front government in Spain, requested aid against the military uprising led by Emilio Mola, Francisco Franco and José Sanjurjo. Blum agreed to send aircraft and artillery. However, after coming under pressure from Stanley Baldwin and Anthony Eden in Britain, and more right-wing members of his own cabinet, he changed his mind. Blum now called for all countries in Europe not to intervene in the Spanish Civil War.

Within one year all the gains of the working class in France vanished and by 1940, France was under the Vichy government of the pro Nazis Marshal Philippe Pétain.

In Spain during the civil war, the Stalinist party was a major power within the Popular Front. The government dissolved the workers militias, returned to the capitalists the factories the working class occupied and the lands the peasants took over were returned to the capitalists. All in the name that it is necessary to collaborated with the capitalists to prevent the victory of Franco. The republic had ruled Morocco and refused to grant independence to the colony. Thus Franco was able to recruit Moroccans soldiers. The actions of the Popular Front government led to demoralization of the masses and to the victory of Franco.

After the Nazis invaded the Stalinist Soviet Union, the Stalinist party of the USA pressured Roosevelt to enter the war against Germany and to show their loyalty to US imperialism they broke strikes. After the war during the period of McCarthy and the trial of the Rosenberg's family the working class did not defend the Stalinist party because of their role in breaking strikes during the war.

On April 9, 1952 a revolutionary wave spread in Bolivia hours, factory workers, and armed miners, defeated and destroyed the army of the ruling class. But instead of a victorious socialist revolution a popular front government of the MNR was established. Twelve years later in 1964 it ended with a military coup and the repressive dictatorship of Ovando and Barrientos.

The POR (a "Trotskyist" organization that had a real influence on the working class) supported the MNR government which was a policy of a popular front. They acted in a similar way to the POUM in Spain in 1936-39 that was

considered a "Trotskyist" organization which, however, Trotsky denounced as traitors to the socialist revolution.

In 1951, S. W. R. D. Bandaranaike split from the UNP and formed the Sri Lanka Freedom Party (SLFP). She came to power in 1956 on the program of making Sinhala the only official language discriminating against the large Tamil-speaking minority. The "Trotskyist" Lanka Sama Samaja Party (LSSP, Lanka Equal Society Party) that had a real influence among the workers and the Stalinist party formed an alliance with the SLFP, which came to power in 1970 and presided over the Republican Constitution of 1972 that deprived minorities of their rights. Several different Tamil parties were formed and demanded that the Northern and Eastern provinces become part of a federal state and when their demand was refused, Anti-Tamil riots led to the death and displacement of hundreds of Tamils. In 1977 the right wing UNP won the elections.

In Indonesia, in the early 1960s, Sukarno a left nationalist General relied on the Stalinist party in a period of sharp class struggle and that advocated some reform instead of a socialist revolution. This led to the coup of General Suharto in 1965 and the mass killing of more than half a million workers and poor peasants.

The popular front in Chile of the early 1970s ended with the coup of Pinochet and the mass killing of workers.

Thus the popular front policy has been proven to be a disaster for the working class and the oppressed.

Crisis of government

But today and especially in Israel there is no revolutionary situation and the Arab Joined list is not a working class party some may argue.

However, collaboration with the class enemy is not only the policy of bourgeois workers parties but also of middle class and bourgeois parties of oppressed nations. This is the case with the parties of the Kurds in Syria and Iraq and the outcome is a defeat for the Kurds right to self-determination.

In the case of Israel the popular front policy led the Stalinist party to support the creation of the Zionist state and to the mass expulsion of the Palestinians in 1947-48 and to the support for the Rabin government as part of their support for the Oslo agreement. The Oslo agreement of 1993 was a cover up for the policy of expanding the Zionist settlements and to the rise of Netanyahu.

These days Israel is moving towards a huge crisis politically, economically and because of the hysteria over the corona. In this situation while the right-wing Zionists are moving further to the right, the center and the left Zionists are seeking to get the support of the Palestinian citizens of Israel in what is called in Israel the "center-left coalition". They may be ready to promise some light reforms to the Palestinian citizens of Israel. However they need the support of the Arab Joined List in order to continue the role of Israel as the front line of the imperialists in the region, to continue the repression of the Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza, to prevent the return of the Palestinian refugees and to act for the profits of the capitalist class.

The question of who will be the next Prime Minister is taking place during the hysteria over the Corona. Hysteria created by the Israeli government like other imperialist states to convince the workers the peasants, the poor and

even the lower middle class that the economic crisis that began in 2019 is the result of the epidemic and not of the decaying capitalist system.

It is clear that Netanyahu is using the Corona epidemic for his own benefits and policies. His trial scheduled for March 17 has been postponed. He uses the epidemic to attack democratic rights. He announced that he will use the Security Service to spy on every one. The security service will send messages ordering self-quarantine to anyone who was in vicinity of an infected person in the 14 days prior to their diagnosis. In his televised speech on Saturday night, Netanyahu announced that Israel will use counter-terrorism technologies to track coronavirus carriers.

The measures the government applies are not based on any of the lessons that can be learned from the different countries around the globe. In South Korea, the number of deaths is less than one percent because they have an effective health system. To give two indicator: According to the OECD's report, South Korea has 9.5 hospital beds per 1000 people while Sweden's 2.71, Canada's 2.75, the UK's 2.95, or the U.S. 3.05 beds.⁷ In Israel there are 1.78 beds per 1,000 Israelis, down from 1.80 in 2017 and 2.69 in 1988.⁸

In Israel by March 13 there were 700 tests to be increased to 2000.⁹ In South Korea "officials enacted a key reform, allowing the government to give near-instantaneous approval to testing systems in an emergency. Within weeks of the current outbreak in Wuhan, China, four Korean companies had manufactured tests from a World Health Organization recipe and, as a result, the country quickly had a system that could assess 10,000 people a day. Korea set up drive-through test stations, an approach only now being launched in the United States. Health officials initially focused their efforts on members of a secretive megachurch in Daegu with a branch in Wuhan, but they then broadened their reach to Seoul and other major cities. As of Saturday, South Korea had tested more than 248,000 people and identified 8,086 cases."¹⁰

The measures taken by the Israeli government are directed against the working class and the lower middle class: closing all education frameworks, places of entertainment, restaurants and gyms, people are working from home whenever possible (for those who still have jobs). It is still has to be seen what the government will do to enrich the banks and the large corporations – the capitalist monopolies.

So far we know that unemployed will receive unemployment payment but only after 30 days and we do not know how much. The small businesses are likely to suffer bankruptcies. Limiting indoor gatherings to 100 people will prevent any serious demonstrations against those draconian measures.

Program of Action

The *Internationalist Socialist League* (RCIT Section in Israel / Occupied Palestine) stands for a revolutionary perspective. We consider Israel as a racist Apartheid state which emerged as a settler colony and later became an imperialist state. In our opinion, this state should be abolished and replaced by a single democratic state from the river to the sea. All Palestinian refugees should have the right to return to their homes and lands. Such a bi-national state with a Palestinian majority population and a Jewish minority should be a workers and poor peasants' republic which expropriates the capitalist class. It should be part of

a socialist federation of the Middle East.

However, we are aware that many progressive activists in Israel / Occupied Palestine do not agree with our program. Many believe that the only "realistic" perspective is a two state solution. While we do not share such an outlook, we suggest to those activists that they fight at least for the following program:

1. Expropriate all big business that is closing down under workers control
2. Expropriate all banks under workers control
3. Open all places of work to the Palestinian workers (from Israel and the 1967 occupied lands) and the guest workers
4. Cheap credit to all small business
5. Fully paid salaries to unemployed workers and public projects like roads, new hospitals, new schools, and new public housing under workers control
6. Immediate withdrawal from all 1967 occupied lands, remove the fence around Gaza and return the Golan to Syria
7. Public opinion poll among the Palestinians in Israel, the West Bank, Gaza and the refugees with the question do you prefer a Palestinian state on the borders of 1967 or one democratic state from the river to the sea and act on it
8. End the provocations against Iran
9. End all discriminations against women, Palestinians, Ethiopians, Guest workers and refugees

However, Israel is not a country where you can imagine such a government and a worker's party with such a program is a pie in the sky. Unless the Israeli workers and poor will break with Zionism they are helpless against the governments of the big capital Likud or the Blue and White.

Israel however is not a lonely island and the revolutionary process that will be deepen when the hysteria of the corona will be over and many workers and oppressed will understand what is behind the hysteria that is created by the governments.

Mean time as a world revolutionary tendency we must stand against the political pressure to support Popular Front governments and advance our revolutionary program that include reforms, transitional demands and propaganda for a socialist revolution and socialist transformation of society.

Footnotes

- 1) <https://www.haaretz.com/israel-news/elections/.premium-gantz-to-netanyahu-someone-who-wants-unity-doesn-t-postpone-trial-at-1-a-m-1.8675671>
- 2) Khaled Abu Toameh Why did Balad change its mind about Benny Gantz? – analysis Jerusalem post March 15, 2020
- 3) Ibid; 4) Ibid; 5) Ibid; 6) <http://www.rfi.fr/fr/france/20160607-france-accords-matignon-droits-travailleurs-ont-80-ans>
- 7) http://www.keepeek.com/Digital-Asset-Management/oced/social-issues-migration-health/health-at-a-glance-2015_health_glance-2015-en#page28
- 8) Ido Efrati Hospital Bed Availability In Israel At Lowest Since 1980s Haaretz 14/4/2019
- 9) <https://www.haaretz.com/israel-news/.premium-health-ministry-to-increase-corona-tests>
- 10) Stephen Engelberg, Lisa Song and Lydia DePillis, How South Korea Scaled Coronavirus Testing While the U.S. Fell Dangerously Behind Pro Publica March 15 <https://www.propublica.org/article/how-south-korea-scaled-coronavirus-testing-while-the-us-fell-dangerously-behind>

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!

