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## **COVID-19: No to Global Lockdown and State Repression!**

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**Workers and Oppressed Unite!**

# English-Language Journal of the Revolutionary Communist International Tendency (RCIT), No. 105, May 2020

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Picture on the Cover: Nigerian soldiers during the COVID-19 lockdown (Source: <https://something2know.com/2020/03/26/covid-19-army-denies-plot-to-lockdown-nigeria/>)

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

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## May Day 2020: Unite in Struggle against Capitalist Crisis and State Bonapartism!

*Statement of the Revolutionary Communist International Tendency (RCIT), 28 April 2020*

**M**ay Day 2020 will be exceptional by any accounts. Exceptional in a negative sense. Never before in modern history will there be so few demonstrations and rallies on this traditional day of struggle of the international workers movement!

This is a shame because we are in the midst of an extraordinary historic moment characterized by a *Triple Crisis*.

1) The *Third Depression*, i.e. the worst economic slump of the capitalist world economy since 1929;

2) A wave of anti-democratic attacks of a scale which has not been seen in the imperialist countries since 1945 and which triggers a global turn towards *chauvinism* and *state bonapartism*;

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

Why is it the case that there will be so few May Day demonstrations despite such a historic crisis of capitalism and despite such wide-scale attacks on the popular masses?

There exist basically two reasons which are connected with each other. First, we are in the midst of a global counterrevolutionary offensive where the ruling classes all over the world impose a reactionary lockdown regime against the workers and oppressed. Under the pretext of combating the COVID-19 pandemic, governments suppress the democratic rights to assembly and to demonstrate and force the people to stay home in isolation.

The second reason is that the bureaucratic leaderships of the trade unions, popular organizations and the so-called left, in their vast majority, *support* the global lockdown. These reformist, populist and centrist forces – all opportunists by profession – repeat the lies of the ruling class that the lockdown would be the most effective way to

combat the pandemic. As a matter of truth the countries with the highest number of death per head of population are those with lockdown regimes (e.g. Italy, Spain, France, Belgium). Other countries which have not imposed a draconic lockdown have fared much better until now (e.g. South Korea, Sweden, Taiwan, Hong Kong).

The RCIT has emphasized from the beginning of this crisis that the key to fight the pandemic is not repression and isolation but free mass testing, quarantine of those infected and massive expansion of public health service under workers and popular control.

It is highly urgent that authentic revolutionaries unite in this difficult hour to advocate *mass struggles against the global counterrevolutionary offensive*. Such a struggle can only take place on the basis of 3 NO's:

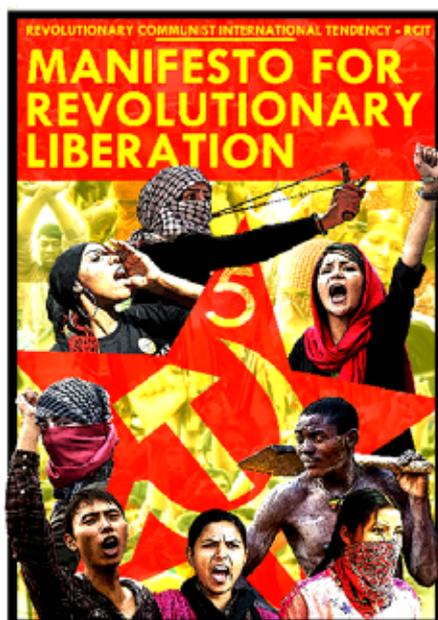
\* NO to the consequences of the capitalist slump (unemployment, wage cuts, etc.);

\* NO to chauvinist state bonapartism (lockdown, suppression of democratic rights, expansion of police and surveillance state, chauvinist hate-mongering, etc.);

\* NO to the elitist, incompetent and authoritarian government response to the pandemic.

Naturally, such a struggle against the global counterrevolutionary offensive must go hand in hand with a struggle against the corrupting influence of the Lockdown Left. The workers and oppressed can only fight successfully against the dangerous attacks of the ruling class if they are not politically fettered by the policy of pseudo-left social-bonapartism.

The most important and most effective instrument against any political subordination to bourgeois policy is a strong party representing the independent historic interests of the working class. Such an instrument can only be a *World Party of Socialist Revolution!* The RCIT calls all revolutionaries to join us in this building such an instrument!



### *Program of the RCIT*

## Manifesto for Revolutionary Liberation

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

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

*A RCIT Pamphlet, 36 pages, A5 Format*

# COVID-19: Domestic Violence and the Lockdown

## How women suffer in isolation and poverty

*Article by Almedina Gunić, Revolutionary Communist International Tendency (RCIT), 4 April 2020*

In South Africa gender-based violence has been reported 87,000 times since the beginning of the lockdown.<sup>1</sup> The numbers of reported cases have jumped up by 36 percent in Paris and 32 percent elsewhere in France<sup>2</sup>. At least 6 femicide have already taken place under the lockdown in Argentina<sup>3</sup> and 14 in Turkey.<sup>4</sup> These are just a few examples for a worldwide phenomenon which is nothing else but a dangerous threat to the health and lives of us women.

### Neither home nor the streets are a safe place

The undemocratic lockdown measures are enforced in the name of safety against an infection with the new coronavirus. However, family and home are not safe places for many of us women. The World Health Organization reports that one third of women who have been in a partnership suffered from physical respectively sexual violence in their relationship. About 38% of murders of women worldwide are committed by a male partner.<sup>5</sup> These are numbers from the time before women were forced by state repression to stay at home.

In addition to the danger that women often face by their own partners or relatives, the lockdown strengthens the precarious situation. The police in India have beaten up people who were on the street after the lockdown was imposed.<sup>6</sup> The President of the Philippines, Rodrigo Duterte, gave order to police and army to shoot at anybody who violates the lockdown.<sup>7</sup>

These aggressive measures by the repression apparatus are a triple danger for women. First, they are forced to stay at home and to deal with their already violent partner. In addition to this, they are threatened to be beaten up or even killed by the police respectively army if they flee from the violence at home. Last but not least, their partners face violence by the repression apparatus which increases the possibility that they pass this violence to the women at home. However, the massive increase of violence which women currently suffer is just the first of many dangers to come.

### Lockdown: a reactionary attack of the ruling class

The lockdown measures are imposed under the cover of fighting the virus but in reality these measures are used to abolish various democratic rights and to introduce increased surveillance technologies. The recession which already started in the end of last year will hit the global economy even harder because of the lockdowns.<sup>8</sup> Still, the

bourgeoisie is happy to utilize the pandemic to blame the recession on the spread of the virus, distracting from the real reasons of the crisis which is the decaying capitalism. Now, any future event that harms the lives of us workers and oppressed will be explained by the bourgeoisie with inevitable consequences of the pandemic.

Billions of already poor people will fall below the poverty line (like it happened in 2008) and the ruling class will blame the virus for it. Millions will die because of misery and hunger and the ruling class will blame COVID-19. Hundreds of thousands of people will be injured or even killed by the repression apparatus and the ruling class will explain it by the necessity to fight the pandemic. In all of this, women will be the ones to suffer the most. Already today, more women than men live in poverty.<sup>9</sup>

We have seen in countries like South Korea that lockdown is not a necessity even under capitalist respectively imperialist rule. The COVID-19 death toll in South Korea is very low with 177 deaths in a population of more than 51 Million people because of free health screening and testing on a massive scale and strict isolation of infected people.<sup>10</sup> The virus is circulating since the 20<sup>th</sup> February but the South Korean government has not implemented any lockdown measures since.<sup>11</sup>

Although being an imperialist country with a limited number of hospital beds and intense care units, it is an excellent example that the lockdown is not a necessity and is even less effective than the combination of testing and consequent quarantine of infected people. Furthermore to support or even demand lockdown measures means to believe the ruling classes that the incredible current mobilization of forces is easier than the immediate mass production of proper test kits and the extension of the health sector.

It is a brutal reality that the measures implemented by the ruling classes under the name of fighting COVID-19 will most likely lead to more deaths than the virus would cause even without any regulations. To support a lockdown or even to demand it means to enable the evitable murder of so many workers and oppressed by something more dangerous than the virus: the bourgeoisie.

Women are already the first ones to suffer from these new forms of undemocratic attacks although they just have started recently. At least the increased numbers of violence against women up to femicide makes it more than clear: the most important task for all revolutionaries today is the fight against the capitalists and their undemocratic attacks. Oppose the lockdown, it literally kills us!

# Comunismo Revolucionario

## Spanish-language Journal of the RCIT

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# China: Solidarity with the Mass Protests in Hubei!

## Thousands of Chinese workers clash with the police in protest against the state repression under the cover of COVID-19

*Statement of the Revolutionary Communist International Tendency (RCIT), 28 March 2020*

On Friday, 27 March, thousands of Chinese workers clashed with the police at the border of the provinces Hubei and Jiangxi. Video clips circulating in Chinese social media show violent confrontations with riot police starting at 8.00am in the morning and continuing until late in the afternoon. Several police cars were overturned and at least seven police officers injured. Popular outrage seems to have been so massive that some police from the province Hubei joined the protesters and attacked with them the police from Jiangxi.

The Stalinist-capitalist dictatorship in China has imposed for a long time massive restrictions on the freedom of movement of its citizens from one province to the other. This is why Chinese workers who are employed in another province are called “migrants”. These restrictions have been massively enforced since the beginning of the COVID-19 crisis.

Hubei is home of around 60 million people. Its capital, Wuhan, has been at the centre of the Corona Virus crisis. The regime has put its citizens under a draconic lockdown regime until recently.

As the regime now claims that it has brought the spread of the Corona Virus under control, it has started to relax the travel restrictions on Wednesday for citizens of Hubei outside of Wuhan City. However, they are only allowed to leave their province as long as they possess a “green code” to certify that they are in good health (which is difficult to

get from the bureaucratic authorities).

Furthermore, citizens of Hubei face massive discrimination in the rest of China. The clashes broke out when police of Jiangxi did not allow citizens of Hubei to cross the bridge across the Yangtze River to leave their province. Even the Communist Party mouthpiece *People’s Daily* acknowledged: “...it is undeniable that some places, intentionally or not, have set up obstacles for Hubei migrant workers to return to their posts and hold prejudices against them.” (South China Morning Post: Coronavirus: police, public clash as border reopens between Hubei and Jiangxi provinces, 28 March 2020, <https://www.scmp.com/news/china/society/article/3077393/coronavirus-police-public-clash-border-reopens-between-hubei-and>)

The Stalinist-capitalist dictatorship is evidently nervous about these clashes. *Global Times* – the regime’s English-language mouthpiece – had to admit that “the incident triggered a large confrontation.” It also was forced to report that these clashes “have sparked internet outrage. Some netizens accused Jiujiang police of discriminating against Hubei people because of the COVID-19 pandemic while some denied that.” (Global Times: Hubei and Jiangxi investigate police conflict on provincial border, 27 March 2020, <https://www.globaltimes.cn/content/1183980.shtml>)

The Revolutionary Communist International Tendency (RCIT) fully supports these protests. We have stated numerous times that the regime – not only in China but all

## Books of the RCIT

### Michael Pröbsting: The COVID-19 Global Counterrevolution

**What It Is and How to Fight It. A Marxist analysis and strategy for the revolutionary struggle**

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

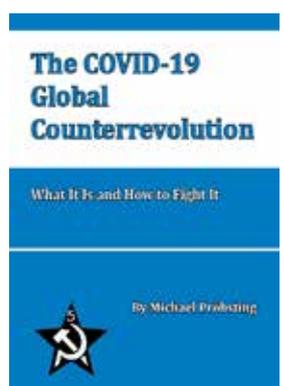
In addition, there is a wave of anti-democratic attacks of a scale which has not been seen in the imperialist countries since 1945. This has triggered a global turn towards Chauvinist State Bonapartism and the creation of a monstrous Leviathan-like state machinery.

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

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

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

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



over the world – uses the COVID-19 crisis as a pretext to increase the state repression. Wuhan – a major working class city of 11 million people with a large manufacturing industry – was the centre of important popular protests in summer 2019 against the horrible air pollution. In addition, the regime in Beijing was terrified about the mass uprising in Hong Kong and the possibility of provoking similar events in other Chinese regions.

The RCIT has emphasized in numerous documents that the mass lockdown of the whole population – in China as well as globally – is a counter-revolutionary strike against the working class and the popular masses. It is primarily not motivated by health considerations but by political calculations. If the regimes would be primarily interested in containing and eliminating the pandemic they would focus on free mass testing of the population, in expanding the resources of the health sector and in providing free medical treatment to those infected.

But in fact the main interests of the capitalist regimes are to paralyze, terrify and confuse the workers and oppressed, to launch a gigantic wave of austerity attacks, mass sackings and factory closures as well as to massively build-up the state repression apparatus. Since the global capitalist system experiences its worst economic slump since 1929, the ruling classes are planning to use the threat of the Corona Virus for months and years in order to advance these goals.

The RCIT has therefore warned from the beginning that

the COVID-19 crisis is utilized by the ruling classes as a cover for a major global counterrevolutionary offensive. They are launching huge authoritarian attacks on democratic rights like the mass lock downs and the suppression of the right to demonstrate and to assemble.

Unfortunately, the opportunistic left has largely capitulated to this pressure of the ruling classes around the world. Many of them even share the admiration of various capitalist politicians and journalists for the draconic methods of China's Stalinist-capitalist regime. However, the mass protests in Hubei demonstrate that the working class is not prepared to accept the state repression.

The situation is highly symbolic: while large sectors of the so-called left support mass lock down and state repression under the cover of the COVID-10 crisis, the workers and oppressed rebel against these attacks of the Bonapartist regimes. In other words, these two are on the opposite sides of the barricades. The place of revolutionaries can only be on the side of the popular masses fighting for democratic rights.

We repeat our call to all authentic revolutionaries to enter in serious discussion and collaboration with the RCIT. The mass riots in Hubei are a harbinger of future events. We need to politically and organizationally prepare for such revolutionary explosions which will take place not only in China but in many places around the world. There is no time to lose! Join the RCIT in building a Revolutionary World Party!

## Books of the RCIT

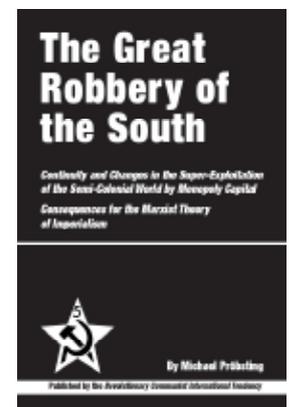
### Michael Pröbsting: The Great Robbery of the South Continuity and Changes in the Super-Exploitation of the Semi-Colonial World by Monopoly Capital. Consequences for the Marxist Theory of Imperialism

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

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

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

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



## Argentina: No to Repression and Militarization under the Cover of COVID-19!

Nearly 6,200 people arrested since the government imposed a state of emergency

*Statement of the Revolutionary Communist International Tendency (RCIT), 27 March 2020*

Argentina experiences a massive militarization since the Fernández government imposed a state of emergency on 20 March. Under the cover of the COVID-19 crisis, 6,191 people have been arrested, 938 vehicles were confiscated and more than 200,000 people had been sent home until today.

At the same time the government does not take any serious initiative to fight the pandemic and to organize free mass testing and to expand the health sector.

It is mostly the working class and the poor who suffer from the consequences of this brutal wave of repression.

These developments demonstrate the reactionary nature of the global policy of mass lock down. The RCIT has pointed out numerous times that the real purpose of this mass lock downs and the suppression of the right to demonstrate and to public assemble is to paralyze and atomize the popular masses. In time of crisis – as we are facing the worst slump of the world economy since 1929 and at the same a pandemic – the ruling class launches a pre-emptive strike to break the resistance of the workers and oppressed.

It is crucial that revolutionaries in Argentina and all over the world join force in order to combat the global counter-revolutionary offensive on an international scale:

*\* No to the mass lockdown of people! Defend the democratic right to assembly and to demonstrate!*

*\* Down with mass surveillance and police state! No deployment of the military in civilian service!*

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

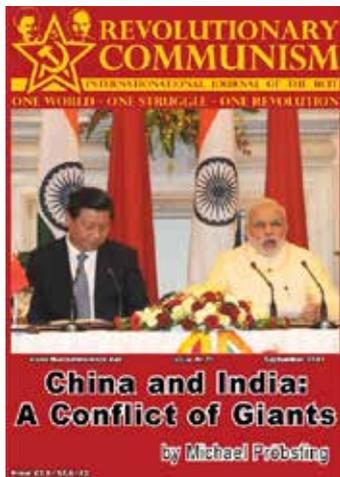
*\* Put the whole health sector under the control of the workers and oppressed as well as health experts!*

*\* Formation of workers and popular committees for the control and supply of basic necessities (food, cleaning, medicine)!*

*\* Cancel all public and household debts!*

*\* No sacking, no wage cuts, no attacks on labor rights!*

*\* Nationalization under workers control of all enterprises which shut down production!*



### *Publications of the RCIT*

## The China-India Conflict: Its Causes and Consequences

*What are the background and the nature of the tensions between China and India in the Sikkim border region? What should be the tactical conclusions for Socialists and Activists of the Liberation Movements?*

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

*A RCIT Pamphlet, 36 pages, A4 Format*

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

## Nigeria: Oppose the Lock Down!

### For Free Mandatory Mass Testing! For Free Food and Medical Supplies!

*Statement of the Revolutionary Socialist Vanguard (Sympathising Section of the RCIT in Nigeria), 1 April 2020*

The global effects of COVID-19 is not unconnected from the greed of a polarized system that has set the health sector up as luxury facility for the rich only. This is worse in African countries like Nigeria where this avarice of the ruling class has finally collapsed the health sector, and where the limited hospitals are average death centers in critical situations.

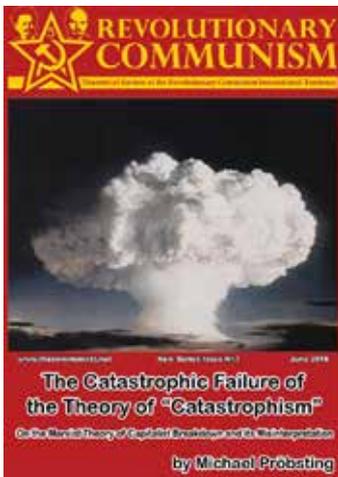
The Nigerian ruling class headed by president Muhammadu Buhari (PMB) is in crises and confusion because the question of lock downs and travel bans poses an existential crisis to it due to heavy dependence on foreign commodities and medical aid. This crises is further deepened by the global economic decline which started in 2019 a result of which has caused the naira to crash to its lowest value of 390-450 naira per dollar; the fall of global oil prices and the spread of the disease amongst prominent ranks of the administration such as the Chief of Staff, Abba Kyari; Bauchi state governor, to mention a few.

Hence the Buhari regime is reluctant to declare mass lock downs and total travel bans. That is why a momentary two week lock down was imposed in only Lagos state, Ogun state, and the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja effective from March 30th by 11pm. The criticism of some activists that PMB has not observed legal protocols in by-passing the legislature to impose a lock down in the 3 states is again an indication of the lukewarmness of the administration to execute total lock down and complete travel bans.

It is necessary to point out that the measures of the Nigerian government are not only worse when seen as mere state repression, it is worst in the sense that is also suicidal because Nigerians who have been compelled to sit at home are brutalized by biting hunger. Before now, the Nigerian economy is barely survived by the middle class not to talk more of the million commoners who barely have square meals. We then ask where the sincerity of government lies during lockdowns, especially for these most vulnerable commoners.

That is why only the Nigerian intellectuals and academics are basking in the delusion of a lock down as the best possible means to contain the spread of COVID-19, the lock down is hardly finding any sympathy amidst the millions of informal workers, peasants and toiling masses in the country. Hence there have been reports of widespread clashes with police the most prominent occurring in Katsina state where around 90 people were arrested and one killed for burning down Kusada Divisional Police station after police officers from the division disrupted Friday Juma'at service.

The only way to alleviate the inconveniences of the people at the moment is to ensure provision of social amenities such as power, portable water, food supplies, internet connection and medical supplies at most subsidized rate for civil servants whose salaries must not cease, while at no cost to the most vulnerable commoners whose means



### *Publications of the RCIT*

## The Catastrophic Failure of the Theory of "Catastrophism"

*By Michael Pröbsting, May 2018*

*On the Marxist Theory of Capitalist Breakdown and its Misinterpretation*

*by the Partido Obrero (Argentina) and its*

*"Coordinating Committee for the Refoundation of the Fourth International"*

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

*A RCIT Pamphlet, 32 pages, A4 Format*

of livelihood can no longer be guaranteed.

We condemn the harassment and repressions of citizens in the guise of measures to curtail the virus, instead, government should begin free mass testing coupled with isolation of confirmed/suspected cases and expand the health sector. In the light of the foregoing some crucial points are required for understanding of future developments;

1. Despite vacillations of the Nigerian bourgeoisie, they see the pandemic as an avenue to halt the revolutionary surge of the previous year; attack democratic rights and shift the blame for the collapsed economy on the pandemic. Thus, the Lagos state government closed down major markets on the 26th of March. There are already viral videos on the internet of local market women being flogged and their wares destroyed by a joint force of police and military. There are widespread reports of couples and their families being arrested at wedding ceremonies.

2. Nigerians must understand that the onslaught of lock downs executed by governments around the world is not done as a precaution to stem the spread of the disease since several pandemics have occurred in the past without sparking such response from these governments. Rather what the lock downs and travel bans are meant to contain are the radical insurrections and uprisings against the capitalist order which entered a new level in 2019 and is bound to reach record levels this year since the effect of a global economic recession will definitely emerge this year. Global imperialism sees the outbreak as an opportunity for this!

3. Unfortunately broad sections of Nigerian activists are in support of the lock downs. In fact they have called for lock downs even before the government responded with certain measures. Many more blame the government for

refusing to ban international travels and close the borders on time. Some have threatened to drag PMB to court for declaring a lock down in 3 states without passing through the necessary constitutional provisions. This however is not a stance against the lock down, it is rather a call for constitutional protocols for the lock down. What these leftists have failed to explain is how they expect the Buhari administration to resolve the COVID-19 crises or any other crises with them locked in.

There can be no solution to this or any other crises without the active participation of revolutionaries leading the popular masses. Hence we posit that all authentic revolutionaries must begin a campaign with following general demands:

\* No to the mass lockdown of people! Oppose travel ban and immigration control!

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

\* Build additional public health care facilities and hospitals! Nationalization of the private health sector (hospitals, laboratories, etc.)!

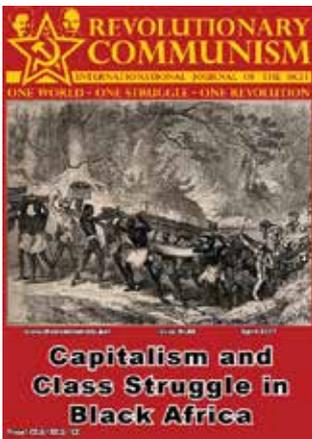
\* Put the whole health sector under the democratic control of the workers and the people as a whole!

\* Formation of workers and popular committees for the control and supply of basic necessities (food, cleaning, medicine)!

Signed:

Jimoh Oladipupo,

Provisional Liaison Officer.



## PUBLICATIONS OF THE RCIT

# Theses on Capitalism and Class Struggle in Black Africa

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

*A RCIT Pamphlet, 24 pages, A4 Format*

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

## Nigeria: Against State Repression!

### For a Mass-based Alternative To The Pandemic! Cancel All Local and National Debt!

*Statement of the Revolutionary Socialist Vanguard (Sympathizing section of the RCIT in Nigeria), 8 April, 2020*

There is now an unprecedented rise in cases of state aggression especially by the army since the 14 day lock down declared by president Muhammad Buhari (PMB). These attacks range from arbitrary whippings of pedestrians on the streets to shootings of unarmed resistant civilians as there are already reports of violent clashes between residents of Warri, Delta state and soldiers which resulted in the death of one person.

Also a prison protest broke out after the Minister of Interior Ogbeni Rauf Aregbesola said the government had decided to decongest the prisons to prevent further spread of the virus raising the hopes of the inmates for parole. This follows the hospitalization and alleged demise of a female inmate from the virus which raised panic levels to an all time high but afterwards instead of parole as expected by the inmates their only meaningful source of survival was cut when they were denied access to visiting family and friends; this served as the final tipping point which sparked the protest that claimed the lives of 5 inmates. [1]

Domestic and gender based violence have seen an upward spike in like manner not only in Nigeria but globally. To quote from an article by Almedina Gunic an international Gender Equality activist:

*"In South Africa gender-based violence has been reported 87,000 times since the beginning of the lockdown. The number of reported cases have jumped up by 36 percent in Paris and 32 percent elsewhere in France. At least 6 femicides have already taken place under the lockdown in Argentina and 14 in Turkey. These are just a few examples for a worldwide phenomenon*

*which is nothing else but a dangerous threat to the health and lives of us women."*[2]

The crux of this hike in gender based violence in Nigeria is the abduction, torture and rape of Elizabeth Oyeniyi by Abdulmumuni Danga, the Commissioner for Water Resources in Kogi state. He did this using the state apparatus available to enforce the lock down and in response to the expression of Elizabeth's dissatisfaction, on Facebook, over his eye service distribution of relief materials.[3] It is ironical that a politician who was distributing relief materials would molest and sexually harass a mother of one because of a Facebook post.

The narratives above makes it crystal clear that the clashes are due to, on the one hand, the failure of the Buhari regime to provide relief materials such as food, money and medical products during the forced lock down and on the other, the worthless busybody and noise making of the regime to feign proactiveness towards the COVID-19 pandemic. The ravaging hunger already widespread in the poverty capital of the world assumes a more excruciating effect during the lock down, hence day labourers and petty traders must find a means to survive. Even when average Nigerians rise with some sort of violent resistance the response from state forces is excessive. This kind of brutish disproportionate response can discourage future prospects of coordinated resistance against the lock down, nevertheless, the aggressive action from state security forces will birth a larger and more explosive reaction from the people.

## Books of the RCIT

### Yossi Schwartz: Palestine and Zionism

The History of Oppression of the Palestinian People.

A Critical Account of the Myths of Zionism

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

*Palestine and Zionism* shows that the history of Zionism in the 20th century is a history of colonialism in the service of the Great Powers and directed against the native population – the Arabs.

In *Palestine and Zionism* Yossi Schwartz deals with key events – the "Nakba" in 1948, the wars in 1956, 1967 and 1973, more recent events like the Lebanon War, etc. – which were decisive for the expulsion of most Palestinians from their homeland.

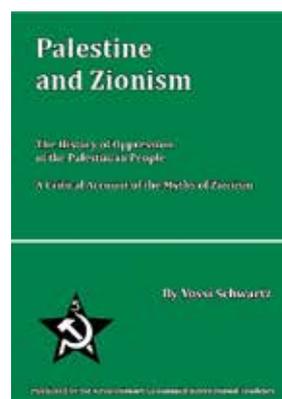
Yossi Schwartz also shows that the Palestinian people have heroically resisted against the occupation resulting in two Intifadas as well as the successful defense of Gaza against the Israeli aggression in three wars (2008/09, 2012, 2014). The author also analysis the shameful betrayal by the PLO leadership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

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

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

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

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



Also the ruling class need a conducive *bonapartist* atmosphere to silently execute attacks which serve as a shift in the manner of capitalism they practice so as to retain their hegemony that was largely threatened by the specter of anti-governments protests all around the world last year. Although the draconian measures now being taken have the sole potential to do serious damage to the economy, these measures will only worsen the odds in an already crumbling economy.

As a reference, Nigeria as well as other African countries are currently in a debt crises. According to an article on Premium Times Nigeria;

*"Nigeria runs a deficit budget. For example, Nigeria runs a deficit budget of N1.92 trillion and N2.18 trillion in 2019 and 2020 respectively. Thus, heavy budget servicing makes the fiscal stance more vulnerable and detrimental to both domestic and external shocks.... "According to BudgIT 2019 report, Nigeria's revenue is at a shameful level, as the current debt servicing level hits over 60 per cent relative to 22.5 per cent threshold given by World Bank; which means for every N100 earned by the government, N60 is used for debt servicing, leaving the government with N40."*[4]

*"Rising public debt continues to be a cause for concern in Nigeria. According to the Debt Management Office (DMO), the total external debt stands at \$27.16 billion, while Domestic debt climbs to \$56.72 billion. Nigeria's debt profile reaches \$83.88 billion in H1 2019. (Pulse NG)."*[5]

As can be seen, even without the outbreak of COVID-19 the standard of living of an average Nigerian is already gravely threatened by degeneracy in the economy as implied by the debt status. Moreso, this degeneracy is not peculiar to Nigeria but is a general feature of the current phase of the capitalist system all around the world. Hence Nigerian capitalist syndicates must import the measures which imperialism has adopted to save its rule. We also state that the lock down measures will intensify harsh adverse developments which will ensue from the next great depression.

Consequent upon this Nigerians should expect attacks in form of austerity packages, wage cuts, mass retrench-

ments. The general manager of the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC) has already indicated the complete removal of subsidy for petroleum products.[6] The IPPIS scheme is being strengthened now more than before and the government has refused to pay lecturers' salaries for almost 2 months.

The real fear should not be the virus, the real fear should be the aftermath of the constitution of a bonapartist state regime in a time of economic chaos and financial insolvency which might be far worse than the great depression of 1929. We can already see that instead of providing the relief materials for people they have resorted to bullying the masses with the state machinery, sometimes to the point of death.

We cannot let up even an inch of trust to the ruling elite and the Buhari/APC led government. The popular masses must take the helms of affairs in every respect if we are to solve the crises of the pandemic and every other crises! Down with the police state! For joint action of the labour movements and popular masses to expand the health sector! Down with the capitalist regimes! Onward to socialism!

#### Footnotes

[1] <https://www.premiumtimesng.com/news/headlines/385878-how-nigerian-security-operatives-killed-five-prison-inmates-during-riot.html>

<https://www.premiumtimesng.com/news/headlines/386040-kaduna-prison-riot-correctional-service-makes-u-turn-admits-inmates-died.html>

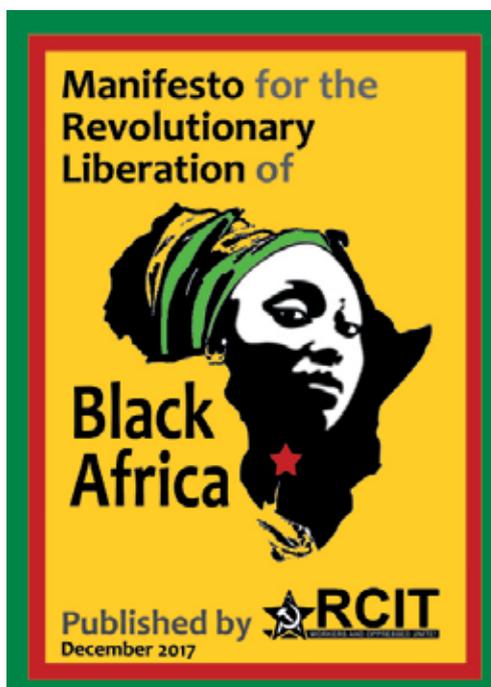
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[5] <https://www.pulse.ng/bi/finance/nigerias-rising-public-debt-continues-to-be-a-cause-for-concern-at-dollar7085-billion/4ftb-krp.amp>

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### 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*

# Nigeria: What Does The Invitation Of Chinese Medical Personnel Mean For The Nigerian Health Sector?

*Statement of the Revolutionary Socialist Vanguard (Sympathizing section of the RCIT in Nigeria), 10 April, 2020*

The extension of the lock down period by a week confirms the cluelessness and confusion of the Federal Government of Nigeria (FGN) on how to tackle the pandemic or how best to sustain the panic mode in the country. This time around the extension comes with the arrival of Chinese medical equipment and personnel which the Nigerian government and the Chinese Ambassador to Nigeria, Zhou Pingjian, claim will bolster the fight against the virus just as has been successfully done in China for the past 76 days.

A good number of Nigerians are averse to this development and this bad blood is not only understandable but legitimate. Naturally we are against all forms of chauvinism sponsored against the Chinese and other people of Asia in this time of the pandemic. The racial conspiracy theories and campaign of chauvinism characteristically sponsored by imperialists in East and West are weapons in a Great power rivalry which are mostly capable of atomising the masses and damaging international working class solidarity.

However the arrival of this medical expatriates occurs against the backdrop of certain contradictions. That is why the unwelcoming atmosphere was prepared first and is being led by the Nigeria Medical Association and the National Association of Resident Doctors (NARD). A proposed strike action coincided with the outbreak of the

virus in Nigeria[1] but it is difficult to say why the doctors did not proceed with it. The nature of their antipathy to this move of the Nigerian government are buried deep in the dissatisfactions that almost led to the strike early last month coupled with a general distrust in both the Chinese and Nigerian administrations as a report from the Guardian Newspaper indicates:

*"The Nigerian Medical Association (NMA), in a statement by its president, Dr. Francis Adedayo Faduyile...described the plan as an embarrassment to members and other health workers fighting COVID-19 under deplorable conditions... NARD President Dr Sokomba Aliyu warned that Chinese scientists could not be trusted, given how unreliably and covertly they had allegedly managed information about the pandemic..." "If the Federal Government had completely employed the available qualified doctors and other healthcare workers before turning to China for medical manpower, to fill any persisting gap, it would have to be less suspicious." The association wondered if the Chinese medical experts would accept N5,000 as monthly hazard allowance. He urged the government to use the COVID-19 opportunity to upgrade the nation's healthcare facilities and motivate health workers at the frontline by increasing their hazard allowance from the current N5,000 to N200,000." [2]*

The observations raised by these doctors have absolute validity. Again, According to WHO sources the rate of doctors to citizens is 1:64,000 as opposed to the recom-

## Books of the RCIT

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

By Michael Pröbsting



Published by the Revolutionary Communist International

mended 1:600.[3] Thus, the 18 man team of Chinese medical personnel would do almost nothing to ameliorate the deteriorated state of the Nigerian health sector. If the Nigerian government must mimic any initiative of the Chinese government to combat the virus let them begin an immediate expansion and rejuvenation of the health care system like the building of maximum capacity hospitals in Wuhan. All private hospitals, medical laboratorie, and facilities must be nationalised; more health workers must be employed; and the education system funded properly.

Besides the Nigerian bourgeoisie has not responded to other more lethal outbreaks as it now does. A telling indication of this is how the Nigerian government have loosely handled the outbreak of Lassa fever. The disease which is transmitted via a zoonotic factor from Mastomys rodents, after which it is transmissible from man to man, infects about 100,000 to 300,000 people around the world annually with 5000 deaths per year. Some figures put the rate of infection at 300,000 to 500,000 annually.[4] According to figures from the Nigeria Center for Disease Control (NCDC) cases of Lassa fever have been confirmed in 27 out of 36 states including the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja:

*Between January 1 and March 15, the Nigerian Center for Disease Control reported 161 deaths of Lassa fever patients, with 3,735 suspected cases and 906 confirmed cases, across twenty-seven of Nigeria's thirty-six states. For the same period in 2019, Lassa killed 114 with 1801 suspected cases and 455 confirmed cases across twenty-one states, but the 906 confirmed cases for 2020 is already greater than the 810 confirmed cases for all of 2019. Lassa fever is known to have a case fatality rate as high as 23 percent,...*[5]

The figures for COVID-19 (288 confirmed, 7 deceased) [6] fall considerably short of the cases of Lassa fever yet the measures to curb its spread are not nearly commensurate to that of SARS-CoV-2. Like SARS-CoV-2, Lassa fever too has no vaccine and there is no internationally approved treatment for its cure despite the fact that it has been around since 1969.[7] Perhaps it is because it is most rampant in the global south, (about 6 cases in the US)[8] West Africa to be precise.

We conclude by saying while we posit that international workers solidarity involving both medical and non-med-

ical workers is the solution, far reaching changes in the health sector can be achieved through a radical campaign against privatization and for the nationalization of the health sector under the democratic control of the workers.

Hence this move can be characterized as an imperialist intervention by a world power to save its servant in the semi-colonies who might be in an existential crises due to the outbreak of the disease. Just as we have warned that the Nigerian ruling class is reluctant to impose complete travel bans or total lock downs because of its distrust in a system it has crippled with its corruption. This move again confirms the shift in capitalist hegemonic power from the US/Western imperialism to China.

In all, no time has ever been more suitable for us to fight for the rebirth of a standard health sector that works for all and by all yet this fight is not only for medical practitioners or health workers alone it is a fight for all workers and oppressed. We must fight for a monumental pay rise for these heroes. We must not desert these health workers who are in constant strain to keep us alive even at this time. Rather we must fight with them and NOW (!) is the time for this fight!

#### Footnotes

[1] <https://www.premiumtimesng.com/news/headlines/382302-amidst-coronavirus-crisis-abuja-doctors-begin-strike.html>

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[7] [https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lassa\\_fever](https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lassa_fever)

<https://www.cdc.gov/vhf/lassa/resources/index.html>

[8] <https://www.cdc.gov/vhf/lassa/resources/index.html>

# China's transformation into an imperialist power

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

*By Michael Pröbsting (International Secretary of the RCIT)*

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

# Kenya: Condemnation of the State Repression in Mombasa

*Joint Statement of the Revolutionary Socialist League (Kenya) and the RCIT, 29 March 2020*

It is with profound shock and outrage that the people of the world in general and Kenya in particular observe the conduct of security forces in enforcing a curfew upon the people of Kenya. The horrific manner in which the people crossing the Likoni Ferry channel in Mombasa, Kenya, were handled calls for the strongest condemnation by all the people of the world.

At the Likoni Ferry in Mombasa, police officers brutally assaulted thousands of passengers in the name of maintaining order.

It is important to note that the people crossing the channel in Likoni are not tourists but workers; members of the toiling masses on the move to make a living on a day to day basis. Having no other way to make a living but to sell their labour power at the market for wages, the people are forced to cross the channel into the industrial area of Mombasa.

Enforcing a curfew upon the people as a way of curbing a disease outbreak is itself questionable. It is unconstitutional, even to bourgeois standards of governance.

By enforcing this curfew, the government of Kenya expresses a gross lack of understanding in dealing with this pandemic.

The ensuing chaos in the attempts to contain the spread of the Corona virus is a product of the government's own inefficiencies, and this must not be burdened upon the people. The *Revolutionary Socialist League* and the *Revolutionary Communist International Tendency* call for a people centered approach in dealing with the pandemic. A more efficient way of dealing with the pandemic would be the

establishment of people's committees to carry out sensitisation efforts and lead attempts to curb the spread of the Corona virus in our communities.

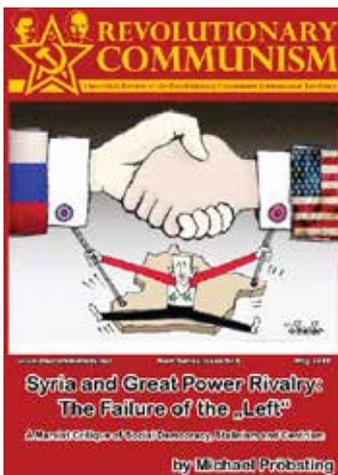
Most importantly, we laud all healthcare workers on the frontline in dealing with the pandemic.

Finally, we point out the obscenity that the rich imperialist states are now mobilizing emergency aid packages of literally trillions of US-Dollars to support their capitalist economies. At the same time, they robbed Africa, refused for years to cancel Africa's debts or to support its struggle against dangerous diseases like Ebola or HIV/AIDS (which are not less dangerous for the people than COVID-19)! We call the international workers and popular organizations to launch a global campaign around the demands "*Cancel Africa's Debt NOW!*" and "*To fight the pandemic: immediate financial and medical aid for Africa by the rich states!*"

Furthermore, we extend our solidarity to the labouring masses around the world that are facing now a global counter-revolutionary offensive of the ruling classes. Instead of free mass testing and expanding health care programs against the pandemic, the rulers utilize the COVID-19 crisis as a pretext for massive austerity programs and attacks on fundamental democratic rights! We oppose the global state of emergency, mass lockdowns and the suppression of the right to demonstrate and to assemble!

We call for an international coordination of progressive and socialist forces to build resistance against this global counter-revolutionary offensive!

Forward to socialism!



## *Publications of the RCIT*

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

*By Michael Pröbsting, April 2018*

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

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

*A RCIT Pamphlet, 24 pages, A4 Format*

## Situation in Zimbabwe During the Corona Virus Pandemic Outbreak

*Report by D., Correspondent of the RCIT in Zimbabwe, 31 March 2020*

**Note of the Editorial Board:** Below we publish a report from a correspondent in Zimbabwe. It reflects the difficult situation in countries like Zimbabwe which are oppressed and super-exploited by the imperialist monopolies and Great Powers and which, in addition, suffer from the regime of the reactionary domestic bourgeoisie. Currently these conditions are getting particularly difficult given the brutal lock down combined with the pandemic. It is urgent that authentic revolutionaries in Zimbabwe unite and build a revolutionary organization as part of a new International. This is the goal to which the RCIT and its members around the world are committed!

\*\*\*\*\*

Zimbabwe is rated among the poorest countries in the world, and recently had a new Government which is claiming to restore and put the country in a middle-class status whatever that means. The state did not take the corona virus issue serious at the beginning and some Ministers even termed it a punishment to the west by God for imposing sanctions on the Zimbabwean nation which was widely criticised within and outside the country. This level of ignorance displayed by the leadership portrays how comprador African states under capitalism have no clue and can not handle any tragic situation that threatens people's lives.

Zimbabwe has recorded low numbers in terms of infections and deaths and so far the official number stands at 8 infections and 1 death as of April 01, 2020. Some attribute this to lack of testing capacity and access to information bottlenecks and suppression of information by the state. The general public is not taking the matter seriously and the working-class leadership is divided about this subject and the problem we are facing. Some condemn the lock-

downs being imposed saying its an attack on the poor and some say that lockdown is good as it is a measure to reduce infections among the poor who are the most vulnerable and have no resources to deal with the pandemic.

Some trade union leaders are saying we should seize this opportunity and pressure the state to implement the much-needed reforms such as the repressive legislation, and other political reforms. Some say let's seize this opportunity to fight for our rights and space, and others are saying lockdown is a good measure to minimise the loss of life of the poor. The tragedy is that reality has a different view and trajectory, the poor people have no continuous supply of clean water, which is the basic human right. With the lockdown the poor are hard hit because they can not afford to buy stocks of food for future use, electricity supply is erratic, thus perishable goods are hard to stock. The comprador petty bourgeoisie are clueless and are clearly displaying incapacity to handle any kind of crisis, they have been humbled by the COVID-19 pandemic.

If only the left in Zimbabwe were united, they would seize the moment and capitalise on the fissures and weaknesses shown by the ruling class and the system, and organise the poor and the working class to march against the ruling class and fight for socialism, because right now capitalism is at its weakest point and very vulnerable and in the brink of collapse, and the working class must be ready when this happens. The situation so far is dire, and people are in despair and the left is also clueless.

The prices of food stuffs have skyrocketed from what was a bad position to the worst and they keep changing by moment and getting further and further out of reach for the poor. People are locked down without adequate supplies of food, the measures seem to be further hurting the poor, and now the issue is dying of hunger while trying to prevent COVID -19 deaths and infections, it is bad.

## The Rise of Russia as an Imperialist Great Power

**\* Russia as a Great Imperialist Power. The formation of Russian Monopoly Capital and its Empire**

**\* Lenin's Theory of Imperialism and Russia's Rise as a Great Power**

*Two Pamphlets by Michael Pröbsting (International Secretary of the RCIT)*

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

# Britain: COVID-19 is a Cover for State Repression

## Fight against the Counterrevolutionary Offensive

Article by Joseph Adams, RCIT Britain, 28 March 2020

On the 23rd March Boris Johnson announced a lockdown in which pubs, theatres, cinemas, gyms and leisure centres would close in Britain. He also announced that there could not be meetings of more than 2 people. Everyone has to stay inside their own homes and only carry out essential duties like going to the shops for necessities and other basics. Every other shop selling no essential items will be closed. These measures were taken by Johnson who claims to fight the coronavirus spreading. People are also forced to establish "social distancing", which means no social contacts outside of the family: "Boris Johnson will order police to enforce a strict coronavirus lockdown, with a ban on gatherings of more than two people and strict limits on exercise, as he told the British public: "You must stay at home." The prime minister ratcheted up Britain's response with an address to the nation on Monday evening, warning that people would only be allowed outside to buy food or medication, exercise alone once a day, or to travel to work if absolutely necessary. If you don't follow the rules, the police will have the powers to enforce them, including through fines and dispersing gatherings." The decision follows Friday's announcement that all pubs, restaurants and gyms should shut down, then the continuation of commuters packing into trains on Monday, and of sun-seekers crowding into parks over the weekend". All non-essential shops will close with immediate effect, as will playgrounds and libraries, he said in the address from Downing Street." [1]

The result of the pandemic (which has claimed over 400 lives in Britain) is of a global dimension. Over 2.2 Billion people have been locked down but the virus still spreads. Britain with its very underfunded NHS and privatization rampant faces the health crisis with very few hospital beds, not to speak of the lack of intense care units. There are far not enough respiratory kits. Many doctors and nurses are showing signs of contracting COVID-19 and have been put in quarantine. However, there has been very little testing worldwide and especially in Britain. What a ridiculous situation!

Years of stripping the NHS of its resources by both Labour and Tory Governments has meant that Britain is quite unprepared to deal with the upcoming health crisis. Major appointments with doctors have been cancelled and many patients are only given phone contact which is absolutely inadequate. Many mental health patients are prevented from attending hospitals and there is a ban on all visitors to hospitals. Dentists are refusing to admit patients unless it is an emergency that evidently requires emergency treatment.

Johnson at the same time (infected by the Coronavirus himself) contacted all the mobile phone companies instructing them to send a text to all mobile phone users to stay inside and to not go out except in an emergency situation. "The UK government has taken the unprecedented step of asking mobile companies to send an alert to everyone in the UK telling them to heed the new nationwide lockdown rules. It is the first time ministers have called upon all the UK's mobile operators – including O2, EE, Three and Vodafone– to send a mass

broadcast that will reach as many as 60 million people across the country. Only 4% of households do not have at least one mobile phone, according to the communications regulator, Ofcom. Mobile companies were contacted by the government on Monday about the initiative, before Boris Johnson's speech to the nation, broadcast on BBC1 at 8.30pm on Monday night" [2].

At supermarkets and other places like banks, "social distancing" is being enforced rigidly with shopper's queuing for 45 minutes or longer. Security guards decide how many shoppers enter the store, one at any time.

Meanwhile in Scotland, First Minister Nicola Sturgeon has gone further than Boris Johnson in England. She claimed that anyone seen outside of their home, even if it is to collect medicines or do some shopping will face on the spot fines. Sturgeon is de-facto advocating Bonapartist rule and opening the road towards dictatorship.

"Scots could face "on the spot" fines and even prosecution if they breach new lockdown powers to tackle Coronavirus, Nicola Sturgeon has announced today. The First Minister said today that emergency laws to tackle Coronavirus passed at Westminster this week will come into force through new regulations being passed in Scotland later today. It will mean police have powers to disperse gatherings of two or more people outside, as well as ordering people home if they are found to be outside without good reason. This could include shopping, getting medicine or one daily form of exercise a day. The police will be able to issue "prohibition notices" and fines could be issued, while in some cases Scots could be prosecuted." [3]

Many bourgeois commentators have also commented that the healthcrisis caused by COVID-19 is also responsible for the recession and the slump. The RCIT has shown in many articles that the contradictions of capitalism and imperialism are responsible for this recession which started before the new virus spread. The main reason for recurrent recessions is the falling rate of profit and the clash of capitalist production with the nature of production.

As Karl Marx correctly commented, it is the working class who will be the gravedigger of capitalism. The coronavirus has given the capitalist class an opportunity to create the conditions to enact counterrevolutionary proposals against the masses and the working class. It is the desperate reaction to another crisis of their own system.

### The Reformist Left and many Centrist Forces support the Lockdown

The support for the lockdown has come not from right-wing, populist forces but rather from the reformist left and a number of centrist forces. The Labour party and the trade union bureaucracy have welcomed and encouraged Johnson to carry out this lockdown which is nothing more than a Bonapartist attack aimed against the masses. It is a measure to prevent mobilisations of the working class and oppressed against the planned attacks of the capitalist class. The prelude for the abolishment of various democratic rights is covered under the threat of a new, seemingly deadly virus.

Let us be clear: this lockdown measure is just normal under dictatorship and it will inevitably lead to Bonapartist rule if the working class and oppressed don't fight back. Johnson is using social distancing to prevent people from meeting both politically and personally. He has prorogued Parliament and is ruling by decree through his cabinet. The trade union bureaucrats however act as lackeys of the ruling class, supporting the lockdown. It seems during this health crisis that they will agree with any decisions made by the capitalist class at any given point. They are the policeman of the Working Class. Leon Trotsky in his writings on trade unions characterized their role very succinctly: *"There is one common feature in the development, or more correctly the degeneration, of modern trade union organizations in the entire world: it is their drawing closely to and growing together with the state power. This process is equally characteristic of the neutral, the Social-Democratic, the Communist and "anarchist" trade unions. This fact alone shows that the tendency towards "growing together" is intrinsic not in this or that doctrine as such but derives from social conditions common for all unions. Hence flows the need of the trade unions – insofar as they remain on reformist positions, i.e., on positions of adapting themselves to private property – to adapt themselves to the capitalist state and to contend for its cooperation. In the eyes of the bureaucracy of the trade union movement the chief task lies in "freeing" the state from the embrace of capitalism, in weakening its dependence on trusts, in pulling it over to their side. This position is in complete harmony with the social position of the labor aristocracy and the labor bureaucracy, who fight for a crumb in the share of super profits of imperialist capitalism."* [4]

### Many Centrists embrace the Lockdown

No clear rejection is shown by the Socialist Party of England (section of the CWI, which shrunk massively after the

recent split) against the anti-democratic measures. Here is their position spelt out: *"The lockdown measures introduced by Johnson have already been employed by governments internationally as a serious measure to combat coronavirus. But from day one this government has failed to act quickly enough to deal with the crisis."* [5] It is fascinating that the Socialist Party is able to write article after article without a single argument against the anti-democratic attacks while gatherings with more than 2 people are forbidden, while massive expansion of surveillance is prepared and any legal possibility to organize ourselves is systematically undermined.

Left reformists even congratulate the government for its activities and fail to understand the underlying counter-revolutionary action of lockdown. In fact they are welcoming the lockdown and only criticizing that it took so long for Britain to implement this anti-democratic attack. Many reformists and centrists make correct criticisms of the government's health policies but restricts it to this specific area. They demand investment in public health and economic protection of workers without realising (and in consequence without rejecting) the underlying move towards Bonapartist rule.

The RCIT in a number of articles on COVID-19 has made clear its position on this crisis. We fully reject the lockdowns, the use of mobile phone technology together with robotic and other aspects of technology and the use of the police and the army on standby. Instead, health screening and quarantine in case of a confirmed infection is effective enough. It can not be said often enough: All revolutionaries have to reject the anti-democratic attacks that are happening right now!

*"Today, capitalist governments all around the world implement draconian enforcement measures against COVID-19 like general quarantines up to complete lockdowns. They justify this by*

## 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.

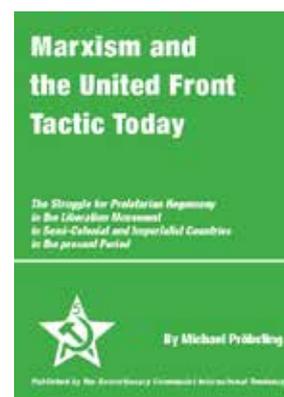
The following paragraphs are the back cover text of the book which give an overview of its content.

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.



arguing that they "protect" the people, especially the seriously ill and the elder. Surveillance is used up to forcing people to use specific apps with face-recognition which check the temperature daily and inform the government about results. Drones are flying, police and military forces are mobilized to keep people at home and a large number of borders are closed. All of this happens in combination with mobilizing huge amounts of money from the state treasury in order to provide the multinational corporations and other capitalist companies to cushion the blow of the recession. Reject the COVID-19 hysteria and prepare to fight back against austerity measures, against mass layoffs and against attacks on democratic rights! Reject any lockdowns, any forced undemocratic measures, any rules to socially isolate yourself from others as long as you are healthy! Keep a clear head in order to organize a broad solidarity campaign for our brothers and sisters in the semi-colonial countries, who have already been hit hard by so many diseases caused by imperialism and who will suffer heavy from the current pandemic!" [6].

The ruling class in Britain is preparing patriotic unity, chauvinism and racism is inevitably a result of this. The trade unions have already jumped on the bandwagon and support the lockdown and its inherent denial of basic democratic rights. It is the urgent task of all revolutionaries to give a revolutionary answer to the events!

#### RCIT Britain's Action Programme

The RCIT in BRITAIN puts forward the following programme to warn workers and the oppressed of the dangers of the present counterrevolutionary situation here in Britain and globally. Oppose the lockdown and all attacks on democratic rights!

\* *Expansion of the Health system in Britain under the control of workers and the popular masses*

\* *No to mass lockdowns! Defend the democratic right to assemble and demonstrate! Nobody should take away our right to fight and rally against injustice and oppression!*

\* *No mass surveillance! Stop the police state!*

\* *Open borders for refugees! Oppose any travel bans!*

\* *Systematic and free health screening of people who might have contracted the virus! Free respiratory kits for all patients! Start Medical tests now!*

\* *For an international team of medical experts to develop a cure and preventive vaccination as soon as possible! They must be under the control of workers, local branches of the trade unions and other organs of the masses!*

\* *Nationalise the pharmaceutical companies under workers control to develop drugs against widespread illnesses like COVID-19, Influenza, HIV/Aids and many more!*

\* *Support our brothers and sisters in the global south! Cancel all public and household debts!*

\* *No sackings, no wage cuts. Nationalisation under workers control of large enterprises, which sack workers respectively which shut down production!*

\* *Fight for the building of a New Workers Party!*

Get organized now! Join the RCIT!

#### Footnotes

(1) <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/mar/23/boris-johnson-orders-uk-lockdown-to-be-enforced-by-police>

(2) <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/mar/24/uk-mobile-firms-asked-to-alert-britons-to-heed-coronavirus-lockdown>

(3) <https://www.scotsman.com/health/coronavirus/first-minister-scots-face-spot-fines-breaching-lockdown-rules-2519045>

(4) <https://www.marxists.org/archive/trotsky/1940/xx/tu.htm>

(5) <https://www.socialistparty.org.uk/articles/30481/25-03-2020/coronavirus-crisis-tests-full-pay-and-funding-for-all-now>

(6) <https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/global/covid-19-and-the-cruel-double-standard-of-imperialism/>

## Books of the RCIT

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

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

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

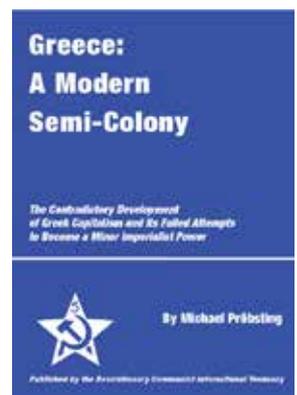
The following paragraphs are the back cover text of the book which gives an overview of its content.

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

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

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

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



## Britain: The Blairite Keir Starmer is elected leader of the Labour Party with Angela Rayner elected as Deputy

### The Corbyn Anti-Austerity Project is over with the Blairites in Control: Split the Labour Party and Build a New Workers Party!

*Article by Joseph Adams, RCIT Britain, 15 April 2020*

**K**eir Starmer, the right-wing Blairite candidate won the election as Leader of the Labour Party with a 56% majority and Rebecca Long Bailey coming a poor second with 26%. The distribution of votes shows that the Labour party has made a significant lurch to the right. Starmer, who only joined the Labour Party in 2015, was a state functionary serving the capitalist state as Director of Public Prosecutions for many years. He helped prosecute some high level cases including Ian Tomlinson who was killed in the Anti-G20 protests in 2009 and Jean De Menzies - a Brazilian who was also gunned down by police in 2005. In both cases he acquitted the police officers or rather the killers in uniforms of a charge.

"In 2008, he became Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP) and Head of the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS), holding these roles until 2013. For his role as Director of Public Prosecutions, Starmer was appointed Knight Commander of the Order of the Bath (KCB) in the 2014 New Year Honours. In February 2009, Starmer approved a decision not to prosecute any police over the controversial shooting of Jean Charles de Menezes

In July 2010, Starmer announced the decision not to prosecute the police officer Simon Harwood in relation to the death of Ian Tomlinson; this led to accusations by Tomlinson's family of a police cover-up. After a subsequent inquest found that Tomlinson had been unlawfully killed, Starmer announced that Harwood would be prosecuted for manslaughter. The officer was acquitted in July 2012, but dismissed from the police that September" [1].

There is also no evidence to suggest that Starmer ever joined a trade union and was active in any branch of the Labour Party prior to his joining the parliament in 2015 and becoming the MP for Holborn and St Pancras. On being elected both Starmer and his deputy Angela Rayner

visited the Board of Deputies an extreme right-wing, Zionist organization and assured them that they would root out any evidence of "Anti-Semitism" in the Labour Party: "The BoD is a pro-Israel organization. It claims, for instance, that the Palestinians in Gaza are "using its civilians – including children – as pawns" in their fight against Israeli occupation and oppression.

The BoD have supported every war, every attack launched by Israel. The BoD is not a neutral body, but one with an evident political agenda: to attack, weaken and destroy any opposition to the systematic and brutal oppression of the Palestinians by the Israeli government. The BoD encourages the conflation of criticism of the Israeli government (anti-Zionism), with antisemitism (hatred of Jews)." [2].

Starmer, as soon as he was elected, wrote to Boris Johnson promising Labour's support for the lockdown in the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic. He was even willing to join a government of national unity.

"Keir Starmer has vowed to work with Boris Johnson "in the national interest" to guide Britain through the mounting coronavirus outbreak, after the prime minister published a letter urging leaders of opposition parties to "work together" with the government. In a phone call with the prime minister after being elected Labour leader, Starmer offered to work constructively with the prime minister and not provide "opposition for opposition's sake" [3]

The capitalist state uses the coronavirus pandemic as a cover for an attack on democratic rights, having an infatuation with dictatorship, yet here is the new leader of the Labour Party offering his services to the capitalist state! Starmer is the stalking horse to turn the Labour Party into an open capitalist party. Keir Starmer, like the majority of the parliamentary party, organized two coups against his left-wing predecessor Jeremy Corbyn. Starmer himself re-

## Pamphlets on the EU and Brexit

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

*Written by Michael Pröbsting  
(International Secretary of the RCIT)*



signed from the shadow cabinet in 2016 but returned as Brexit secretary with one specific purpose: to malign and destroy Corbyn's leadership during the 2017 and 2019 General elections by promoting a second referendum on Europe in order to overturn Brexit. Boris Johnson's victory at the last general election was used by the Blairites to strengthen their influence, preventing Corbyn from winning again and ensuring the final takeover of the Labour Party by the right-wing cabal of pro-capitalists and opportunists. Many disgruntled Labour rank-and-file militants are either leaving the party or have been expelled or suspended through the perceived witch-hunt against supporters of the Palestinian people. This is something that Starmer will use to further reduce the membership by purging any elements critical of his leadership.

### Pro-Zionist forces in the Labour Party

Jeremy Corbyn as leader of the Labour Party has suffered abuse and attacks by all the pro-zionists in the Labour Party. Those advocates of the Apartheid State Israel have the sympathies of fascists like Britain First which became very visible when Corbyn was attacked at a North London mosque in Finsbury Park. He showed his respect to the muslim community of the mosque which whitened a terrorist attack in 2017.

However, both Corbyn and John McDonnell have failed to distinguish between anti-semitism and anti-zionism and have conflated the two. As the RCIT has stated many times those pro-zionist MPs are working under the direction of the Israeli Embassy respectively the Israeli state. Responsible for murdering tens of thousands of Palestinians, Israel is a racist and imperialist settler state that enforces Apartheid.

"The Zionists aim is to conflate anti-Semitism with anti-Zionism; unfortunately both Corbyn and McDonnell have allowed this to happen and fallen into a trap set by the Blairites. The real racists are of course the Zionists. This right-wing Labour MP's never mentioning hate crime against Muslims recently by fascist groups or attacks against refugees or Migrants. This is of no concern to them. They are constantly trying to equate Jews with Zionism and any Labour party member who supports the Palestinians and attacks the state of Israel is of course "Anti-Semitic". Unfortunately Corbyn and McDonnell have confused Anti-Semitism and Zionism and are capitulating to the right-wing elements in the Party. Corbyn now says

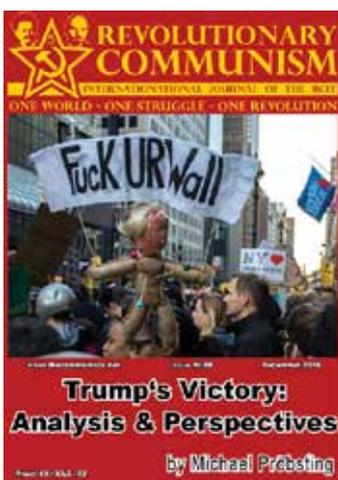
he is going to conduct an inquiry into Anti-Semitism in the Party. Of course the pro Zionist elements in the party – the 'LABOUR FRIENDS OF ISRAEL' – are forcing Corbyn and others to instigate a witch hunt against pro-Palestinian elements in the party" [4].

Further evidence of this witchhunting by Labour officials is provided by the progressive party structure Labour against the Witchhunt. They show how a secret report was prepared during the last days of Jeremy Corbyn's leadership proving that pro-zionist organisations outside of the Labour Party were involved in this frame up: "It is a crying shame that this report was produced only in the last days of Corbyn's leadership. It is based upon primary evidence showing serious wrong-doing by senior party officials. A once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for the left to radically transform the Labour Party and effect progressive change was ruined by the right in the party. At the same time, supporters of Corbyn were vilified and slandered, their voices silenced and their votes nullified. Unfortunately, it appears that this was sometimes done with the knowledge and occasionally even with the participation of the Corbyn leadership, as in the expulsions of Jackie Walker and Chris Williamson. In other words, staff "initiate cases themselves by proactively investigating social media comments by Party members" (p17) to create a body of evidence where no basis for a case exists. The report also makes various positive references to Dave Rich from the Community Security Trust (CST), whose views are still being routinely sought as "expert opinion". But the CST is not a neutral body – it is a pro-Israel charity, which the Tory government started funding in 2015 and has given at least 65 million pounds since". [5]

Starmer and the Blairites are set to purge, suspend and expel the pro-Corbyn left and witchhunt anyone who does not agree with these pro-racist pledges.

### Corbyn Failed to Protect his own Supporters

Jeremy Corbyn remains what he has always been: a left reformist who believed that he could unite the two wings of his party, the pro-imperialist wing and the anti-austerity wing. This was always going to be fraught with difficulties as the majority of the parliamentary party were Blairites and would oppose everything that Corbyn stood for anyway. Corbyn has presided over witchhunts, suspensions and expulsions. Never dismantling the disciplinary procedures that were clearly against natural justice in a



## Publications of the RCIT

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

By Michael Pröbsting, November 2016

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

A RCIT Pamphlet, 40 pages, A4 Format

so-called socialist party. Corbyn promised a Democracy review but it never happened. As long as the Blairites controlled or at least influenced bureaucracy heavily it was ensured that nothing will change on the long run. The Blairite's masters in the capitalist state were delighted with Corbyn's defeat in two elections and the bourgeois press encourages Starmer to finish the job.

Marc Wadsworth, Jackie Walker and Chris Williamson remain expelled. Ken Livingstone, the former Labour Mayor, resigned when he realized he would not get any help from Corbyn. "Chris Williamson, the Labour MP for Derby North, has been suspended from the Labour Party by the NEC for making purported anti-Semitic remarks at a Momentum meeting in Sheffield. "Labour's deep divisions over antisemitism were exposed afresh on Wednesday, after the party's top official, Jennie Formby, succumbed to intense pressure and suspended the MP Chris Williamson. The announcement reversed decision hours earlier to allow Williamson to continue to remain a Labour MP, while a "pattern of behaviour" was investigated – which had sparked a furious backlash from senior MPs, including the deputy leader, Tom Watson. The Derby North MP is an enthusiastic supporter of Corbyn, who served as shadow fire minister, before being removed from the post after departing from the Labour line on taxation. The Labour leader told Williamson's local paper, the Derby Telegraph, in January: "Chris Williamson is a very good, very effective Labour MP. He's a very strong anti-racist campaigner. He is not anti-Semitic in any way." [6]

Corbyn's heir apparent Rebecca Long-Bailey has accepted the 10 pledges from the Board of Deputies and like Starmer she took a pro-zionist position, letting an openly zionist organization decide who can be a member of the Labour Party and who cannot. This is not even-handed as it is not directed at the Tory Party, which has open racists

as members including its leader Boris Johnson. Long-Bailey had never big chances to win the leadership election as she claimed she watered down most of Corbyn's progressive policies, even advocating the readmittance of Alistair Campbell back into the Labour party. This noted Blairite who voted for the Liberal democrats was correctly expelled. Long-Bailey was unprepared to meet the challenge of the right-wing and has now taken a place in Starmer's Shadow cabinet, unlike other known Corbyn-supporters who have been sacked.

### Split Labour - For a New Workers Party!

The RCIT in BRITAIN calls on all principled socialists and activists in the Labour Party to join with and support our call to split the Labour Party and build a New Workers Party on a genuine socialist base. This rapid lurch to the right with the election of Starmer as leader means that it becomes ever more necessary to split the party and to break with the rotten compromise done for so long with the pro-capitalist, pro-imperialist wing of Blairites and their lackeys.

The New Workers Party could and should be the platform for all socialists and militants to hammer out a programme for Socialism. Various centrist forces like Socialist Appeal continue to peddle the old illusion that somehow Labour can be transformed into a Socialist party only if Marxists stay long enough inside Labour. That is a pipe dream by people who orientate themselves blindly and uncritically towards (left) reformists. As the former comrades of Militant, the members of Socialist Appeal must know that Starmer and the Blairites will most likely do exactly what Kinnock and Blair did in the 1980's - to expel and purge any opposition to them. While it made sense to (also) fight inside Labour under the era of Corbyn when the party

## RCIT Publications on Kashmir & India

- \* **“Azadi Kashmir”: Marxists and the independence of Kashmir**
- \* **The Kashmir Question and the Indian Left Today**
- \* **India: A Prison House of Nations and Lower Castes**
- \* **India: A Peculiar Semi-Colony in the Role of a Regional Power**

*Written by Michael Pröbsting  
(International Secretary of the RCIT)*

*Order them via our contact addresses*



turned to the left and many new members entered it, the situation changes now. The RCIT calls revolutionaries to not orientate towards a membership in the Labour Party which obviously entered the old Blairite way head over heels. All forces must be dedicated in the creation of a new workers party!

The most sure way to socialism is through the construction of a Revolutionary Workers Party as part of the new Internationale, that can lead the struggle against the ruling class and against all of their direct or indirect supporters. The best elements of Labour must break away now and create a new workers party together with other organizations of the workers and oppressed! Genuine socialists must fight for a revolutionary program as a basis of such a new workers party!

The RCIT in Britain puts forward the following demands to unite workers and oppressed on a revolutionary basis in the struggle for a new workers party! Smash capitalism and imperialism and fight for a socialist society!

\* Revolutionaries inside of Labour: Split the Labour Party and rally together with other activists to build a New Workers Party! All authentic Marxists have to fight for a revolutionary program of such a new party! Such a program must include without limitation the subsequent demands:

\* Fight for open borders, full equality for all migrants and equal wages! Full citizenship rights should be given to all people living in Britain as well as the unlimited right to

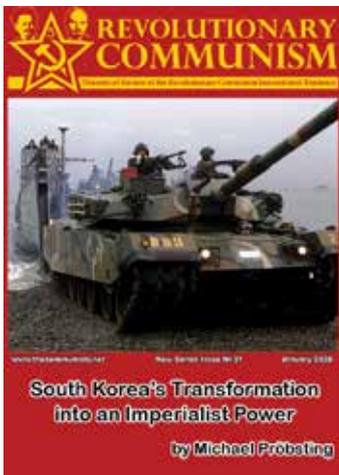
speaking in their mother tongue and to live their cultural and religious beliefs! Stop the "War on Terror" that is only an excuse to discriminate Muslim people!

\* Reject any support to the camp of the Brexiteers or the Remainers! Neither an imperialist Britain nor an imperialist European Union is the solution, but rather the fight to smash both of them!

\* For self-defence guards and action committees to protect workers, the oppressed and migrants from the police, racist or fascist attacks!

#### Footnotes

- (1) [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Keir\\_Starmer](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Keir_Starmer)
- (2) <http://www.labouragainsthewitchhunt.org/campaigns/fight-against-keir-starmer-implementing-the-10-demands-by-the-board-of-deputies/>
- (3) <https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2020/apr/04/new-labour-leader-keir-starmer-pledges-to-work-with-boris-johnson-on-covid-19>
- (4) <https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/europe/uk-defend-chris-williamson-and-others-against-the-zionist-witch-hunt/>
- (5) <http://www.labouragainsthewitchhunt.org/campaigns/the-report-factional-hostility-towards-corbryn-led-to-a-litany-of-mistakes/>
- (6) <https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/europe/uk-defend-chris-williamson-and-others-against-the-zionist-witch-hunt/>



## *Publications of the RCIT*

# South Korea's Transformation into an Imperialist Power

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

*By Michael Pröbsting, December 2019*

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

*A RCIT Pamphlet, 36 pages, A4 Format*

# What the RCIT Stands for

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

*No future without socialism!*

*No socialism without a revolution!*

*No revolution without a revolutionary party!*

