

# REVOLUTIONARY

INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF THE REVOLUTIONARY



# LIBERATION

COMMUNIST INTERNATIONAL TENDENCY



Cartoon by Carlos Latuff

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

Issue Nr.77

January 2018

## Support the Liberation Struggle of the Palestinian People!

- \* Greetings for the New Year of 2018
- \* Popular Uprising in Iran
- \* Conferences on Syria are a Charade
- \* Yemen after the Death of Saleh
- \* War between Saudi Arabia and Iran?
- \* EU and African Slaves in Libya
- \* Unemployment in Zambia
- \* Election in Catalonia

**Workers and Oppressed Unite!**

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# English-Language Journal of the Revolutionary Communist International Tendency (RCIT), No. 77, January 2018

Greetings for the New Year of 2018	p.3
Long Live the Popular Uprising in Iran!	p.5
Jerusalem is the Capital of Palestine!	p.7
Palestine: A New Intifada is a Real Possibility!	p.8
More than 1.000 demonstrators in Vienna shouted: "Jerusalem is Palestine!"	p.9
Front in Defense of the Palestinian People organizes protest in São Paulo	p.10
Report: The Imperialist-Sponsored Conferences on Syria are Charades!	p.11
Yemen: After the Death of Saleh	p.12
On the new Cold War between Saudi Arabia and Iran	p.14
Escape from Africa through Libya: Putting the blame on Europe's Colonial Practices!	p.18
Zambia: Mass Unemployment and Super-Exploitation	p.21
Catalonia: Election under the Shadow of Madrid's Tyranny!	p.23

The cartoon on the cover symbolizes the Palestinian protest against Trump's decision to recognize Jerusalem as Israel's capital. It has been published by Carlos Latuff on his website: <https://latuffcartoons.wordpress.com/>

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

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## Greetings for the New Year of 2018

### Unite to Fight Back against the Reactionary Offensive of the Ruling Class!

*A Letter from the International Secretariat of the Revolutionary Communist International Tendency (RCIT), 30.12.2017*

**D**ear Comrades, Brothers and Sisters!  
The *Revolutionary Communist International Tendency* (RCIT) sends its New Year greetings to all revolutionaries fighting for the overthrow of the capitalist world order.

Likewise, we send our sincerest greetings to all our brothers and sisters around the world who are fighting against exploitation by bosses, reactionary dictatorships, and imperialist wars and occupation!

Comrades, Brothers and Sisters! Behind us is a year full of murderous campaigns and outrageous reactionary attacks of ruling class against the working people. To give just a few examples:

- \* The reactionary killing machine of Assad, the theocratic regime in Iran, and imperialist Russia are continuing the slaughter of the Syrian people. All this is done with the support of the Western imperialist powers.

- \* Trump's decision to recognize Jerusalem as Israel's capital is an unprecedented provocation to the Palestinian people, the Arab and the Muslim world as well as all progressive forces.

- \* In Yemen, the Saudi-led coalition – with the support of the Western imperialists – are killing thousands of civilians. Their total embargo of the country has created famine as well as a cholera epidemic!

- \* The slavery of Africans in Libya – a result of the imperialist migration policy of the European Union – demonstrates once more the barbaric reality of modern capitalism.

- \* Likewise we witnessed the electoral fraud in Kenya, the military coup in Zimbabwe and the desperate clinge to power by the totally corrupt ANC government in South Africa.

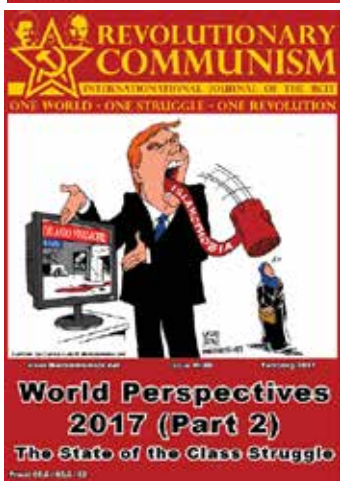
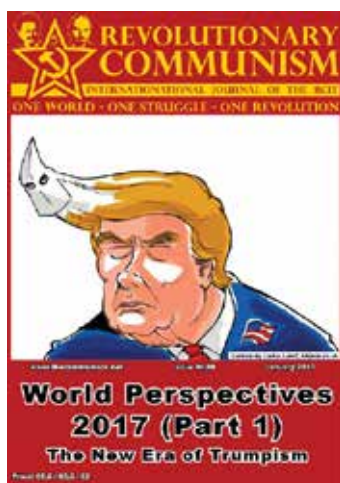
- \* In Myanmar we had to witness the mass murder and ethnical cleansing of the Rohingya minority by the pro-imperialist regime.

- \* In Brazil and Argentina, the right-wing governments attack the long-standing labor rights as well as the social security system.

- \* In Honduras, the corrupt and authoritarian regime of Hernandez, with the support of the US Administration, imposed a curfew and mobilized the police in order to smash the militant protest movement.

- \* In Europe, the conservative Rajoy government in Spain – with the tacit support of the imperialist EU – is openly suppressing the wish of the Catalan people to have their own state.

- \* In the US, the arch-reactionary Trump Administration is continuing the attacks on migrants, workers and environmental standards and, at the same time, delivers huge tax



### NEW RCIT PUBLICATION!

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

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

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

breaks for the super-rich.

However, the workers and oppressed have demonstrated their determination to fight back. It is them to whom we send our greetings of solidarity and with whom we wish to work together in order to stop the imperialist beast!

In Palestine, the glorious workers and youth – who successfully defended Gaza against the Israeli hi-tech army in 2009, 2012 and 2014 – are about to launch the Third Intifada in response to Trump's decision on Jerusalem. They are supported by a growing international solidarity movement around the world.

In Syria, the heroic resistance fighters – most importantly in Idlib and East Ghouta – are continuing their heroic struggle against Assad, ISIS, the Iranian mercenaries as well as the Russian invaders.

In Yemen, the brave popular resistance still holds out against the aggression of the al-Saud gangsters.

In Kenya, the masses are opposing the corrupt Kenyatta regime despite brutal repression.

In Somalia the US imperialist and their AMISOM mercenaries have still not succeeded in defeating the popular resistance.

In Brazil, the workers and poor peasant organizations have launched mass protests and general strikes against the attacks on their social rights. The same took place in Argentina.

In Honduras, the popular masses rebelled against the electoral fraud which even caused sectors of the police to refuse orders to repress the protests.

In Mexico, the indigenous and oppressed people are continuing to resist against the state repression and narco-traffics with building their popular militias ("*Policía Ciudadanas y Populares*")

In Catalonia, the people have defied the repression of the Spanish state and expressed their determination to have their own state in mass demonstrations, popular referenda and at the elections.

Given the historic crisis of leadership, all these struggles are led by non-Marxist forces. However, this is no reason for revolutionaries to stand at the sideline. Quite the opposite, they must join the masses at the barricades and support their struggles and, at the same time, defend their own, revolutionary program.

We expect a continuation and acceleration of the main lines of contradictions of the present historic period: the reactionary attacks of the capitalists against the workers and oppressed, the attacks of the imperialist monopolies and Great Powers against the oppressed people as well as the rivalry between the imperialist Great Powers (US, EU, Russia, China, Japan). (For an overview of the RCIT's analysis of the important class struggles around the world, we refer readers to the numerous articles and statements published on our website as well as the RCIT's latest *World Perspectives*, <https://www.thecommunists.net/theory/world-perspectives-2017/>)

We therefore expect in 2018 worse attacks against our class, more chauvinist aggression and more wars. But we are also convinced that these attack will provoke an even stronger fightback by the workers and oppressed. We orientate towards these struggle and seek to build a revolutionary party among the advanced layers of the fighters in these struggles.

It is urgent that under these conditions revolutionaries

intensify their efforts to unite and advance in building a *Revolutionary World Party*. Such a World Party should be based on a joint program combining a revolutionary line on all major global political events with a transitional strategy aiming at an international socialist revolution.

The RCIT has elaborated in its "*Manifesto for Revolutionary Liberation*" its contribution to the debate of revolutionaries about such a program. (See <https://www.thecommunists.net/rcit-program-2016/>) This *Manifesto* summarizes the RCIT's analysis of the present world situation, the position of revolutionaries in the most important class struggles today, and the crucial lessons for the upcoming battles.

Building such a *Revolutionary World Party* is crucial given the terrible crisis of leadership which has caused numerous defeats and setbacks in the struggles of the working class and the oppressed. As we have emphasized many times, the tragedy of our times is not the lack of a class struggle, but the fact that the working class and the oppressed are entering these struggles without the appropriate leadership. Instead, the masses are forced to wage their heroic struggle under the leadership of reformists, petty-bourgeois or bourgeois populists, nationalists and Islamists. In short, the decisive problem today is the total lack of revolutionary leadership. Only if revolutionaries succeed with replacing these misguided leaderships with a Marxist leadership, only then will it be possible to overthrow global capitalism and liberate humanity.

We urge all comrades, brothers and sisters to study our documents and to contact the RCIT so that we can jointly discuss steps towards closer collaboration in our mutual effort to build the most important instrument of the working class in its struggle for liberation: a new *World Party of Socialist Revolution*! Let us march forward!

*Workers and Oppressed, Unite!*

*Let Us March Together in Fighting against the Reactionary Offensive of the Ruling Class and the Imperialist Great Powers!*

*Forward in the creation of a new World Party of Socialist Revolution! Forward in building the RCIT!*

Revolutionary Greetings,

International Secretariat of the RCIT





# Long Live the Popular Uprising in Iran!

**For Committees of Action of the Workers and Poor! For Organized Self-Defense against the Police Repression! Down with the Capitalist-Theocratic Regime! Unite the Struggle of the Iranian Masses with the Arab Revolution!**

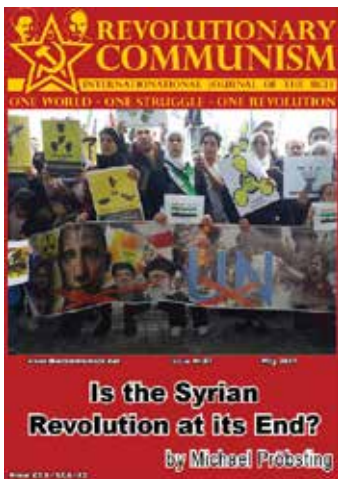
*Statement by the Revolutionary Communist International Tendency (RCIT), 01.01.2018*

1. The capitalist-theocratic regime of Iran faces its most serious crisis since the “Green Revolution” in 2009. In the last four days mass protests have spread throughout the country. The uprising started on 28 December in Mashhad, one of the holiest places in Shi’ite Islam. It soon spread to Kermanshah, Shari Kurd, Tehran, Hamadan, Isfahan, Yasuj, Karaj, Jajrud, Bajnurd, Rafsanjan and other provinces. In the central city of Isfahan, protesters joined a rally held by factory workers demanding back-pay. Demonstrators burned pictures of Khomeini and Khamenei, overturned police cars and set police motorcycles ablaze. According to reports, at least two demonstrators have been killed by the regime’s repression apparatus.

2. At the beginning, the protests focused on economic demands, in particular against the high cost of living, poverty, unemployment and graft. There has also been anger at welfare cuts and fuel price increases in the latest budget announced earlier this month. All this is hardly surprising given the fact that, according to the

Statistical Centre of Iran, unemployment has risen to 12.4%, leaving about 3.2 million Iranians jobless. However, the protesters added very soon political demands which are directed against all factions of the regime and its foreign policy. Such slogans raised are: “Death to Rouhani”, “Death to the dictator” (i.e. Khamenei), “Not Gaza, not Lebanon, my soul is the redemption of Iran”, “Leave Syria and think about us”, “You have used religion and humiliated the people”, “The government is lying and its promises are not implemented” and “Unity Unity, No Fear, No fear of the police”.

3. It is clear that this is a spontaneous mass uprising against the reactionary Khamenei-Rouhani regime. There have been suggestions, e.g. by Vice-President Eshaq Jahangiri, a close ally of President Hassan Rouhani, that these protests were initiated by supporters of the conservative Khamenei faction. However, even if this would have been the case, it is obvious that the protests have taken a spontaneous mass dynamic which is not controlled by any faction of the regime or anyone else. Quite the opposite, the uprising is directed against the



## NEW RCIT PUBLICATION!

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

*By Michael Pröbsting, April 2017*

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

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

*A RCIT Pamphlet, 24 pages, A4 Format*

regime as a whole with no support for any faction of it. While it seems that some reactionary pro-monarchist forces are intervening in the protests and try to influence them, it is clear that they currently play an insignificant role. It is furthermore an important and highly progressive sign that the demonstrators protest against the regime's arch-reactionary foreign policy. Particularly in Syria, Iran plays, together with imperialist Russia, a crucial role in supporting the counterrevolutionary efforts of the Assad regime to smash the uprising of the Syrian workers and peasants which started in March 2011.

4. The *Revolutionary Communist International Tendency* (RCIT) strongly welcomes the uprising of the Iranian workers, poor and youth. We fully support their struggle against the reactionary policy of the regime both at home as well as abroad. The task of revolutionaries is to help the workers and oppressed in Iran to organize for the struggle, to give them a political perspective and to fight against any reactionary forces trying to infiltrate the protests. The RCIT considers this popular uprising as a crucial development which could quickly lead to a revolutionary situation, posing the question of power to the Iranian workers and oppressed. Furthermore it could play an important role to undermine Iran's massive counter-revolutionary military intervention in Syria and, therefore, come to the relieve of the Syrian Revolution from the tremendous pressure it has faced recently. In general, a popular uprising in Iran, in parallel to the ongoing Syrian Revolution, the looming Third Intifada of the Palestinian people and the global movement in protest against Trump's decision on Jerusalem's status, and the heroic struggle of the Yemeni people against the Saudi invasion could revive the revolutionary wave in the Middle East which started in January 2011. Part of such a program is the call for lifting of all imperialist sanctions against Iran. It is the task of all socialists to work for such an internationalist perspective and to combine it with the program of permanent revolution which combines the democratic struggle with the socialist revolution.

5. Socialists in Iran must call for the formation of action committees in the workplaces, neighborhoods, schools and universities in order to organize the workers and oppressed. Such committees should organize the struggle and decide about the main demands, the forms of protests, the perspectives etc. They should also organize self-defense units in order to defend the demonstrations against the regime's repression apparatus. Furthermore, socialists must explain that the solution is not national isolation but expanding the struggle for liberation internationally which includes support for the Syrian Revolution as well as the Palestinian struggle against the Zionist enemy. Finally, socialists should explain that the liberation struggle must be directed against *all* factions of the ruling class and against *all* imperialist powers. They should advocate, as we explained in the RCIT's "*Action Platform for Iran*", the perspective of a workers and poor peasants government based on popular councils and militias.

6. The verbal "support" of the Trump Administration for the protests in Iran is nothing but a cynical maneuver to exploit the domestic problems of a country which is in the camp of the US's imperialist rivals Russia and China. Given the record of US imperialism of strangling Iran for

decades with economic sanctions and threatening it with military attacks, it is highly unlikely that this "support" will impress anyone of the Iranian protesters. Clearly, every self-respecting Iranian will reject with deep disgust any affiliation with the Islamophobic, war-mongering dotard in the White House.

7. We can take for granted that numerous Stalinists and pseudo anti-imperialists will denounce the popular uprising in Iran as a "*conspiracy of US imperialism*". Ignoring the fact that the US is not the only imperialist power in the world and that we are living in a world marked by an accelerating rivalry between several Great Powers (US, EU, Russia, China, Japan), they view any popular movement in the countries of the Russian/China camp, like Iran, automatically as a reactionary development. This demonstrates not only their complete failure of Marxist thinking, i.e. of understanding social movements by their material causes instead of adapting to foolish conspiracy theories in the tradition of the right-wing Breitbart agency of former Trump advisor Steve Bannon. Such an outrageous slander of a democratic popular uprising also proves more that these forces are "anti-imperialists" only in words but social-imperialist servants of Russia's Putin and China's Xi in deeds.

8. The struggle for liberation within Iran, as well as internationally, can only be won if we build a revolutionary socialist party nationally and internationally. Only such a party can give the necessary leadership for those struggles. Only such a party can transmit the socialist program to the masses. It is therefore the central task of all consistent revolutionary forces to focus on building such a party. The RCIT urges all revolutionaries in Iran to fight together for the founding of such a party.

*\* Support the popular uprising! For the release of all prisoners! Defend the democratic rights to assemble and demonstrate!*

*\* For an automatic rise of wages in accordance with the rise in prices in order to combat inflation!*

*\* For a public employment program under control of the workers!*

*\* Down with the capitalist-theocratic regime! Against both the Khamenei as well as the Rouhani faction!*

*\* For the formation of action committees in the workplaces, neighborhoods, schools and universities!*

*\* For the creation of organized self-defense units!*

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

*\* Down with the imperialist sanctions against Iran!*

*International Secretariat of the RCIT*

*For the RCIT's analysis of Iran we refer readers our programmatic document:*

*For the Iranian Revolution! Down with the capitalist Mullah dictatorship! Down with Imperialism! For a working class revolution in Iran! Action Platform for Iran by the RCIT, February 2017, <https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/africa-and-middle-east/iran-platform/>*

*Many more articles on Iran can be read on our articles on our website at: <https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/africa-and-middle-east/>*

# Jerusalem is the Capital of Palestine!

## Trump's Recognition of Jerusalem as Israel's Capital

### ***"Will Open the Floodgates of Hell to the West"! Mobilize for a Popular Intifada – in Palestine, in the Arab and Muslim World, Globally!***

*Joint Statement of the International Secretariat of the RCIT and the ISL (Israel / Occupied Palestine), 06.12.2017*

1. Today US President Donald Trump has officially recognized Jerusalem as Israel's capital. He set in motion the relocation of the U.S. Embassy to this city. This is a break with Washington's decades-long foreign policy which: while the U.S. has always supported the Zionist Apartheid state politically, economically and militarily, it at least formally tried to preserve the facade that it would respect international law which does not recognize Israel's annexation of Jerusalem. The decision of the US Administration officially supports Israel's policy of occupation.

2. Washington's decision is an unprecedented provocation to the Palestinian people as well as to the whole Arab and Muslim world. It symbolizes, in the most provocative way, the unconditional support of US imperialism for the barbaric Zionist state and all its outrageous acts of genocide, ethnic cleansing and occupation of the Palestinian people. It symbolizes the arrogance of the imperialist masters against the oppressed and humiliated peoples in all corners of the world. It is hardly surprising that no government in the world has dared to officially recognize Jerusalem as Israel's capital until now. But Trump – this personification of imperialisms' racism, ignorance and decadence – has decided to take this step.

3. The Grand Imam of al-Azhar in Cairo – the highest seat of learning in the Sunni Muslim world – has said that the US plan to relocate its Israeli embassy to Jerusalem will *"open the floodgates of hell to the West"*. The Palestinian resistance organization Hamas has called on the Palestinian people and factions to *"turn the coming Friday into a day of rage against the Israeli occupation, in rejection of the transfer of the US embassy to Jerusalem and recognising it as the capital of Israel"*. Other Palestinian political factions called for daily protest marches this week, starting on Wednesday. Even those governments are forced to express verbal outrage about Trump's provocation, which are conspiring with the US and other imperialist powers in liquidating the liberation struggle of the Palestinian and the Syrian people – like the Saudi, Jordanian and Turkish rulers as well as the treacherous Abbas clique in Ramallah.

4. The *Revolutionary Communist International Tendency* (RCIT) declares its unconditional solidarity with the protests of the Palestinians, Arabs, Muslims and all advocates of freedom around the world! The RCIT and its predecessor organization as well as its comrades in Occupied Palestine have fought for decades against the barbaric Zionist oppression of the Palestinian people. Our solidarity with the Palestinian brothers and sisters will continue until they have achieved freedom and the Zionist entity will be replaced by a Free Red Palestine with equal civil rights to the Arabs and the Israeli Jews!

5. It is urgent to break the conspiracy of the

Palestinian Authority to liquidate the resistance against the Israeli occupation. For an immediate stop to all forms of collaboration of the Palestinian Authority with the Israeli state! For a popular Intifada! Build popular committees and self-defense committees composed of Palestinian workers, poor peasants, and youth in places of work, towns, and villages!

6. Today the Palestinian people need our international solidarity more than ever! The whole world must be shaken by mass mobilizations and determined resistance to counter the official recognition of Jerusalem's occupation by the Zionists. Protest in front of the US and Israeli embassies! Support popular actions against the Israeli state! Force the governments around the world to stop their open and hidden economic, political and military aid for the Zionist state!

*\* No to the recognition of Jerusalem as Israel capital! Protest in front of the US and Israeli embassies!*

*\* Revive the Palestinian Intifada!*

*\* For popular committees and self-defense committees composed of Palestinian workers, poor peasants, and youth in places of work, towns, and villages!*

*\* For international solidarity actions including mass demonstrations and popular actions against Israel!*

*\* Stop economic, political and military aid for the Zionist state!*

*\* Lift the Israeli blockade against the Gaza! Egyptian workers and peasants: Break the reactionary blockade of the al-Sisi regime against Gaza!*

*\* Israeli workers and youth: Turn against the racist demagogues! Defend the Palestinians against the reactionary settlers, the fascist gangs, and the army!*

*\* For a Free Red Palestine!*

*\* Unite the Arab Revolution with a renewed Intifada in Palestine! Support the Syrian Revolution against the reactionary Assad dictatorship! Bring down the reactionary military dictatorship of General al-Sisi in Egypt!*

*\* Onward to the building of a revolutionary workers' party as part of a World Party for Socialist Revolution!*

\*\*\*\*\*

For the analysis of the RCIT and its comrades in Occupied Palestine of the Palestinian liberation struggle, we refer readers to our numerous articles and documents accessed from the Africa and Middle East section of our website: <https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/africa-and-middle-east/> as well at <http://the-isleague.com/>.



# Palestine: A New Intifada is a Real Possibility!

## Long Live the Palestinian Heroic Struggle!

By Yossi Schwartz, Internationalist Socialist League (RCIT Section in Israel / Occupied Palestine), 7.12.2017

Last Wednesday, US President Donald Trump announced that the US formally recognizes Jerusalem as the capital of Israel and it will begin the process of moving its embassy to the city, breaking with decades of US policy. This is a real provocation against the Arabs and the Muslims and may push the Palestinians to a new Intifada that may reignite the Arab revolution.

According to the Israeli daily newspaper *Haaretz*, at least 22 Palestinians were wounded on Thursday in the West Bank, East Jerusalem and Gaza during clashes with Israeli soldiers following U.S. President Donald Trump's statement.

Seven Palestinians were wounded at demonstrations checkpoint near the West Bank city of Ramallah. Four were wounded by live fire and two by rubber bullets. Eight were wounded by rubber bullets in Tul Karm, three in Bethlehem. Four Palestinians were wounded by rubber bullets in the East Jerusalem neighborhood of Shuafat. Confrontations were also reported in Nablus and Jenin. In Gaza, east of Khan Younis, three Palestinian protesters were wounded by live fire, the Palestinian Health Ministry said.

Demonstrations in Ramallah, Tul Karm, and Nablus were attended by many hundreds of demonstrators, some of whom burned pictures of U.S. President Donald Trump. Dozens of Palestinians also protested in the north and center of the Gaza Strip.

In the West Bank cities of Hebron and Al-Bireh, thousands of demonstrators rallied with chants of "*Jerusalem is the capital of the State of Palestine*". Some Palestinians threw stones at soldiers. The Israeli military is sending army battalions. (1)

Saeb Erekat, the chief Palestinian negotiator, said Trump "*destroyed any possibility of peace*" and was "*pushing this region towards chaos [and] violence. He is destroying all moderates in the region and giving power to extremists,*" Erekat told Al Jazeera. "*This is the most dangerous decision that any US president has ever taken.*" Erekat said Trump had "*disqualified his country from any possible role in the peace process. How can he talk about peace when he dictates the*

*future of Jerusalem before negotiations begin, in total violation of international law?*"

Erekat said it is "*meaningless*" to have a Palestinian state without Jerusalem as its capital. The only option remaining for Palestinians, he said, "*is to fight for equal rights between the Mediterranean Sea and the Jordan River, the area of historic Palestine*". (2)

Very nice words and of course the solution is one state with equal rights to Palestinians and Jews, but how can the Palestinians trust the PA leadership to lead such a struggle when since Oslo agreement it has collaborated with Israel against any popular uprising?

Meantime, instead of leading real mass protest, Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas traveled to Amman to meet King Abdullah II of Jordan to coordinate positions on Trump's Jerusalem decision.

Unlike Abbas, Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh called for a new uprising against Israel following the announcement. In reference to Jerusalem, he said Trump's televised remarks on Wednesday were "*a declaration of war*" against "*the diamond in the Palestinian crown,*" and said those who believe that the Palestinian people will reconcile itself to Trump's newly declared policy "*are deluding themselves.*"

A new uprising is indeed necessary! For it to win it is necessary to organize in every village in every neighborhood an action committee and self defense committees, but would Hamas be able to do it? It did not organize such committees in Gaza during the Israeli attacks.

To win such a struggle a real revolutionary working class leadership is needed!

### Footnotes

(1) Jack Khoury: Palestinians Clash With Israeli Soldiers Over Trump's Jerusalem Decision, *Haaretz* Dec 07 2017, <https://www.haaretz.com/israel-news/1.827480>

(2) <http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2017/12/trump-defies-warnings-reckless-jerusalem-decision-171206160643273.html>



## NEW RCIT PUBLICATION!

# The Origins of the Jews

By Yossi Schwartz, July 2015

Chapter I: What are the origins of the Jews?

Chapter II: The Rise of Anti-Semitism

Chapter III: Anti-Semitism and Zionism

Chapter IV: The Russian Revolution:

Bolshevism, the Bund, and Stalinism



## More than 1.000 demonstrators in Vienna shouted: "Jerusalem is Palestine!"

*Report (with Pictures and Videos) by the Austrian RCIT Section on the rally against Trump's declaration, Vienna, 08.12.2017*

The arrogant, imperialist warlord and president of the United States, Donald Trump, declared on the 6<sup>th</sup> December Jerusalem to be the capital of Israel. The very first moment after the declaration we have seen uprisings in Palestine itself, which may be the beginning of a Third Intifada. Protests started to spread all around the world in solidarity with the Palestinian people.

One of the demonstrations took place in Vienna, on the afternoon of the 8<sup>th</sup> December, in front of the US embassy. More than one thousand of people gathered in an unbelievable militant and vivid mood to show their reaction of Trump's declaration.

Representatives of the Austrian section of the RCIT joined the meeting of the Palestinian community in the evening of the 7<sup>th</sup> December where the rally of the next day was prepared. The preparation meeting was held in the meeting room of the *Palestinian Youth Organisation* in one of the proletarian districts of Vienna. An intense discussion was held on the purpose and perspectives of the protests. Comrades of the Austrian RCIT section were asked to address the meeting.

The demonstration on the next day was a full success not only for the organizing forces but also for the Palestine solidarity movement in Austria as such. Irrespective of the new rule in Austria that demonstrations are only allowed by the police if organizers apply 48 hours in advance (which was not met given the short-term announcement), the dynamic of the protest and the balance of power was in favor of the demonstrators and not the police. Many slogans were chanted and throughout the whole demonstration there was not a single minute without a speech respectively chanting. In addition to the Palestinian community and the RCIT, a spokesperson from the BDS movement as well as the anti-imperialist activist Wilhelm Langthaler hold speeches.

The International Secretary of the RCIT, Michael Pröbsting, gave a militant speech that was supported by all demonstrators chanting slogans to it. The same was true for the spokespersons of the Austrian section Almedina Gunic, Rahime Berisha and Marek Hangler during their speeches at the protest. In addition leaflets from the Austrian section were distributed to the participants and our comrades had a number of interesting discussions with people reacting very positive to our slogans and publications. (See pictures and videos below)

All in all the protest was a full success, a vivid and militant sign of protest against the imperialist arrogance of the US government and the Apartheid state of Israel. The RCIT and its Austrian section were always and will always support the just struggle of the Palestinian people.

*Jerusalem is Palestine! For the Third Intifada! Long live a Free, Red Palestine!*

View pictures and videos of the speeches here: <https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/africa-and-middle-east/more-than-1-000-demonstrators-in-vienna-shouted-jerusalem-is-palestine/>



*Pictures from the Rally in Vienna and the preparation meeting (from left to right): Marek Hangler, Palestinian Women and Michael Pröbsting (center)*

# Front in Defense of the Palestinian People organizes protest in São Paulo

*Report from Corrente Comunista Revolucionária (RCIT Section in Brazil), 11.12.2017*

**A**round 200 protesters were present, on the last Sunday, December 10, 2017, in the main avenue of São Paulo, convened by the *Frente em Defesa do Povo Palestino* (Front in Defense of the Palestinian People (see on facebook). The demonstration was also attended by Brazilian citizens and various groups, mainly from the left, in defense of Palestine and against the unilateral decision of the Trump government to unilaterally declare Jerusalem as Israel's capital. The CCR, the Brazilian section of RCIT, was present.

The condemnation of the USA and Israel was unanimous among those present. There was some disagreement among Palestinian militants present on the characterization situation in Syria, a few were in favor of the dictator Bashar Al-Assad but were promptly rejected by the majority. All in all the protest was vivid and militant.

We from the RCIT have a clear position against the Russian imperialism, against the dictator Assad and also against western imperialism (USA und EU) and its role in the region. Further, we support the resistance of the Palestinian people against the declaration of Trump. We say clearly: Jerusalem was, is and will be the capital of Palestine!

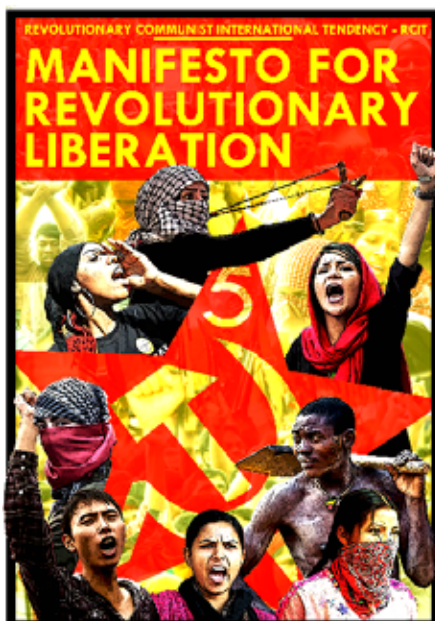
In short, the day of the demonstration was a victory of mobilization and is expected the continuation of a struggle that should not stop. Viva Palestina! Down with the Apartheid State Israel! Down with imperialism!

For further informations read our latest document:

<https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/africa-and-middle-east/jerusalem-is-the-capital-of-palestine/>



*Pictures from the Rally in São Paulo: Joao Evanlegista (left) with demonstrators*



## NEW RCIT PROGRAM!

# Manifesto for Revolutionary Liberation

*Adopted at the 1<sup>st</sup> World Congress of the RCIT in October 2016*

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

*A RCIT Pamphlet, 36 pages, A5 Format*



# The Imperialist-Sponsored Conferences on Syria are Charades!

Report (with Pictures and Video) of a Protest Rally of Syrian Migrants in Vienna (Austria), 1st December 2017

Syrian Migrants, including a number of refugees, organized a rally in front of the Russian embassy in Vienna on the 1<sup>st</sup> December. They expressed their protest against the ongoing slaughter of the Syrian people by the Assad regime as well as the Russian and Iranian occupation forces.

The Austrian section of the *Revolutionary Communist International Tendency* (RCIT) was invited to participate at the rally. Comrade Michael Pröbsting, the International Secretary of the RCIT, addressed the rally. He emphasized the solidarity of the *Revolutionary Communist International*

*Tendency* (RCIT) with the heroic liberation struggle of the Syrian people against the dictatorship of Bashar al-Assad. The speech of Michael Pröbsting (in German language) can be viewed here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PXK7Piz9twk&feature=youtu.be>

The RCIT has published numerous articles and documents on the Syrian Revolution which can be read on the RCIT's website at <https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/africa-and-middle-east/>.



Rally in Vienna in Solidarity with the Syrian Revolution, 02.12.2017

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من أجل فيدرالية اشتراكية للشعوب**

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# Yemen after the Death of Saleh

## Continue the Defense of Yemen against the Al-Saud Gang of Aggressors!

*Joint Statement by the International Secretariat of the RCIT and the RCIT Yemen, 12.10.2017*

1. The death of former President Ali Abdullah Saleh opens a new chapter in the Yemeni struggle against the Saudi aggression. It is a dramatic turn which accelerates the contradictions of the war. As it is well known, the war started in March 2015 when a Saudi-led alliance, with the support of the military dictatorship in Egypt as well as the US and other Western imperialist powers, invaded the country. Its purpose is to restore the puppet government of Abdrabbuh Mansour Hadi and to liquidate the, albeit limited, democratic and social victories achieved since the popular uprising started in Yemen in the autumn of 2014.

2. In the last two and a half years, the Saudi monarchy has waged a barbaric war against the Yemeni people – with the tacit support of the Western imperialist powers. By imposing a reckless bombing campaign as well as a total land, air and sea blockade, the Saudi aggressors try to subjugate the Yemeni people. As a result, over 11,000 people, with the vast majority being innocent civilians, have been killed since March 2015. Meanwhile, untold millions have been displaced. Seven million Yemenis are facing famine and completely rely on food aid to survive. A fast spreading cholera epidemic is affecting at least 1 million people, including at least 600,000 children.

3. The *Revolutionary Communist International Tendency* (RCIT) reconfirms its position which we have taken since the first day of the war: We unreservedly condemn of the Al-Saud gang of aggressors' war and we unconditionally support of the Yemeni resistance. We congratulate our comrades in Yemen for the participation in the defense of the country against the foreign aggressors. As we stated in our past declarations, such a support for the military struggle of the Yemeni resistance against the Saudi-led alliance doesn't mean support of the political leadership of the Houthis. Quiet the opposite: we strongly reject the petty-bourgeois nationalist-Islamist agenda of the Houthi

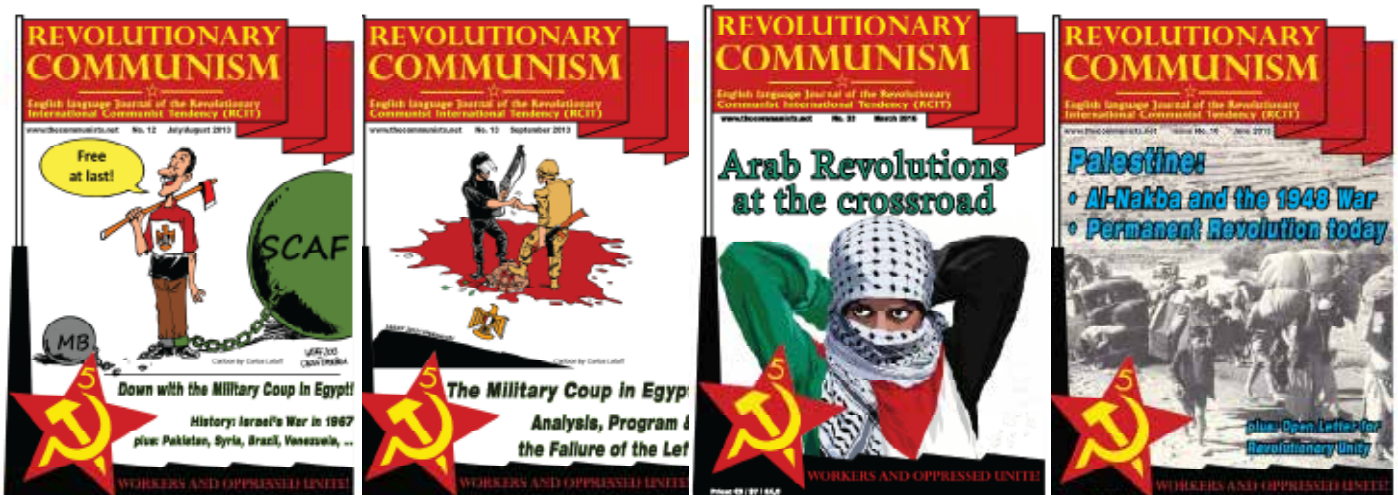
leadership. However, together with our comrades in the RCIT in Yemen we stress that is the duty of democrats, anti-imperialists, and socialists in Yemen and the Arab world as well as internationally to support the Yemeni people's struggle for national independence.

4. Despite their military and technical superiority, the Al-Saud gang of aggressors has failed until now to defeat the Yemeni forces and to conquer the capital city Sana'a. This can only be explained by the popular support for the Houthis' struggle and the lack of such support for the foreign invaders. In fact, the popular resistance against the Saudi invasion goes far beyond the Houthis and includes also other, including socialist, forces. Furthermore, the Saudi-led coalition is faced with inner contradictions with a significant part of their Yemeni supporters striving for the secession of the Southern part of the country from the north (as it was the case between the 1960s and 1990)

5. As Riyadh could not win on the battlefield, it tried to defeat the resistance by bribing Saleh, a notorious reactionary figure and former Saudi ally who had fought the Houthis in six different confrontations between 2004 and 2011. However, in 2015 he had joined an alliance with the Houthis for opportunistic reasons. After one year of secret negotiations, Saleh stated on 2 December 2017, publicly that he was willing to engage in talks with [Saudi Arabia](#), i.e. that he was ready to switch sides. The Houthis rightly condemned Saleh's actions as "a coup against our alliance and partnership ... and exposed the deception of those who claim to stand against aggression". As a result armed clashes erupted in Sana'a. However, given the weak support for Saleh and his treacherous actions, the Houthis succeeded quickly in defeating this coup. On 4 December, Saleh was killed at a checkpoint outside Sanaa when he tried to flee. In short, once more a maneuver of the Saudi monarchy has failed.

6. Various left-wing organizations have refused

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in the past years to support the Yemeni resistance. They argue that this conflict would be a “proxy war” between Saudi Arabia and Iran resp. between the Western and the Eastern Great Powers. The RCIT has always condemned such a coward position which was equivalent to desertion from a legitimate national liberation struggle. Of course, it is true that Iran politically supports the Houthis and lend them some limited material aid. However, the struggle of the Houthis since 2004 and the popular mass uprising in autumn 2014 and spring 2015 have their origins and their impetus in the domestic class contradictions and not in any foreign interests. Likewise it is complete nonsense to assume that the struggle of the Houthis is controlled by Tehran. Given the geographical isolation of the Houthi-controlled areas in the north of Yemen and their total blockade by the Saudis from all sides, this is simply not possible even if Tehran would wish so. For the same reason there is no significant presence of Iranian (or Hezbollah) troops in the north of Yemen. Of course, the opposite is true when we look at the anti-Houthi camp which is dominated and controlled by foreign powers, beginning with Saudi Arabia. Let us finally remark that in an epoch marked by the rivalry between capitalist powers, it is only logical that such powers try to utilize a national or democratic liberation struggle to advance their interests. This has always been the case in the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century and is also the case in the new historic period which opened up in 2008 with China and Russia as emerging imperialist powers. This has, however, never led Marxists to refuse support for oppressed people fighting for their freedom!

7. It is urgent to link the Yemeni national liberation with other legitimate national, democratic and anti-imperialist struggles in the region. Most of all, the struggle must be linked to the current Al-Quds intifada in Palestine

and the global wave of mass protests against Trump’s decision to recognize Jerusalem as Israel’s capital. Furthermore, the struggle should link up with the ongoing liberation struggle of the Syrian people against the barbaric Assad dictatorship and its Russian and Iranian masters. Other examples are the resistance of the Egypt people against the regime of General Sisi and the resistance of the people of Bahrain against the corrupt monarchy. Such a strategy requires that the liberation forces do not orientate to find allies among this or that capitalist government in the region but among the workers and oppressed fighting against the ruling classes. It requires international solidarity across sectarian and national lines.

8. Such an internationalist and anti-imperialist strategy must be combined with the goal a uprising of the workers and fallahin which should result in the formation of a *Worker’s and Fallahin government*. Such a government would rely not on the old and corrupt army but on the power of popular councils and armed militias. Such a government would break Yemen’s dependence on the imperialist monopolies, and would nationalize the key sectors of the economy under workers’ control.

9. However, such a strategy can not be implemented “spontaneously”. It requires the existence of a revolutionary party based on an action program which combines the tasks of the democratic and socialist revolution. Such a party has to be independent of capitalists, imperialist institutions, and bourgeois parties. It should be based on the working class and rally the oppressed peasantry and poor. It should fight against any sectarian divisions along religious lines.

10. The RCIT calls on revolutionaries in Yemen as well as the Arab world to join us in the struggle for an internationalist, anti-imperialist, and socialist program, and to build a common international organization.

## 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.

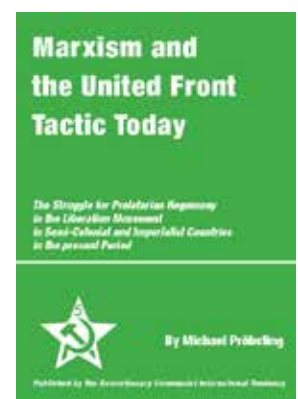
The following paragraphs are the back cover text of the book which give an overview of its content.

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.



# On the new Cold War between Saudi Arabia and Iran

## Continue the Defense of Yemen against the Al-Saud Gang of Aggressors!

By Yossi Schwartz and Max Bonham, Internationalist Socialist League (RCIT Section in Israel / Occupied Palestine), 26.12.2017

### 1. History of conflict between Iran and Saudi Arabia

The history of the rivalry between Iran and Saudi Arabia starts at 1980's after the Islamic Revolution in Iran, Saudi Arabia shored up Iraq as a buffer zone. That split may seem to be a religious one, but it is really a split between two rival powers. Before the Islamic revolution, Iran was ruled by the Shah, and despite its competing oil fields, it was not much of a threat to Saudi Arabia. In the 1980's, Iran started exporting its revolution to Lebanon and fought Iraq in the Iran-Iraq war, and foremost the revolution itself struck fear to the Saudi kings.

Currently, it also manifests itself in Syria and Yemen. Also, Saudi puts pressure on Qatar to join its alliance.

There are of course, differences between Iran and Saudi, mainly that Iran is backed by Russia and Saudi by US, and that the Iranian regime came via a revolution so it has more of support from its people and is therefore in a stronger position.

### 2. The Saudi drive

The Saudi led drive to unite against Iran, with Donald Trump's blessing, also has implication for the Palestinians, as pressure is mounting on the PA to sign a "peace" agreement with Israel and join the anti-Iran bandwagon. Trump's plan is to create a military alliance, spearheaded by Saudis, against Iran.

*"President Donald Trump's White House has extended an olive branch towards Riyadh as the new State Department lays out its foreign policy agenda. But this new diplomatic program runs contrary to the KSA's economic goals. American oil exports, reinstated back in December 2015, counter the effects of OPEC's landmark agreement to lower bloc-wide output by 1.2 million barrels per day in an effort to alleviate an international supply glut. As a major oil exporter, Russia was invited to participate in the agreement when it was being discussed back in 2016. American exports were still limited to specific destinations back then, and U.S.-based companies had only just begun to secure supply contracts in Asian and European markets. Any threat to the success of the deal from the other side of the Atlantic seemed far-fetched just a year ago. But the tables have turned. Washington doesn't rely on oil profits to run its nation. Moscow and Riyadh do—and heavily so."* (1)

### 3. Israel's response

Israel has been making threats against the presence of Iranian military bases in Syria. *"We face even greater challenges inside and outside the country, first and foremost to thwart Iran's attempts to establish itself in Syria .... At the same time, we are determined to prevent Iran from obtaining nuclear weapons,"* [Bibi] he told the Knesset."

As well as against Lebanon: *"Outlining potential threats in Lebanon, where Israel last fought a war against Hezbollah in 2006, Lieberman said in a speech: "We are no longer talking*

*about Hezbollah alone". "We are talking about Hezbollah and the Lebanese army, and to my regret this is the reality. The Lebanese army has turned into an integral part of Hezbollah's command structure. The Lebanese army has lost its independence and become an inseparable part of the Hezbollah apparatus," Lieberman said. He also said: "Israel would not allow an entrenchment of Shi'ite and Iranian forces in Syria. Anyone who doesn't understand what I mean would do well to try and understand." Israel must prevent Iran from building bases in Syria at any cost, a former national security adviser who retains influence in the Prime Minister's Office said this week.*

*Maj. Gen. (res.) Yaakov Amidror was speaking at a briefing for foreign correspondents organized by the nonprofit group the Israel Project.*

*"The implications of the Iranians building bases in Syria," Amidror said, is that it creates "launching-pad bases in Syria to Hezbollah and the Iranians. And Israel should prevent it whatever will be the price."*

*"If that will not be taken into account by the those who are making those arrangements — the Americans, the Russians and others — that might lead the IDF to intervene and destroy every attempt to build infrastructure in Syria," he continued, referring to the Israel Defense Forces. "We will not let the Iranians and Hezbollah be the forces which will win from the long and very brutal war in Syria and move the focus into Israel." (2)*

### 4. Theory

Revolutionary Marxists do not relate to all wars in the same way. There are different kinds of wars. There are wars between imperialist states like in the first world war and the second world war, except the Soviet union that was a degenerated workers' state, and not an imperialist state.

There are wars between imperialist states and colonies or semi-colonies, for example the US war in Iraq, or Afghanistan, France in Mali.

There are revolutionary wars. For example the war of France after the French revolution in 1789. The war between Soviet Russia and Poland in 1920.

There are civil wars where one side is a revolutionary like the American civil war in 1861-65 where victory for the North would lead to the emancipation of the slaves. Another clear example is the civil war in Soviet Russia after the revolution in 1917, when on one side were the workers and the poor peasants led by the Bolsheviks; and on the other side were the reactionary whites and the invading imperialists.

As Marxists we do not simply describe the different kinds of wars, but take an active role on the progressive and revolutionary side against the reactionary side. For example, during the American civil war, Marx and Engels supported the North. At that time capitalism was still progressive and the bourgeois mode of production advanced the forces of production and therefore victory for the North meant the end of slavery.



Today, the bourgeois relationships of production are an obstacle to the advance of the forces of production. The so called "advanced states" are imperialist states characterized by monopolies, export of capital in particular financial capital, the super exploitation of the workers and peasants in the colonies and semi-colonies and they compete for the control of the world economy. This leads to imperialist wars either between the Great Powers or between the imperialists and the oppressed people in the colonies and semi-colonies. The imperialists also use the profit they make in the semi-colonies to bribe a layer of the working class – the labor aristocracy – that the bureaucracy of the trade unions and the reformist parties rely on.

In an imperialist war between two imperialist sides like in the WWI, the position of the revolutionary Marxists in each imperialist state is: "our capitalist class and its government is the worse enemy of the workers and oppressed". As Lenin wrote in a polemic against Trotsky at the time Trotsky was still a centrist: "A revolutionary struggle against the war is merely an empty and meaningless exclamation, something at which the heroes of the Second International excel, unless it means revolutionary action against one's own government even in wartime. One has only to do some thinking in order to understand this. Wartime revolutionary action against one's own government indubitably means, not only desiring its defeat, but really facilitating such a defeat. ("Discerning reader": note that this does not mean "blowing up bridges", organizing unsuccessful strikes in the war industries, and in general helping the government defeat the revolutionaries.)" (3)

Or as Rosa Luxemburg wrote "If they expect us to murder our French or other foreign brothers, then let us tell them, 'No, under no circumstances!'" (4)

She also wrote: "2. The activity of the proletariat of all countries as a class, in peace time, as in war time, must be geared to the fight against imperialism and war as its supreme goal. Parliamentary and trade union action, like every activity of the workers' movement, must be subordinated to this aim, so that the proletariat in each country is opposed in the sharpest fashion to its national bourgeoisie, so that the political and spiritual opposition between the two becomes at each moment the main issue, and international solidarity between the workers of all countries is underlined and practiced. 3. The centre of gravity of the organization of the proletariat as a class is the International. The International decides in time of peace the tactics to be adopted by the national Sections on the questions of militarism, colonial policy, commercial policy, the celebration of May Day and, finally, the collective tactic to be followed in the event of war." (5)

Reformists and centrists tend to point out to the political nature of the regime in the other imperialist side in order to justify their support for their "own" capitalist-imperialist class. They turn revolutionary Marxism into an empty shell. Thus, during WWI the German Social Democrats claimed that the British or French imperialists are worse than their own capitalist class' and the British and the French social democrats claimed that the German capitalists are worse than their "own" capitalist class.

Kautsky the official leader of the Second International opposed the revolutionary struggle against the German capitalist class and its government. As Lenin wrote: "Kautsky, the leading authority in the Second International, is a most typical and striking example of how a verbal recognition of Marxism has led in practice to its conversion into 'Struvism',

or into 'Brentanoism' [i.e., into a bourgeois-liberal theory recognising the non-revolutionary "class" struggle of the proletariat, which was expressed most clearly by Struve, the Russian writer, and Brentano, the German economist]. Another example is Plekhanov. By means of patent sophistry, Marxism is stripped of its revolutionary living spirit; everything is recognised in Marxism except the revolutionary methods of struggle, the propaganda and preparation of those methods, and the education of the masses in this direction. Kautsky reconciles in an unprincipled way the fundamental idea of social-chauvinism, recognition of defence of the fatherland in the present war, with a diplomatic sham concession to the Lefts—his abstention from voting for war credits, his verbal claim to be in the opposition, etc. Kautsky, who in 1909 wrote a book on the approaching epoch of revolutions and on the connection between war and revolution, Kautsky, who in 1912 signed the Basle Manifesto on taking revolutionary advantage of the impending war, is outdoing himself in justifying and embellishing social-chauvinism and, like Plekhanov, joins the bourgeoisie in ridiculing any thought of revolution and all steps towards the immediate revolutionary struggle." (6)

During WWII that was the continuation of WWI, the reformists - the Social Democrats and the Stalinists, took the side of its own ruling class (to be precise until Nazi Germany attacked the Soviet Union the Stalinists supported Nazi Germany claiming it was not an imperialist state).

Even the Trotskists after Trotsky's death, were confused on this issue. The American SWP during the trial of its leadership pointed out to Germany as the worse enemy of the working class, and the French Trotskyists had some tendencies to either avoid the struggle against the German occupation or to tail the call to restore France independence, while it was an imperialist state, instead of connecting the struggle against the German occupation with the struggle for a socialist revolution.

The revolutionary position during the second world imperialist war was revolutionary defeatism to all imperialist sides, but revolutionary defense of the Soviet Union and acting to organize a working class political revolution against the Stalinist bureaucracy.

In a war between an imperialist state and the masses of a semi-colony, Marxists stand on the side of the oppressed, even when they are led by bourgeois or petit-bourgeois leaderships, whether this leadership is secular or religious, without giving the leadership any political support, because sooner or later it will betray the mass struggle because of its fear of losing control over the masses. Only the working class led by a revolutionary leadership can defeat the imperialist system.

On the question why to be on the side of a reactionary leadership of a "Third world" state against an imperialist state Trotsky wrote:

"I will take the most simple and obvious example. In Brazil there now reigns a semifascist regime that every revolutionary can only view with hatred. Let us assume, however, that on the morrow England enters into a military conflict with Brazil. I ask you on whose side of the conflict will the working class be? I will answer for myself personally—in this case I will be on the side of "fascist" Brazil against "democratic" Great Britain. Why? Because in the conflict between them it will not be a question of democracy or fascism. If England should be victorious, she will put another fascist in Rio de Janeiro and will place double chains on Brazil. If Brazil on the contrary should be victorious, it will

*give a mighty impulse to national and democratic consciousness of the country and will lead to the overthrow of the Vargas dictatorship. The defeat of England will at the same time deliver a blow to British imperialism and will give an impulse to the revolutionary movement of the British proletariat. Truly, one must have an empty head to reduce world antagonisms and military conflicts to the struggle between fascism and democracy. Under all masks one must know how to distinguish exploiters, slave-owners, and robbers!"* (7)

Those who claimed to be Marxists and at the same time manifest Islamophobia clearly do not follow the revolutionary road of the working class. Trotsky in a letter to the Mexican Painter Diago Rivera wrote:

*"We do not and never have put all wars on the same plane. Marx and Engels supported the revolutionary struggle of the Irish against Great Britain, of the Poles against the tsar, even though in these two nationalist wars the leaders were, for the most part, members of the bourgeoisie and even at times of the feudal aristocracy ... at all events, Catholic reactionaries. When Abdel-Krim rose up against France, the democrats and Social Democrats spoke with hate of the struggle of a "savage tyrant" against the "democracy." The party of Leon Blum supported this point of view. But we, Marxists and Bolsheviks, considered the struggle of the Rifians against imperialist domination as a progressive war. Lenin wrote hundreds of pages demonstrating the primary necessity of distinguishing between imperialist nations and the colonial and semicolonial nations which comprise the great majority of humanity. To speak of "revolutionary defeatism" in general, without distinguishing between exploiter and exploited countries, is to make a miserable caricature of Bolshevism and to put that caricature at the service of the imperialists."* (8)

The Islamophobia was behind the refusal of the left to support the Syrian revolution against Assad the butcher, its local allies like Iran and Hezbollah and the imperialist intervention of Russia and the US. They all claim that the revolution died when the Islamists took the leadership of the struggle. The RCIT has taken the position that the revolution has not died in spite of the blows to the revolution. (9)

In the battle between ISIL and the imperialists, we took the side of ISIL as the imperialists are the worst enemy. However, when ISIL attacked the Kurds when the Kurds defended their enclaves, we took the side of the Kurds. When the Kurds and others served the American imperialists, in the battle of Raqqa; we stood with ISIL without giving them any political support. Yes, ISIL is a very reactionary organization, but the main enemy are the imperialist butchers and their servants. ISIL killed thousands, but Assad and his supporters killed more than a quarter of a million civilians! (10)

### 5. Our position

We cannot be certain that a war between Saudi Arabia, Israel, Sisi's Egypt, Jordan and the PA backed by the US against Iran will take place in spite of the sounds of the war drums. We do not know whether in such a war, Iran will be controlled by imperialist Russia. We do not know yet whether this will be a war between Iran and Saudi Arabia without Israel. We do not know whether such a war will be a proxy war between imperialist Russia and imperialist USA.

However, if such a war will break out and Iran will not be controlled by Russia and if Israel will be part of it, we will stand on the side of Iran without giving it any political support, as Israel is an imperialist state. If Iran will be controlled by Russian imperialists, we will take the position of revolutionary defeat to all sides.

The question, of course is, what does it mean to be controlled by an imperialist state? Getting weapons by itself is not a proof of being controlled. On this question Trotsky wrote:

*"Let us assume that rebellion breaks out tomorrow in the French colony of Algeria under the banner of national independence and that the Italian government, motivated by its own imperialist interests, prepares to send weapons to the rebels. What should the attitude of the Italian workers be in this case? I have purposely taken an example of rebellion against a democratic imperialism with intervention on the side of the rebels from a fascist imperialism. Should the Italian workers prevent the shipping of arms to the Algerians? Let any ultra-leftists dare answer this question in the affirmative. Every revolutionist, together with the Italian workers and the rebellious Algerians, would spurn such an answer with indignation. Even if a general maritime strike broke out in fascist Italy at the same time, even in this case the strikers should make an exception in favor of those ships carrying aid to the colonial slaves in revolt; otherwise they would be no more than wretched trade unionists – not proletarian revolutionists."* (11)

The issue is who is giving the political and military orders. For example the Jordanian Legion during the Israel war in Palestine in 1948 was controlled by the British imperialists. The British Brigadier Norman Lash was in command acting by the orders of London. Despite that, it was necessary to defend the Legion against the Zionists because it fought under the pressure of the Arab masses who wanted to defend the Palestinians against Zionist ethnic cleansing settler-colonialism.

Another example is the war in Korea in the 1950s. In the conflict between the North and South Korea, by July 1950, American troops had entered the war on South Korea's behalf. As far as American officials were concerned, it was a war against the forces of "international communism". Thus the South Korean army was subordinated to American imperialists. In this war the British SWP that claim to be Trotskyist refused to defend North Korea because of their middle class views, seeing Stalinist Russia as a state capitalism and they equated both sides. Thus, they wrote: *"The Korean War was not a revolution, not a national liberation struggle, not even a fight between the relatively more and less 'progressive'. It was a squalid trial of strength between two symmetrical power blocs, carefully limited to the territory of an Asian people far from their own heartlands. The only response that revolutionary socialists could make was to denounce the fraud and to start looking elsewhere for the real potential for revolutionary change."*

The correct position was to defend North Korea as a non-imperialist state, backed by the reactionary yet non-imperialist Stalinist Soviet Union. Revolutionary defense does not end with defense alone, but goes hand-in-hand with preparing the working class to take power away from the Stalinist bureaucracy through a political revolution as the only way to truly defeat imperialism and advance the world socialist revolution.

It is hard to tell in advance how exactly would an armed

conflict between Iran and Saudi Arabia be conducted in reality and how strong would be the control of each imperialist camp on both belligerents. Revolutionary positions should be both concrete and principled, formulated according to the best interests of the working and oppressed masses in their struggle for a socialist world.

#### Footnotes

- (1) <http://uk.businessinsider.com/trump-could-drive-wedge-between-saudi-arabia-and-russias-oil-alliance-2017-10>
- (2) See <https://www.haaretz.com/israel-news/premium-1.818904>; <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-mideast-crisis-israel-lebanon/israel-says-hezbollah-runs-lebanese-army-signaling-both-are-foes-idUSKBN1CF25R>; <https://www.haaretz.com/israel-news/1.826114>
- (3) V.I.Lenin: The Defeat of One's Own Government in the Imperialist War, <https://www.marxists.org/archive/lenin/works/1915/jul/26.htm>
- (4) Rosa Luxemburg, Speech at Fechenheim (25 September 1913)
- (5) Rosa Luxemburg Theses on the Tasks of International Social-Democracy (Late 1915) <https://www.marxistsfr.org/archive/luxemburg/1915/xx/theses.htm>
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(9) On the RCIT's analysis of the Syrian Revolution, see the collection of articles at our website: <https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/africa-and-middle-east/collection-of-articles-on-the-syrian-revolution/>. In particular we refer readers to the essay of Michael Pröbsting: Is the Syrian Revolution at its End? Is Third Camp Abstentionism Justified? An essay on the organs of popular power in the liberated area of Syria, on the character of the different sectors of the Syrian rebels, and on the failure of those leftists who deserted the Syrian Revolution, 5 April 2017, <https://www.thecommunists.net/theory/syrian-revolution-not-dead/>

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

You can find the contents and download the book for free at <http://www.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



# Escape from Africa through Libya: Putting the blame where it really belongs – Europe's Colonial Practices!!!

## A Comprehensive Analytical Essay on the Slave Situation in Libya: its causes, the forces operating behind it, and those profiting from it

*By Mainda Simataa, ELA General Secretary, 06.Dec. 2017, Lusaka, Zambia*

### **Africa and Europe – Still a Servant-Master Colonial Relationship!**

It is no exaggeration to say that in many African countries, the poor live and die in conditions akin to, or worse than those that existed in Hitler's German concentration camps, or Stalin's desolate labour camps (gulags) in Siberia! So, is it any wonder then, that millions of poverty stricken Africans are mounting daring self-sponsored expeditions to escape Africa? Why are they risking life and limb to abandon their native 'independent' homelands to cross over to Europe, America, or Australia, and anywhere else except Africa? The answer is something we all know – African freedom or independence – whatever one may call the act of the whites 'leaving', is a big fat lie!!! Washington, London, Paris, and now Beijing, are still pulling the political and economic strings in Africa! They are still looting and plundering us!

Africans are not free at all, they never were so – not even in their own so called independent countries! Africans are slaves at home and abroad; but there is no denying the fact that the African slave abroad enjoys a far much better life than his counterpart at home! And so, it's only natural for Africans at home to desire to leave for greener pastures! Africa is not free! Africans are to a great degree still haunted by the vestiges of European imperialism and colonialism; forces which have now consolidated and advanced into neo-colonialism and global capitalism. Africans are paradoxically more oppressed today than they ever were before – Africans are still haunted and hounded by the dog-effects of colonialism and capitalism – poverty, wars for resources and power, hunger, unemployment, and the oppressive tyranny of failed black puppets of global capitalism! Poor Africans are now fleeing these very hard conditions. Millions are moving out and moving house to seek economic refuge in Europe – the one place responsible for their historical and present suffering. But in typical imperial fashion, Europe via the European Union has united to slam the door shut in the face of thousands of African migrants, and they are marooned in Libyan – and they call it a Libyan problem!

All Africans must bear it in mind, and never forget: that Europe, America and the entire capitalist world have been built on three things – the tears, sweat and blood of Africans! Put another way, the continued development of the west, and now the east – China, India and others; still depends on three critical things – Africa's natural resources, Africa's slave labour, and Africa's markets for the resale and consumption of their manufactured products, and also, a dumping ground for the excess products and junk! Production in the West is impossible without African resources ... and more importantly, cheap labour!

The issue in Libya is therefore nothing more or less than the West quietly capitalizing on a humanitarian crisis that it

caused itself, through the many years of proper plundering, pillaging, slavery and colonization in Africa! Libya – and its failed government, in this scenario, is nothing more than a victim and tool of the west – an unwitting slave corridor, and unwilling collaborator in this 'slave' saga in African human cargo destined for Europe and the entire capitalist west! But now, the 'merchandise' is marooned in Libya (not excluding Morocco and other northerners); precisely because Europe has rejected the slaves – there have too many! And why has the slave problem surfaced in Libya of all places? Precisely because it is easier for the African immigrant seeking for greener pastures in the diaspora to slip through Libya unchecked – Libya being now a failed state at war with itself, and ever since the fall of Gaddafi!

### **Western Media Reports Ignoring the Role of the Capitalist US, EU, UK by Blaming Libya!**

The international western capitalist controlled media – CNN, BBC, SKY, France 24, Al Jazeera, Fox, Reuters, SABC, ENCA et al, have so far done a remarkable job in trying to shift the burden of blame and responsibility for the current human catastrophe prevailing in Libya, away from themselves, by portraying the peoples/ failed government of Libya, and the entire Arab world in general, as the authors, architects, purveyors and profiteers, of what is currently being reported to the world as 'slavery in Libya, by Libyans and for the profit of Libyan Arab slave traders! This is a cheap racist attack by the all-time racist champions themselves – white capitalist Europe and US!

Of course, such a skewed narrative of events in Libya serves a two-pronged purpose – divert black Africa's attention/anger, and the global communities indignation at the so called slave traders; and also, cover the historical traces and tracks of the dire effects and results of centuries of western economic plunder of African countries' resources. And now? These neo-colonial countries can barely manage to feed themselves, cloth and employ their people because the west has sucked and bled them dry! The western capitalist countries in Europe and America are in fact the topmost beneficiaries of slave labour! Today, owing to the claimed high cost of labour in Europe and America, the west is interested yet again, in exploiting cheap black labour, as they do in Latin America, Asia, and worse of all, in Africa – the bedroom of Exploitation!

### **African Exodus to Europe: Escaping Poverty, Unemployment, war and hunger at all Costs!**

Slavery never really ended, not for colonial Africa then, and not even for semi-colonial Africa now. Poverty, unemployment, disease and hunger, war and strife, have come to characterize the larger portion of the African continent, and it has come to be as one of the most brutal places to live – not conducive for life, an inhabitable and hostile environment for life – an open air prison. Such harsh conditions prevailing in Africa did not just come

out of themselves, no. They are the direct result of the ruthless and centuries-long exploitation of Africa by the capitalist world, and Europe to be specific; as it is the home of many of the countries that carved-up Africa at the Berlin Conference in 1884, carving us up into numerous disjointed territories for their own gold, gain, and glory!

Alas! The 'pigeons' bred by the oppressive colonial system are flocking back to Europe – the source as it were. And this year alone, 2017, over 3,000 African migrants have died in the Mediterranean sea, trying to get to Europe at all costs! Over 600,000 are stranded in Libya. Indeed, the modern day African slave is not an African bound in chains and driven by the gun, no! The modern African slave is driven by hunger, and is in search of the chains of wage slavery! And to get to wherever the slave jobs may be, the modern day African slave even saves money to pay for his own passage to Europe, inspired by other slaves who have managed to break through into Europe and beyond, and also, he is encouraged and emboldened by the belief that no matter how worse things may be in Europe, or indeed as they are now in a Libyan cell; things cannot be worse than where he is coming from – war, poverty, famine and utter hopelessness!

#### **Europe's new Policy of Rejection of the African Migrant (Job/Asylum seeker)**

The number of Africans, or so called illegal migrants that have crossed into Europe over the past few three years has created benefits for the capitalist classes of Europe who utilize cheap African labour for domestic and industrial purposes – they literally own slaves on the cheap, and where most of these immigrants are illegal or undocumented, they can be brutally exploited because they have no recourse to the law enforcement authorities. Exposure would mean deportation back to Africa's poverty, wars, diseases and unemployment!

But the African's mass exodus into European job markets, while it benefits the capitalists, harms the indigenous European people who are accustomed to high wages and a high standard of living – a standard which is now being degraded and eroded by the African immigrant slaves who will take up the same jobs, or any job, for far much less. The result? Xenophobia and hate against all African immigrants because, and justifiably so, the Africans are

pushing job opportunities and wages down the drain as the indigenous Europeans see it! And how does the common place European politicians respond? He goes with the wind – leave the capitalists alone, but stiffer anti-immigration laws! And those anti-African immigrant laws are what have led to the build-up of the largest open-air immigrant prison in Libya, with several concentration-type facilities strewn all over Libya, holding Africans who have been forcibly returned to Africa, or caught trying to breakthrough high-razor wire perimeter fences, or trying to paddle their way across the Mediterranean Sea.

#### **The Libyan 'Slave' Transporter – Business as usual!**

Slave transporting is an old lucrative business, not just Libya, but all the northern African states used as entry points into Europe. All African migrants know that they cannot cross the Sahara on foot, or swim across the Mediterranean – you need specialized and experienced transport – and this of itself, has created an industry of closely knit network of slave carriers from Bamako in Senegal to the coastal town of Tangea on the Mediterranean. Very few, if any, are the Africans who are ever captured and sold as slaves to Europe. These so called slaves in fact, actively seek out transporters, and pay them a fortune! Of course the transporters exploit this desperation in many ways, among them, sleeping with vulnerable women as payment in kind for safe passage. For the men, it could mean doing donkey work without pay!

#### **Imperialist European Union Closing its Gates to African Migrants!**

The European Union, however, and without shame or remorse, is doing its evil best to block the passage of these seekers of greener pastures in Europe from Africa. In particular, they are collaborating with, and funding several governments in the northern Arab states to quash and stop any more crossings. They have funded, and even armed, the Libyan government and others to take all necessary measures stop the tide of Africans pouring into Europe, and so far, the scheme has been successful, but at the cost and detriment of the African migrant. Once the Africans are caught and sent back, if they are lucky enough not to be shot in the back or drowned at sea, they find themselves marooned in the prison-like facilities which are all over Libya.

# **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)***

**Price: €3 / \$3,5 / £2 (plus delivery charges)**

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In these 'slave-holding' cells, there is no law, no order, and no justice – only man's inhumanity towards man, just as there is no rule of law in Libya itself. Militia, and all sorts of factions and under-hand dealers run the streets. These are the same cartels which are taking advantage of the stranded Africans in these cells, to promise them not only escape and freedom from detention, but even a second-attempt at crossing into Europe, but of course at a price. These slave dealers also act as employment agents, they look for people in need of workers – cheap labour (inside and outside Libya) – maids, cleaners, general workers; and then they go back to the detention facilities and pick out the lucky few, and send them on their way to freedom in slavery, Europe, Middle-east, or Dubai...anywhere, but Africa! That is the motto of the African migrant!

Such are the dynamics and intricacies of the so called Libyan slave trade! But Libya and Libyans themselves, are very far away from purposely engaging in what has become an industry of trading detainees for money to seekers of cheap labour – labour which the detained Africans are desperate for, an in active pursuit of, no matter how risky or unrewarding the end may be!

#### **Final Revolutionary Position of the ELA on the Matter**

Therefore, the Economic Liberation Association, ELA Zambia; first and foremost wishes to denounce the historical and present role European and American forces of capitalism in destroying Africa and sponsoring wars,

injustice and poverty! We revile and reject the attempts of the capitalist sponsored media in trying to paint our Libyan brothers and allies in the struggle as racists and haters of black people! Libyans want what all Africans want, freedom from western capitalist interference in our economic and political affairs.

Secondly, we denounce all the unsavory elements of those profiteering elements involved in the heinous dehumanization and abuse of black African people being held in Libya. We demand for their immediate and unconditional release, compensation, and safe passage back home.

Thirdly, we call on all Pan-Africanists, Socialists and revolutionaries, to rise against capitalist-sponsored African regimes which are causing the poverty in our countries by collaborating with the foreign exploiters to defraud our rich continent and dehumanize our people!

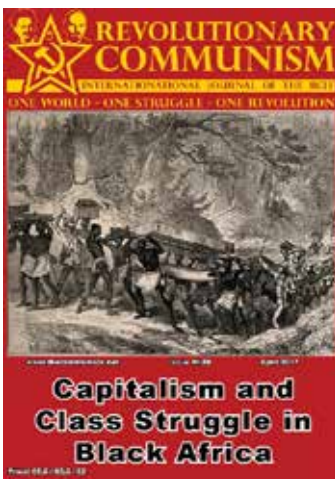
We hold the view that Africans do not have to go to Europe or America to succeed and prosper. We have all what it takes to prosper here at home in Africa; but first, we must drive out all the capitalist exploiters and their black puppet political stooges!

*Freedom now for all Africans detained in Libya!*

*Freedom now for all oppressed Africans abroad!*

*Long live the Struggle for African Freedom and Unity!*

*Forward with Socialism and the masses' revolution!*



## **NEW RCIT PUBLICATION!**

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# Zambia: Mass Unemployment and Super-Exploitation

By Mainda Simataa | ELA General Secretary | 29.11.17 | Lusaka, Zambia

## *Zambia: Home of Super-exploitation and Super-profits for Capitalist Corporations*

Everywhere around the world, the wealth of the rich is built on the tears, suffering and sorrow of exploited workers; and Zambia is no exception, but rather, here it is the norm; Zambia is the home of such wanton and runaway workers' injustice and labour malpractices, and every foreign investor knows this, and is tantalized by the prospects of super profits in a super low-wage country of 12 million stranded and desperate-for-work youths! The Zambian worker is now the slave of the foreign capitalist exploiters/employers – the Indians, Chinese, Lebanese, and of course, the traditional imperialist western exploiters – the United States and United Kingdom: all have profited, and continue to profit from the suffering, tears, sweat and blood of the exploited Zambian workers!

## *Chronic Unemployment has reached a Terminal Stage in Zambia*

Zambia has thus achieved the notoriety of having one of the highest unemployment rates in the world, not to mention being one of the hungriest and most corrupt nations on the surface of the earth. Eight out of every ten Zambians (educated or not) is unemployed – which translates to a shocking unemployment rate of over 80%; a fact which the Zambian Central Statistical Office (CSO) denies, and even downplayed in its most recent shameless scandalous October report on the current rate of unemployment. What can be said for sure is that the unemployment rate in Zambia has now passed from the alarming stage, to the fatal stage – a stage at which the crisis is bound to explode into a youth revolt, if not addressed immediately!

## *A Glimpse of Trained Teacher Unemployment*

Teacher Unemployment: Only 3,000 picked out of 76,000 on the Waiting list!

Unemployment does not even spare the educated and rapidly rising tide of fresh graduates coming out of the numerous proliferation of colleges and universities. A mere look at the number of trained teachers currently marooned on the waiting list this year (2017) – awaiting recruitment and deployed by the government, tells the sad

and alarming tale of the levels of unemployment especially amongst Zambia's youths who consist over 75% of the 17 million population!

Out of the 76,000 trained teachers awaiting recruitment and deployment in 2017, only 3,000 were recruited; leaving a horde of 73,000 teachers on the pending list; and the pending list is growing longer every day with new droves of teachers graduating from colleges by the thousands!

## *More Workers Chasing Few Jobs – Slavery for the Desperate Jobless Youths!*

The unemployment situation is however far much worse for the youths who are not in the readily- recruitable and in-demand service sectors such as health and education. For the rest who cannot even afford a college, and are left in the cold, the only option is to find a job in the private sector, no matter how exploitative and dehumanizing, and hope for the best! And even the capitalist driven private sector, just like the public sector; are unable to create enough jobs to absorb the ever rising numbers of the unemployed being thrown on the streets from schools, and others coming in from the rural areas to try their luck at a job in the already over-crowded cities and towns. Approximately 250,000 school leavers join the ranks of the unemployed every year; and they inevitably join the ranks of the desperate unemployed, or go into college for a few years and inevitably join the long winding queue of the jobless at the back-end! The unemployment situation is catastrophic to say the least, and equally desperate, both for the qualified, and unskilled!

## *Capitalists Profiting from Industrial Reserve Army: Of Slave workers and Slave Wages!*

The term *Industrial Reserve Army* was coined by Karl Marx and Engels in reference to the massive population of the unemployed who go into cities to look for work, but can find none. Inevitably, for the capitalist employers, such a desperate unemployed work-force act as a reserve pool of cheap and disposable workers from which they can pick a few whom they can exploit to the maximum, while paying them close to nothing, or slave wages; simply because there are many reserve workers 'out there' waiting and



## NEW RCIT PUBLICATION!

# The Meaning, Consequences and Lessons of Trump's Victory

By Michael Pröbsting, November 2016

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

A RCIT Pamphlet, 40 pages, A4 Format

willing to take the place of those who complain against slave wages and conditions, and are willing to work for even much less!

Such is the scenario that is playing out every day in what is now the *Zambian slave labour market*, as millions of youths are now 'employed' under impermanent jobs, and earning miserable slave wages. This great wage exploitation is the basis of capitalist profit – *surplus value*. Less for the workers means more for the capitalist employer; and in a factory or task where ten or more workers are supposed to be employed, the capitalist employs only two men, and makes the two work the job of 10 men; and afterwards, pays the two workers the wage of one man!

The capitalist employer thus makes super-profits by pocketing the wages of 9 men plus his own established margin of profit!!! This is the nature of super-exploitation being suffered by Zambian workers everyday, of which our women – the maids who work for foreign exploiters in Zambia are the worst ill-paid and ill-treated! But of course, the exploiters have the blessing of the government, a government that has veritably sold an entire generation into slavery, and is profiting from the suffering of its exploited people!

#### ***Govt and Ministry of Labour – Puppets and Beneficiaries of the Capitalist Corporations!***

Labour laws in Zambia exist, but by and large, they are out-of-date and nothing more than paper proclamations! Furthermore, no capitalist employer ever adheres to labour law; instead, they break and bend the law with impunity knowing well that no government official or Ministry of labour bureaucrat is bold enough to bite the 'paymasters' in discharging his duty in enforcing whatever little is left of Zambian labour laws. The law for the protection and promotion of workers is thus a mockery! It is disregarded and abrogated daily with impunity! In fact, political leaders, starting from the President and leader of the present Patriotic Front regime, right down to the lowest low-life in the Ministry of labour, are all corrupt and in the pay of big capitalist corporations who have not only bashed, banished and banned trade unions and worker

activism in their industries, factories and offices; but they have purposefully paralyzed the function of Labour law through bribery, concession buying, and threats of mass unemployment if they are touched; all this to ensure workers are left all alone and at their mercy, without any recourse to the union, court of law, or labour office, should they have a grievance.

#### ***In Zambia, It is Legal to Pay a Worker Slave Wages!***

A look at the present minimum wage law today (2017) shows that it is 'legal' for a worker to be paid slave wages. Low income workers earn about 50 US dollars per month (Kwacha 500), and this is so the reality for maids of rich foreigners; when in reality the cost of living just on food and groceries alone, shows that a family of three must spend nothing less than US 500 dollars (Kwacha 5000) to survive for a month! The government has flatly refused to revise this government approved wage; and worse, they dare not enforce this pathetic minimum wage law even when workers are hit below the belt and paid less.

Only recently in November, and after much criticism, or was it out of shame, did the corrupt Minister of Labour, and disgraceful former unionist, Joyce Nonde, announce that the Ministry of labour would consider a sector-by-sector minimum wage revision. This too, is mere horse-shit coming out of a labour bureau notorious for siding with employers and exploiters on any given day and any given issue! They are silenced by corrupt bribes they receive from the capitalist sector which is represented on the labour board by the so called Association of Employers (AE).

The struggle for workers' rights thus remains a real fight that must be waged against capitalist and government, on many fronts, and by all affected, especially the unemployed and exploited workers. Workers are not Slaves! They are humans!

*Abash Worker Exploitation!*

*Abash Capitalism!*

*Power to the Workers!*

*For More Jobs, and a Just Living Wage for all Working Zambians!*



## **NEW RCIT AFRICA PROGRAM!**

# **Manifesto for the Revolutionary Liberation of Black Africa**

*Adopted at the 2<sup>nd</sup> World Congress of the RCIT in November 2017*

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

*A RCIT Pamphlet, 24 pages, A5 Format*

# Catalonia: Election under the Shadow of Madrid's Tyranny!

## Critical Support for CUP! For Independence via preparing for a Mass Uprising!

*Statement of the International Secretariat of the Revolutionary Communist International Tendency (RCIT), 20.12.2017*

1. The election in Catalonia (Catalunya in Catalan language) on December 21<sup>st</sup> takes place under the shadow of Madrid's imperialist authoritarian regime. It is the result of Madrid's imposition of the notorious Article 155 which allows the imperialist Spanish State to unilaterally dissolve Catalonia's regional autonomy rights. So when the Catalan people voted in a popular referendum on 3 October for the independence of Catalonia (despite the repression of the Spanish police) and when the legitimate Catalan government went to implement this decision, the conservative Spanish government of Rajoy intervened and imposed a new election. Likewise it arrested a number of leading pro-independence politicians or drove them into exile. Catalonia's President Carles Puigdemont quiet rightly states that the election takes place against the background of "*detainees, people in exile, violence, the coup d'etat of 155, 10,000 police, financial persecution, media warfare, economic warfare.*"

2. The blatantly authoritarian violation of the Catalan people's right of national self-determination by the imperialist Spanish State demonstrated that independence can not be achieved in a legalistic, peaceful way. Likewise did the shameful toleration of Madrid's tyranny by the EU leaders demonstrate that it would be naive to have any illusion in this imperialist institution. Only the organizing of the workers and oppressed in councils of action in the workplaces, schools and neighborhoods and the formation of self-defense units can create the pre-conditions for a mass uprising – the only road to achieve independence! The emergence of the CDR (Committees for the Defense of the Referendum) and the role of the firefighters in defending the people against the attacks of the Spanish police show that the popular masses have already advanced their political experience.

3. All indications show that the Catalan people are determined to defeat Rajoy's coup against the Catalan right of national self-determination at the polls. According to nearly all polls, the pro-independence parties are set to win again – as they did already in 2015 – a majority of parliamentary seats. Under such circumstances it would be wrong for revolutionaries to boycott the election. They should rather help the masses to draw the right conclusions and to overcome their illusions in bourgeois and petty-bourgeois leaderships.

4. Naturally, it is absurd to even consider a vote for the pro-Madrid parties like Rajoy's conservative PP, the social democratic PSC or the neo-liberal "Citizens". These are outright imperialist, anti-democratic and neo-liberal forces which fanatically supported Rajoy's imposition of Article 155.

5. Likewise, it is impossible to lend electoral support to CeC (the Catalan affiliate of the PODEMOS party of Pablo Iglesias). This petty-bourgeois left-populist showed their capitulationist essence when – in face of Rajoy's coup – they propagated an equidistance between the aggressor and the victim. Instead of rallying to the defense of the Catalan independence movement, CeC/PODEMOS

blamed *both* the so-called "unilateralists" (i.e. the supporters of independence) and the central government in Madrid imposing Article 155 for the political crisis. They demand that independence must be the result of negotiations, i.e. it must take place only with the consent of Madrid. In other words, they oppose the right of the Catalan people to decide by themselves and without outward interference their own future statehood. This is the same reactionary logic that denies a woman the right to divorce from her violent husband if he does not agree to it.

6. While we defend the bourgeois and petty-bourgeois nationalists of Puigdemont's list JxCat (Together for Catalonia) and of the ERC (Republican Left of Catalonia) against any repression by the Madrid regime (e.g. ERC leader and deputy-president Oriol Junqueras is in jail while Puigdemont has been forced into exile), we do not advocate electoral support for these parties because of their pro-capitalist program. Their bourgeois nature has been also demonstrated by their completely legalistic and pacifistic methods with which they naively hoped to win independence and which failed so bombastically. Naturally, this does not exclude the necessity for joint practical actions in defense of Catalunya's independence.

7. Instead the *Revolutionary Communist International Tendency* (RCIT) calls for critical electoral support for CUP (People's Unity List). CUP has been a consistent supporter of the independence struggle and combines this with a program advocating anti-capitalism and socialism. With a constant share of 6-9% of the votes at the election in 2015 and in recent polls, they represent clearly the politically most advanced sectors of the workers and youth in Catalunya. However, in allying with these vanguard sector, revolutionaries must also explain the political failures of the CUP leadership in the recent past. Among those failures are the CUP's leaders support for Puigdemont's bourgeois minority government in parliament. While coordination with such forces in organizing mass protests on the streets or even voting for independence can be legitimate steps in the struggle, it is illegitimate to keep a bourgeois government in power. Related to this, the CUP leaders adapted to Puigdemont's legalistic and pacifist strategy to achieve independence instead of advocating the line of mass uprising.

8. It is likely that the election on 21 December will open a new political phase in Catalunya's independence struggle. It will be urgent that activists draw the right lessons from the experience of the past few months in order to be better prepared for the next, inevitable attacks of the imperialist Spanish state. The RCIT has elaborated its views on such a strategy in a number of documents. We look forward to discuss and collaborate with revolutionaries in order to advance the struggle for a Catalan Workers Republic and an Iberian Socialist Federation!



