



www.thecommunists.net

Issue Nr.111

November 2020

Boycott Imperialist and Islamophobic France!

- * U.S.: Neither Trump Nor Biden!
- * Washington Tries to Blackmail Kenya
- * Nigeria: Protests Against Police Brutality
- * Second Lockdown in Israel
- * Protests against Lockdown in Madrid
- * Thailand: Pro-Democracy Uprising
- * "October Revolution" in Kyrgyzstan
- * RCIT Leaders Speak in Zoom Events

Workers and Oppressed Unite!

English-Language Journal of the Revolutionary Communist International Tendency (RCIT), No. 111, November 2020

U.S. Election: Neither Trump Nor Biden!	p.3
U.S. Imperialism Tries to Blackmail Kenya in FTA Negotiations	p.5
Webinar on Africa, COVID-19 and the Crisis of Neoliberalism	p.6
NIGERIA: FIGHT AGAINST POLICE BRUTALITY!	p.7
Israel: Draconian Law against the Right to Demonstrate	p.9
Israel: What is behind a Second Lockdown?	p.10
Egypt: Rally against the Sisi Regime	p.10
Boycott Imperialist and Islamophobic France!	p.12
Down with the Islamophobia in France: "We Are Not Samuel!"	p.13
COVID-19: Madrid's Workers and Poor Protest against the Lockdown Regime!	p.15
Britain: Fascists harras Migrants & Asylum Seekers	p.17
Thailand: Another Bloody Crackdown Looms against the Democracy Movement!	p.19
Thailand: Over 100,000 Students & Workers Demonstrate against the Regime	p.20
Kyrgyzstan: "October Revolution" Drives Out Authoritarian Government	p.22
What the RCIT Stands for	p.23

Picture on the Cover: Protest rally in Northern Syria against Islamophobia in France (Source: <https://ebaa.news/news/photos-news/2020/10/72351/>)

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.

**www.thecommunists.net - rcit@thecommunists.net
Tel/SMS/WhatsApp/Telegram: +43-650-4068314**

U.S. Election: Neither Trump Nor Biden!

Workers and oppressed need to organize and to fight independently!

Statement by the Revolutionary Communist International Tendency (RCIT), 15 October 2020

1. The upcoming U.S. election is different from those of the past. It is not different because of the two senile presidential candidates. It is different because of the circumstances in which it takes place. The U.S. experiences simultaneously a dramatically accelerating decay as a global hegemonic power as well as its worst domestic crisis since the civil war in 1861-65. To put it briefly, the main features of this crisis are:

a) The U.S. is in the midst of an economic depression not seen since 1929-33 with millions of people looking for a job in vain;

b) Its ruling class is deeply divided resulting in a vicious faction struggle, paralysis and threats of a de facto coup d'état;

c) Washington suffered a series of setbacks and defeats in foreign policy resulting, among others, in a humiliating process of military retreats from Iraq and Afghanistan;

d) The country has experienced a popular uprising when the sadistic murder of George Floyd by the police in late May provoked a wave of mass demonstrations, more than 750 strikes and street battles in numerous cities.

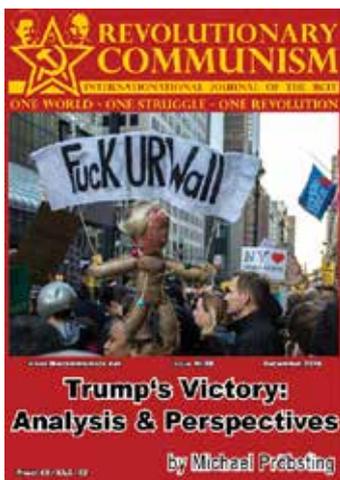
2. Facing an unprecedented decline of capitalism, the ruling class in the U.S. is deeply divided how best to save their neck at the expense of the workers and oppressed. Trump and Biden, the Republicans and the Democrats offer different faces and different words, but they share the determination to attack the social and democratic rights of the popular masses. Both are enemies of the working class, Biden no less than Trump. In such a situation, it is more urgent than ever that the workers and oppressed take the road of *independent struggle* and *independent organizing*. Such independence necessitates refusing support for any candidate and any party of the ruling capitalist class. Hence, the *Revolutionary Communist International Tendency* (RCIT) calls to vote neither for Trump nor for Biden, neither for the Republicans nor for the Democrats, at the upcoming election.

3. The leaderships of the AFL-CIO, of mass organizations of people of color as well as various left-wing groups support Biden and the Democrats. Some do it uncritically;

others combine it with political criticism. We are aware that given the ultra-reactionary, provocative and utterly dumb character of the orange man, many workers and oppressed will vote for Biden – not so much out of support for the later but rather as a tactic to kick out Trump. While we fully share their hatred for the racist instigator, we think that voting for Biden and the Democrats is a wrong tactic. It is rather a dangerous cul-de-sac which obstructs the creation of an independent road of struggle for the workers and oppressed. However, it is also noteworthy and encouraging that significant sectors of the vanguard seem to reject such electoralist logic.

4. The RCIT also rejects voting for candidates of the Green Party as it has been advocated in the past by various centrist forces like the now-dissolved Cliffite *ISO* or *Socialist Alternative* (CWI/ISA). The Greens are a petty-bourgeois force with no roots among the working class and no record of playing any serious role in mass struggles like the current *Black Live Matters* uprising.

5. It is a well-known argument of various Sanderistas, the ex-Stalinist CPUSA and some so-called “Marxists” to claim that Biden and the Democrats represent the “lesser evil”. This is simply not true. Social inequality dramatically increased in the past decades – no less during the Clinton and Obama period than during the Bush and Trump presidency. In Obama’s first three years in office, around 1.18 million immigrants were deported, while around 800,000 deportations have taken place under Trump in his three years of presidency. Brutal killings of black people by the police take place in “blue” states in no less numbers than in “red” states. It is certainly true that Trump is an extraordinary provocative and inane reactionary. In fact, he is a kind of dysfunctional leader of U.S. capitalism. No wonder that more billionaires make donations for Biden’s campaign than for Trump’s or – to quote the business magazine *Forbes* – “the billionaires seem to love Joe Biden”. A Biden presidency might be more integrative, less provocative than the current clown. But socialists have no reason to favor a more functional leadership of U.S. capitalism! They rather need to advocate a more functional program



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

of struggle against *all* capitalist rulers!

6. In case Trump wins the election by massive fraud and intimidation of electors, Biden will not advocate a mass struggle to drive the lunatic out of the White House. He will do everything to avoid such a storm of the Bastille but will rather limit himself to appeal to (and wait for) the courts. In case Biden wins the election, he will work hard to pacify and end the popular uprising so that the ruling class can continue offloading the costs of capitalism's worst crisis on the back of the workers and poor. In any case, Biden is man of the billionaires and an obstacle for the struggle of the popular masses. If socialists would vote for Biden they would encourage political trust in this enemy of the people and make it more difficult to continue and deepen the struggle after the election.

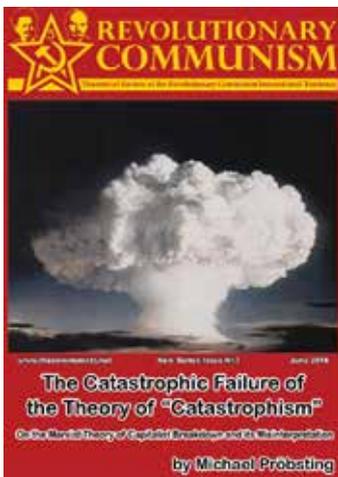
7. Hence, the task of revolutionary forces is to explain pedagogically that the struggle in defense of our social and democratic rights must be conducted *independently* of any faction of the bourgeoisie. Such a struggle must take place, first and foremost, on the streets, at the workplaces and in the neighborhoods. For this it is urgent to build *popular assemblies and committees of action in workplaces, neighborhoods, schools and universities*. Such committees should decide about the demands and the course of action. They should also elect delegates so that there can be a regional and national coordination. Likewise, it is necessary to *build armed self-defense committees* in order to de-

fend the workers and oppressed against the enemy in blue and to drive the police and right-wing agitators as much as possible out of the neighborhoods.

8. Most importantly, revolutionaries should advocate the creation of an *independent workers party* based on mass organizations of the working class and the oppressed. Such a party would remain completely independent from both parties of the capitalist establishment – the Republicans as well as the Democrats. We call unionists, supporters of Sanders and the DSA to break with the Democratic Party and to join forces in building such a new Labor Party. Revolutionaries advocate a program of struggle for such a party, aiming towards the creation of a *workers government* which expropriates the super-rich and nationalizes the core sectors of the economy under workers control. The RCIT wants to unite revolutionary activists on the basis of such a program! Join us!

International Bureau of the RCIT

The RCIT has published a number of documents on the popular uprising in the U.S. which are compiled on a special sub-page on our website: <https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/north-america/articles-on-uprising-after-murder-of-george-floyd/>.



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

U.S. Imperialism Tries to Blackmail Kenya in FTA Negotiations

No to U.S. plastic waste, its drone war or its promotion of Apartheid-Israel!

Joint Statement of the Revolutionary Socialist League (Kenya) and the RCIT, 4 October 2020

1. Once again, U.S. imperialism tries to blackmail the Kenyan people. From what is currently known Washington puts three particularly outrageous demands on Kenya in the Free Trade Agreement negotiations.

a) It wants Kenya to withdraw its strict bans on the production, import or use of plastic bags.

b) The Pentagon is seeking authority to expand its drone war into Kenya.

c) It demands the "elimination" of any boycott campaign directed against the racist Apartheid state Israel.

2. These demands aim to transform Kenya into a dumping ground of the huge plastic waste produced by corporations. It is well-known that this would have devastating ecological consequences and endanger the health of people. This is why plastic import has been banned in 2017. And now we shall open the country again so that it becomes a rubbish dump for the imperialists?!

3. Furthermore, these demands are tantamount to intensify Kenya's role as a deputy sheriff of U.S. war-mongering foreign policy. It is a shame that Kenya has already participated for years in the shameful pro-imperialist occupation of Somalia. However, now the Pentagon even demands to wage its drone war against opponents on Kenyan soil itself!

4. In addition, Washington wants to force Kenya to serve the political and economic interests of Israel – an illegitimate state based on the mass expulsion of the Palestinian people. It is already shameful enough that the Kenyan

regime officially recognises this Apartheid state. But now, Washington even demands that it persecutes supporters of the Palestinians liberation struggle!

5. We alert people in other African countries that U.S. imperialism will certainly put similar demands to other nations in the upcoming trade negotiations since the (misnamed) *African Growth and Opportunity Act* (AGOA) is set to expire in 2025.

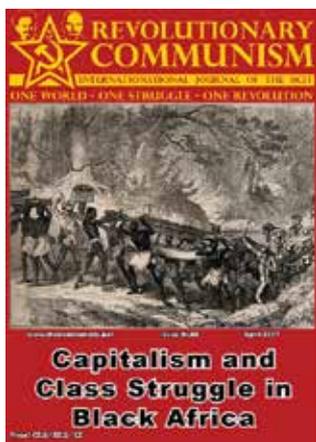
6. The *Revolutionary Socialist League (Kenya)* and the *Revolutionary Communist International Tendency* strongly denounce these demands of U.S. imperialism. We call the workers and popular organizations to mobilize and to put pressure on the government to refuse any concessions on these issues! We call patriotic, progressive and socialist organizations in other African country to join us in repudiating similar demands by the U.S. or any other imperialist Great Power!

** Keep the strict bans on the production, import or use of plastic bags!*

** No expansion of the U.S. drone war to Kenyan soil! Expel all U.S. military from Kenya! Down with the pro-imperialist occupation of Somalia!*

** Boycott Israel! Support the Palestinian liberation struggle!*

Revolutionary Communist International Tendency (Brazil, Mexico, Pakistan, Kashmir, Sri Lanka, South Korea, Israel/Occupied Palestine, Yemen, Nigeria, Kenya, Russia, Britain, Germany and Austria)
Revolutionary Socialist League (Sympathising Section of the RCIT in Kenya)



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

Webinar on Africa, COVID-19 and the Crisis of Neoliberalism

Report (with Video) on a Zoom Meeting on 7 October 2020, Revolutionary Communist International Tendency (RCIT)

The Revolutionary Socialist League (sympathising section of the RCIT in Kenya) and the Thomas Sankara Political School organised an international Zoom meeting on 7 October. The meeting was characterised by a highly interesting discussion about the COVID-19 crisis and the decay of Neoliberalism. The meeting was addressed by several speakers including Almedina Gunić and Michael Pröbsting who represented the International

Bureau of the RCIT. The meeting was chaired by comrade Maureen Kasaku.

Below is the link to the video of meeting which lasted for two hours.

<https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/africa-and-middle-east/report-africa-covid-19-and-the-crisis-of-neoliberalism/>



Almedina Gunić, International Women's Secretary of the RCIT, speaks at a rally

RCIT AFRICA PROGRAM

Manifesto for the Revolutionary Liberation of Black Africa

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

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

A RCIT Pamphlet, 24 pages, A5 Format



NIGERIA: FIGHT AGAINST POLICE BRUTALITY! FORM LOCAL COORDINATING AND SELF-DEFENSE COMMITTEES!

Statement of the Revolutionary Socialist Vanguard (Nigerian Section of the RCIT), 12.10.2020

The past series of months have been marked globally by a deep reflection on the role of police in society. In Nigeria, the campaign against police brutality takes the form of the current *END SARS* protests which is spreading like wildfire through out the country, what is undeniable, however, is that people don't want the so-called security apparatus in its present form anymore. The Special Anti-Robbery Squad (SARS) is a special unit of the Nigerian Police Force (NPF) which was set up to, as the name implies, deal with cases of armed robbery, fraud, cybercrime etc. This unit has over the years secured for itself the most notorious image for police brutality, extortion, corruption, illegal abduction and torture. There have been at least 27 reported cases of extrajudicial killing by this same unit of the NPF for the past four years. In the same vein there have been popular uprisings, even if in relatively small numbers, against the menace of this group in recent times with the government proscribing SARS every single time. Albeit, before any organized protest began on October 5th this year the Inspector General of Police again banned the unit but that didn't stop youths from occupying the lobby of the Lagos State House of Assembly and the Lagos State Police headquarters for days.

As earlier mentioned, these protests continue to spread across the country with angry protesters attacking police stations in at least two states and the protesters continue to occupy key locations to press in their demands. In spite of all these the police has brutally cracked down on the pro-

testers killing one in Oyo state and injuring several others sometimes fatally throughout the nation.

We welcome and support the protests against police brutality as a whole and the campaign to end SARS in particular. Even though the presidency and the Inspector General of Police have declared SARS disbanded, it is important to restate that an end to SARS is not an end to police brutality or repression. In fact SARS is just one of the police units, there are many other parastatals that have gone rogue or which can still serve as a veritable tool of mass oppression. Thus, the final battle against police brutality and state repression must be done by the masses. In this light such proclamation of the ruling class must not be taken as the final victory but the least of victories to come if the people persist.

Although it is commendable that the protests in various states and locations is being led by musical artists and celebrities, even Nigerian migrants in the UK were also led by one of those musical artists, there is still need for the formation of *coordinating committees* composed of delegates elected at the different states or communities where these protests are being held. These *coordinating committees* may combine to give national direction by way of elaborating what are the next steps to sustain, promote and expand the struggle as instructed by the protesters or supporters of the struggle in their different localities.

We warn against any illusions of a meaningful reform in the police, that is why we call for *local self defense commit-*

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

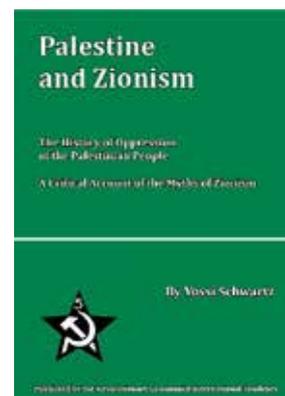
In *Palestine and Zionism* Yossi Schwartz provides a critical analysis of numerous Zionist myths about the Jews as well as about the Palestinians. He demonstrates that the Zionist claim that Palestine is the historic homeland of the Jews lacks any serious basis. *Palestine and Zionism* shows that the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



tees which must be formed democratically by civil society organizations, workers' and students unions; and members of the community. Only reforms which weaken the strength cum spread of the police like defunding the police or driving the police out of communities or campuses must be supported.

Many left organizations do not call for the formation of armed self-defense guards even when they call for the abolition of police creating confusion thereby strengthening the argument for police reforms or demands like "ReformSARS". The mere fact that the excuse for police units like SARS, and the Rapid Response Squad (RRS) is rising crime rates leads us back to original purpose of the whole state apparatus—to stitch the cracks in the system by coercion. That is, instead of providing jobs and unemployment benefits for the people so as to prevent crime they intensify and expand the repressive forces so as to maintain the inordinately large share of their profits. The police, army et al are the machines that preserve the system hence only reforms which weaken this forces can be supported. For this cause we reject all slogans like "Reform SARS", "Reform the Police" on account of their vagueness or arbitrariness.

Conclusively, the only successful route to end state repression is the constitution of local armed self-defense committees and then a people's militia depending on the strength and readiness which will comprise of workers, students, youth and the popular masses. This remains the form of organization that can defend the masses during an

uprising to change the system of capitalism which is at the root of all crime and oppression.

For a public employment program controlled by workers, students, youth and peasants! This is the solution to rising crime rates and heightened cyber crime not state repression and police brutality.

Prosecute all killer police! For us, unless the economic base of police is destroyed killer police will continue to walk free. A recent example is the release of Derek Chauvin, the officer who murdered George Floyd in Minneapolis, after posting a 1 million dollar/775,000 pound (!) bail. Hence this struggle must be knitted with removing the economic mainstay from the grip of the billionaires and super-rich and putting it under the democratic control of the workers and masses!

Drive out the police from youth communities such as campuses and schools! End SARS! Abolish the police!

Form armed self-defense committees to shield protesters and comrades from attacks by police! Form coordinating committees to spearhead the struggle! The masses must be ready to enforce the new regulations which limit the extent of police operations like "stop and search" etc.

Fund education, healthcare and agriculture! For a national food and housing program under the dictate of popular masses for the poor and homeless!

Expropriate the billionaires and super-rich! Put the commanding heights of the economy under workers and masses control!

End capitalism!

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.

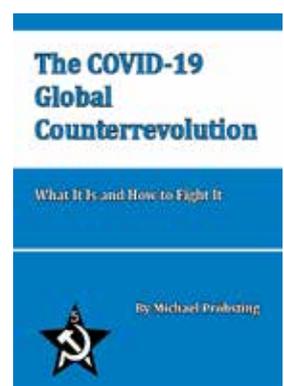
In addition, there is a wave of anti-democratic attacks of a scale which has not been seen in the imperialist countries since 1945. This has triggered a global turn towards Chauvinist State Bonapartism and the creation of a monstrous Leviathan-like state machinery.

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.



Israel: Draconian Law against the Right to Demonstrate

By Yossi Schwartz, Statement of the Internationalist Socialist League (RCIT Section in Israel / Occupied Palestine), 01.10.2020

Four people were arrested in Tel Aviv after the government approved emergency regulations banning Israelis from protesting more than 1 km from their homes, and gathering in groups of more than 20.

This draconian law aims at preventing demonstrations against the corrupt Prime Minister of Israel and another step in the direction of an authoritarian regime in Israel. "The legislation, which gives the government powers to declare a "special emergency caused by the coronavirus pandemic", was ratified early on Wednesday after an all-night debate in the Knesset. The law passed by 46 votes to 38, allows the government to declare a "special week-long state of emergency" if the coronavirus continues to spread." (1)

Once again the Knesset has proven to be an instrument of the government and Netanyahu himself the Bonaparte of Israel.

The ISL, RCIT's section in Israel (Occupied Palestine) condemns this law. As the RCIT has warned from the beginning of the spread of the Corona, the capitalist states use the plague to attack the democratic and the social rights of the popular classes.

Many Israelis ask themselves why the government deals with us as if we were Palestinians. The answer is clear: the Israelis who support the ethnic democracy and the repression of the Palestinians, the Israelis who support the concept of a Jewish democratic state are getting an open dictatorship for the Israelis as well. As long as the Israelis will not break with racist Zionism, they cannot fight successfully for their democratic rights.

We reject the racist idea that Jewish people are entitled to democratic rights, while Palestinians do not have these rights. The struggle for real democracy begins with the struggle for the democratic rights of the Palestinians, with crashing the siege on Gaza, ending the occupation, fighting for the right of the return of the Palestinian refugees, and struggling for one democratic state from the river to the sea.

We also reject the accusation of the Ultra -Orthodox Jews

as those that spread the Covid-19. They are the victims of the plague. They are more affected by the Corona because they are large families living in very crowded apartments. Scapegoating them serves the government that deflects the anger from its policies serving the capitalist class.

Only the struggle of the Palestinians workers and the Fallahis (poor peasants) with the support of the Israelis who break with Zionism can win this struggle as part of the victorious Arab revolution, a revolution that will form a red democratic Palestine as part of a socialist federation of the Middle East. Those Jews who will accept this solution will enjoy equal rights in a real socialist democracy.

To win this struggle we need to build a revolutionary working class International.

* Down with the reactionary law

* Fight for the democratic rights of the Palestinians

* Bring down this government to be replaced by a government committed to the democratic rights of the Palestinians and the Jews

* Immediate whitlow from all occupied lands in 1967

* Break the siege of Gaza

* Open all places of work for the Palestinian workers

* Enforcing the right of return

* Expropriate the big capital under workers control to be used to fight the Corona and the Unemployment and settle the Palestinian refugees

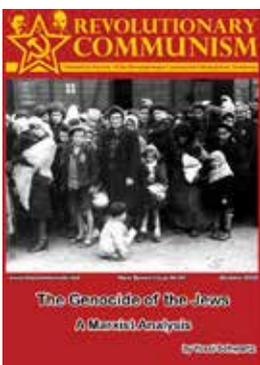
* One democratic state from the river to the sea

Clearly no Zionist party can form a government on such a program. Yet this is the only kind of a government that can fight for real democracy.

The ISL and the RCIT will defend such a government while struggling for a revolutionary workers' government mainly of Palestinians workers and their allies.

Footnotes

1) <https://www.france24.com/en/20200930-israel-passes-law-to-limit-protests-during-virus-emergency>



Publications of the RCIT

The Genocide of the Jews A Marxist Analysis

By Yossi Schwartz

Introduction * The Conditions of the Jews on the Eve of World War II * The Pseudo-Scientific Racist Theory of Social Darwinism * Anti-Semitism as a Branch of Social Darwinism * The Nazi Labor-Death Camps * Zionist Ideology as a Branch of Social Darwinism * The Genocide of the Palestinians * Who Are the Guilty Parties for the Genocide of the Jews? * The Uniqueness of the Genocide of the Jews * The Use of the Holocaust * So What Is Unique About the Genocide of the Jews? * Conclusions * Footnotes

A RCIT Pamphlet, 24 pages, A4 Format

Israel: What is behind a Second Lockdown?

By Adam Smith, Statement of the Internationalist Socialist League (RCIT Section in Israel / Occupied Palestine), 19.09.2020

The Israeli government has decided to impose a second lockdown, for the High Holidays period. This is an entirely cynical move for the following reasons:

Public Transport services have been reduced to zero on Friday mornings and Saturday evening (from Friday noon to Saturday evening there is no service even in regular times because of religious laws) and 25% otherwise. ¹ Yet Netanyahu's quarantine period when coming back from the United States has been reduced to 5 days (and pressure was applied to reduce it to zero). ²

Workplaces (without public reception- again - this will hurt the poor the most) will continue to open as usual, but beaches and other open air locations will be closed off, and protests are going to be limited. ³ This is one of the real reasons behind the lockdown. The other reasons are for wanting to delay his court date even further and to reduce in-faction coalition fighting.

Another contributing factor was that most of the cities with the highest infection rates are majority ultra-Orthodox (this can be explained by lack of medical access and crowded living conditions), and since Netanyahu depends on his junior ultra-Orthodox coalition partner, he decided to extend the lockdown to the entire country (of course, not that we would support a lockdown on the ultra-orthodox only). ⁴

This has led to a shameful response from the Zionist "Left" - even the most meager and sectorial attempts to roll back the lockdown (by the Haredim) are opposed by it. Another issue is the flights to Uman ⁵ - in which the anti-Semitic Zionist "Left" would rather ban all flights than fight for civil liberties (with coronavirus checks for pilgrims). Or the issue of synagogues - they ask why the government closed the beaches but not synagogues and from this drew the conclusion that the synagogues should be closed as well.

For example, the "Black flags" movement has said they will not protest at Balfour because of the coronavirus ("*out of social responsibility*", not even because of a court order!). ⁶ When asked what is their beef with Netanyahu, they say

that he is corrupt and his court hearing three times a week (when the trial will start) will prevent him from managing the affairs of the (bourgeois) state - as if that should be a concern of an authentic left winger! The main base of many such groups is the "Shulmanim" - a nickname for small business owners and freelancers (of course, freelancers are many times workers in a precarious position as opposed to the petty-bourgeois), and some of those groups are in fact headed by right wing Likud members (a phony opposition) who censor any criticism of Netanyahu. ⁷

The Palestinian cause has no support, apart from a small minority of call for justice for Eyad's family. ⁸ The narrative brought up of a Palestinian George Floyd by the liberal, US-oriented crowd is also problematic in a way - police brutality in Israel has a different form and reason and it cannot be "Americanized", it takes place under a brutal occupation and colonialism which the protesters seem to ignore.

This crisis has also led to a slew of new anti-working class attacks - from the reduction in unemployed benefits to new reactionary proposals regarding pension schemes. ⁹

Also, Israel has a very tough approach to air travel, with a ban on foreigner entry since March and many people haven't been on vacation this year as there are no countries which they can go to/flights being very expensive (and vacation in Israel would cost even more). And the government has decided to cancel all new flights - causing the largest one day airport traffic since the beginning of the shutdown. ¹⁰ The (right wing) populist response is "*Stay at home! So you would not go on vacation one year, big deal*" - this is just another attack on the living standards of the working class.

This is very absurd thinking which sees every working class gain as a threat (aka FOX NEWS style "*99% of the poor have smartphones, why are they complaining?*"). An annual vacation is a right which has been fought for and earned, and lack of is a key indicator of poverty (even by UN definition: "*The deprivation items: (1) being in arrears with mortgage or rent payments, utility bills, hire purchase installments*")

Egypt: Rally against the Sisi Regime

Report (with Photos and Video) from a Rally in Vienna on 27 September 2020, Austrian Section of the RCIT

About 100 Egyptian migrants demonstrated in front of Egypt's embassy in Vienna to show their solidarity with the wave of mass protests against the military dictatorship of General Sisi. These protests are taking place in nearly all cities and also in many villages. The regime has already killed at least three young demonstrators and arrested several hundred.

Ibrahim Ali, the leader of the Egyptian migrant community, sharply condemned the brutal regime of General Sisi. He denounced the collaboration of Western governments with the military dictatorship.

Activists of the Austrian section of the RCIT participated in the rally. Our comrade Michael Pröbsting, International

Secretary of the RCIT, addressed the rally. He stated our full solidarity with the mass protests. He also emphasized the importance to bring down the military dictatorship in order to deliver a decisive blow to the Arab tyrants who are collaborating with the Zionist state and the imperialist Great Powers.

See photos and a video clip of Michael Pröbsting's speech here: <https://www.thecommunists.net/rcit/egypt-rally-in-solidarity-with-mass-protests-27-9-2020/>

(See also the pictures on the opposite page of this journal.) A video on the rally has been produced by Di Mohamed Alaswani and can be viewed at https://m.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=10225238900625097&id=1398890537

or other loan payments; (2) *inability to afford paying for one week annual holiday away from home*; (3) *inability to afford a meal with meat, chicken, fish or vegetarian equivalent every second day*; (4) *inability to face unexpected financial expenses*; (5) *inability to afford a telephone*; (6) *inability to afford a colour TV*; (7) *inability to afford a washing machine*; (8) *inability to afford a car*; and (9) *inability of the household to pay for keeping its home adequately warm during the coldest month*".¹¹ Also many people have been separated from their loved ones, missed job opportunities, etc. because of lack of air travel - again treating air travel as a luxury is a 50's mindset and absurd, especially when it comes from people who are even more privileged and have not been affected as much by the coronavirus.

In conclusion, while the people suffer, sealed in their homes and losing their jobs or having their income drastically reduced, the government and its ministers continue to fly around the world and skip all the health regulations. The second lockdown is proof of the government failure to combat COVID19 and inability to come up with anything but the most brutal solutions.

The fact that leading social organizers decided to cancel mass protests shows the urgent need for a revolutionary leadership to head the struggle against the government's creeping authoritarianism and reactionary agenda.¹²

Footnotes

- 1 <https://www.haaretz.com/israel-news/premium-israeli-government-approves-regulations-for-three-week-coronavirus-lockdown-1.9163832>
- 2 <https://www.timesofisrael.com/delegation-to-us-said-to-break-health-rules-after-getting-reduced-quarantine/#gs.gj2zmb>
- 3 <https://www.haaretz.com/israel-news/coronavirus-israel-live-pandemic-czar-nauseated-by-decision-on-full-lockdown-report-says-1.9175585>; <https://www.haaretz.com/israel-news/premium-israeli-government-approves-regulations-for-three-week-coronavirus-lockdown-1.9163832>
- 4 <https://www.haaretz.com/israel-news/premium-regardless-of-coronavirus-lockdown-ultra-orthodox-plan-for-mass-holiday-prayers-1.9147215>
- 5 <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/09/08/world/middle-east/israel-coronavirus-ronni-gamzu-netanyahu.html>
- 6 <https://www.ynet.co.il/news/article/rk5fAyp4D>
- 7 <https://www.zman.co.il/107651/open/>
- 8 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shooting_of_Eyad_al-Hallaq
- 9 <https://www.globes.co.il/news/article.aspx?did=1001342597>
- 10 <https://www.timesofisrael.com/israelis-flock-to-airport-ahead-of-planned-shutdown-of-flights/>
- 11 <https://www.unicef.org/eca/sites/unicef.org/eca/files/2018-05/Child%20Poverty%20in%20ECAR.pdf>
- 12 <https://www.haaretz.com/israel-news/coronavirus-israel-live-pandemic-czar-nauseated-by-decision-on-full-lockdown-report-says-1.9175585>



Rally in front of the Egyptian embassy in Vienna (27.9.2020); Michael Pröbsting (top left), Ibrahim Ali (2nd top left)

Boycott Imperialist and Islamophobic France!

Solidarity with the Muslim migrants! Drive out the French occupiers from Africa!

Statement of the Revolutionary Communist International Tendency (RCIT), 26.10.2020

1. The French government has declared war against the Muslim migrants in its country and the Muslim people around the world. A wave of repression is hailing down on the brothers and sisters in France, numerous people get arrested (including 14 and 15-year old youth), mosques are closed, and a public campaign of hatred has been launched. The pretext is the revenge killing of Samuel Paty by an 18-year-old Chechen youth. Paty was a racist teacher who enjoyed to shock his young school pupils by showing them (for years!) disgusting and humiliating cartoons – published by the disgraceful *Charlie Hebdo* magazine – against the Prophet Mohammed and Muslims in general.

2. Instead of condemning the racist provocations which deeply offend one and a half billion Muslims around the world, President Macron has cynically hailed Paty as a “quiet hero”. Macron praised the teacher by saying: “He was killed precisely because he incarnated the Republic. He was killed because the Islamists want our future. They know that with quiet heroes like him, they will never have it.” The government decided also that Paty will posthumously get France’s highest award, the “*Legion d’Honneur*”. Macron explicitly announced that France will continue publishing the *Charlie Hebdo* provocations: “We will not give up cartoons.” Consequently, authorities exhibited the disgraceful Anti-Muslim cartoons of *Charlie Hebdo* in public places. All this demonstrates that the French state stands for the values of Islamophobia and racist hatemongering against Muslim people. No one should have any illusion: Macron continues the centuries-old tradition of French colonialism which suppressed and humiliated Muslim people!

3. As we said already in past statements, the RCIT opposes killings such as that of Paty. However, we do so not out of any sympathy for the racist provocateur Paty but rather because such incidents are utilized by the government as a pretext to launch a campaign of repression and racist hatred against Muslim people.

4. The French government claims it is only defending the so-called “*freedom of speech*”. What a blatant lie! Righteous people, democrats and socialists do not accept “freedom” of hatemongering against the oppressed! This is why we deny such rights for Nazis and racists. In the past when the Anti-Semitic scum organized pogroms against Jews in Europe, socialists resolutely defended them. Today, socialists must defend the Muslim migrants against the Islamophobic crusaders. We ask the French government, if “freedom of speech” is so sacred for Macron and his government – why do they hunt Islamist forces instead of giving them the freedom of speech as well? Why do they arrest people who criticised Paty in the past for his racism? Imagine the public outcry that would happen if Muslim people would publish such disgusting cartoons with the deceased Paty as *Charlie Hebdo* did with the prophet Mohamed! Obviously Macron’s “freedom of speech” only applies to his racist and Islamophobic supporters!

5. As a matter of fact, Macron launches his Islamophobic campaign for cold-blooded political reasons. His bourgeois government faces a severe domestic crisis as it

visible fails in combating the pandemic as well as the economic crisis. It needs to deflect attention from its highly unpopular plans for the pension reform and other social cuts. Furthermore, Macron hopes to rally public support for France’s imperialist foreign policy against Muslim peoples. Most important among these projects are its military adventures in West Africa, its support for the ex-Gaddafi and ex-CIA General Haftar in the Libyan civil war, its attempt to regain domination in Lebanon, its aggression against Turkey and its collaboration with the Egypt dictatorship, Greece and Israel in order to secure gas reserves in the Eastern Mediterranean.

6. However, in reaction to Macron’s Islamophobic crusade a wave of protests has begun in the Muslim world. In Palestine, Idlib, Jordan, Qatar, Kuwait, Pakistan, Bangladesh and other countries, spontaneous demonstrations have taken place in the past two days. French products are boycotted in supermarkets and the *tricolore* flag gets burned. The foreign ministry in Paris tries to play down these events and claims: “The calls to boycott French products are being made by an extremist minority”. But it will soon find out that this is a global and popular mass movement! In fact, the popular masses are fighting against imperialist and Islamophobic aggression – in contrast to the cowardly Arab tyrants in Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Egypt, etc. – who are kissing the feet of Israel and Western leaders!

7. The RCIT strongly welcomes the mass protests and the popular boycott movement against imperialist and Islamophobic France. Macron must be taught a lesson! It is important to build a broad international solidarity movement of workers and popular organizations – Muslim and non-Muslim. Such a campaign should organize an effective support for the brothers and sisters in France and other European countries who currently face conditions of harsh repression by the state and the media. Such a movement should also organize an effective campaign to boycott French products. It should also organize mass actions against the imperialist aggression of Paris in the Eastern Mediterranean as well as in North and West Africa. In addition, it should state its support for the Chechen people who experience a horrible regime of occupation by Russian imperialism. Finally, socialists in France should try to link anti-racist activities with protests against the anti-democratic repression by the Macron government (under the pretext of COVID-19) as well as with protests against neo-liberal attacks (e.g. with the *Yellow Vests* movement)

* *No to Islamophobic hatemongering!*

* *Release all arrested Muslims in France!*

* *For popular action to close down the racist Charlie Hebdo magazine!*

* *French Navy – out of the Eastern Mediterranean!*

* *Drive the French occupiers out of Mali and all other African countries!*

* *Freedom for Chechnya! Down with Russian imperialism!*

* *No “normalization” with Israel! For a single red and democratic state in historic Palestine from the river to the sea!*

Down with the Islamophobia in France: “We Are Not Samuel!”

By Yossi Schwartz, Revolutionary Communist International Tendency (RCIT), 20 October 2020

Samuel Paty was killed on Friday in France by an individual terrorist act after he had shown cartoons of the Prophet Muhammad to his students during a civics class. He was aware of the fact that by doing so he deeply offended the religious feeling of the Moslems in a country where Islamophobia is high. He did what the magazine Charlie Hebdo did in 2015, when this right-wing magazine published caricatures of the prophet Mohammad.

His executer, 18-year-old Chechen Abdullakh Anzorov, was killed by the police 600 meter from the school.

We revolutionary Marxists do not support the method of individual terror but we do not see the bigot Samuel Paty as any kind of an innocent martyr of free speech.

The reason we do not support individual terrorism even against a member of the ruling capitalist government, not to speak of a bigot teacher was explained long ago by Trotsky.

“In our eyes, individual terror is inadmissible precisely because it belittles the role of the masses in their own consciousness, reconciles them to their powerlessness, and turns their eyes and hopes towards a great avenger and liberator who some day will come and accomplish his mission. The anarchist prophets of the ‘propaganda of the deed’ can argue all they want about the elevating and stimulating influence of terrorist acts on the masses. Theoretical considerations and political experience prove otherwise. The more ‘effective’ the terrorist acts, the greater their impact, the more they reduce the interest of the masses in self-organization and self-education. But the smoke from the confusion clears away, the panic disappears, the successor of the murdered

minister makes his appearance, life again settles into the old rut, the wheel of capitalist exploitation turns as before; only the police repression grows more savage and brazen. And as a result, in place of the kindled hopes and artificially aroused excitement comes disillusionment and apathy.” (1)

President Emmanuel Macron said the attack bore all the hallmarks of an “Islamist terrorist attack”. (2) He claimed that the teacher had been murdered because he “taught freedom of expression.” (3)

The French government, that has used the Covid-19 to suppress social and democratic rights, has used this killing to mobilize against the French Moslem population as scapegoats. It not only called to support what they call “freedom of speech” and to pay tribute to the teacher who was beheaded near Paris for presenting caricatures of Islam’s Prophet Muhammad, but openly joined the demonstrations in support of Samuel Paty. France’s Prime Minister Jean Castex joined demonstrators on Sunday who rallied together across the country in tribute to this bigot. Some demonstrators held placards reading “I am Samuel” that echoed the “I am Charlie” after the racist newspaper Charlie Hebdo. (4)

The police arrested relatives of Abdullakh Anzorov and other Moslems among them a man who called for the dismissal of the teacher for inciting hatred against Moslems.

The ruling political circle is among the last one to speak about terrorism. During the Algerian struggle for independence the French Army killed more than one million Algerians which was state terrorism.

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 Tendency

In 1920-21, the Syrian anti-imperialist movement fought for the independence of Syria. In the summer of 1921 the French army burned down villages where support for the rebels was strong.

"In Vietnam through torture, executions, and incarceration the French committed genocide during the Indochina War. There is not enough information to even estimate a minimum. We can however count the Vietnamese killed when a French heavy cruiser shelled the civilian areas of Haiphong and killed more than 6000 civilians." (5)

"When the French colonised the region at the turn of the 19th century, Tuareg Muslims mounted fierce resistance, winning some decisive battles, but in the end, had to accept the superiority of France's weaponry." (6)

"Finally on 3 March 1917, a large French force dispatched from Zinder relieved the Agadez garrison, and began to seize the rebel towns. Large scale French reprisals were taken against these towns, especially against local marabouts, even though many were neither Tuareg nor supported the rebellion. Summary public executions by the French in Agadez and Ingal alone totaled 130." (7)

In 2013, imperialist France began its occupation of Mali. Already in 2013, the progressive journalist Glenn Greenwald commented in *The Guardian* about French terrorism in Mali: *"Western bombing of Muslims in yet another country will obviously provoke even more anti-western sentiment, the fuel of terrorism."* As the *Guardian* reports, *French fighter jets in Mali have killed at least 11 civilians including three children. France's long history of colonialization in Mali only exacerbates the inevitable anger."* (8)

Since then we can read every few days that the French army has killed, by what they call *"a mistake"*, Mali civilians including children. Yet according to the French gov-

ernment in a typical imperialist hypocrisy, the French army is fighting against Moslem terrorists. In reality, the French army tries to repress those who oppose France control of Mali.

As to the right of free speech and freedom of expression, while we support the right of the free speech, it is used many times by the capitalist media to distort reality. There is a limit. We do not defend the right to express hate propaganda against the working class and the oppressed. We call to smash the fascists, even more so when they are still relatively small in numbers. Those who claim that insulting the deep religious feelings of the Moslems should say openly that they support the right of the Nazi propaganda that used Anti-Semites caricatures like of *Der Stuermer* that incited hatred against the Jews. (9)

In fact, those who say that Paty was a great defender of freedom of speech, whether they understand it or not, are defending the right of the Nazis to publish anti-Jewish caricatures.

Footnotes

- 1) Leon Trotsky Why Marxists Oppose Individual Terrorism (November 1911)
- 2) <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-europe-54579403>
- 3) BBC France teacher attack: Rallies held to honor beheaded Samuel Paty
- 4) Associated Press: France's prime minister joins mass demonstrations over beheading of teacher Samuel Paty October 18 2020, <https://apnews.com/article/lyon-toulouse-lille-paris-france-e19a06d2f534302992aca77e4c75f6ea>
- 5) World History Biz: The Haiphong Incident, 14-06-2015
- 6) <https://www.trtworld.com/opinion/france-s-neo-colonial-war-on-terror-in-mali-25757>
- 7) https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kaoocen_revolt
- 8) Glenn Greenwald: The bombing of Mali highlights all the lessons of western intervention, *The Guardian*, 14 January 2013, <https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2013/jan/14/mali-france-bombing-intervention-libya>
- 9) <https://research.calvin.edu/german-propaganda-archive/sturmer.htm>

Books of the RCIT

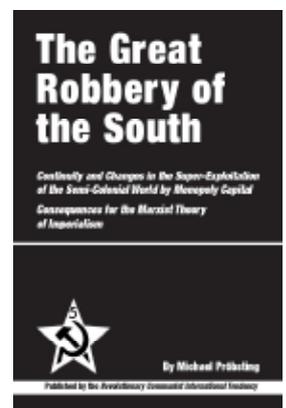
Michael Pröbsting: The Great Robbery of the South Continuity and Changes in the Super-Exploitation of the Semi-Colonial World by Monopoly Capital. Consequences for the Marxist Theory of Imperialism

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)



COVID-19: Madrid's Workers and Poor Protest against the Reactionary Lockdown Regime!

Against anti-democratic attacks! For expansion of the public health service!

Statement by the Revolutionary Communist International Tendency (RCIT), 2 October 2020

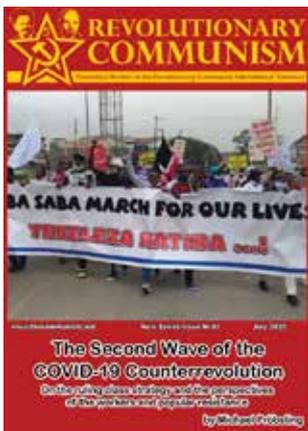
1. In late September, Madrid's regional authorities imposed a draconic lockdown in 45 districts, most of them low-income working class neighborhoods. People are not allowed to leave the area except for work, school or for medical care. Social gatherings are limited to six, public parks are shut and all establishments must close from 10pm. Nearly one million people are affected by this lockdown.

2. The conservative regional government justifies these measures with the rise of the infection rate. This is utter cynical and nothing but a pretext for a reactionary bonapartist policy. First, there are areas with higher infection rates which are not put under lockdown. Second, when people go to work they have to join the crowded public transport. So this is less dangerous than social gatherings of more than six people?! Obviously, double standards are applied. Third, Spain is a well-known example that the lockdown regime is a completely useless instrument against the Corona Virus. It imposed one of the most draconic lockdown regimes in spring and still had one of the highest mortality rates in the world! Compare this to Sweden which had no lockdown and, at the same time, a lower mortality rate than Spain. (In fact, as we demonstrated in other works, Sweden had no excess mortality at all if one compares the figures of the total first half year

2020 with that of the past 2-3 decades!)

3. In response to these draconic lockdown measures directed against Madrid's working class, spontaneous mass protests have erupted. In Vallecas and other working-class districts, thousands of people demonstrated against the lockdown. They shouted slogans like "Long live the fight of the working class," "Vallecas defends itself," "police leave our neighbourhoods," "Madrid always anti-fascist," and "less police and more health care workers." They stated their support of the national healthcare system and called for the resignation of the regional premier, Isabel Díaz Ayuso of the conservative *Partido Popular*. There were banners which read "more hospitals and less military" and "this is not confinement, this is the class struggle."

4. Spain's coalition government of the social democratic PSOE and the left-populist PODEMOS criticizes Madrid's regional authorities for half-hearted measures and wants to impose a lockdown in the whole of Madrid as well as other cities. This has provoked protests not only of the Madrid authorities (who want to limit the lockdown to the low-income working class districts) but also of other regional governments including that of Catalunya. Reflecting the bonapartist and militarized nature of the capitalist COVID-19 policy, Prime Minister Sanchez has even threatened to deploy 7,500 soldiers to the streets of Madrid



Publications of the RCIT

The Second Wave of the COVID-19 Counterrevolution

*On the ruling class strategy in the current conjuncture, its inner contradictions
and the perspectives of the workers and popular resistance*

By Michael Pröbsting, July 2020

Introduction * The localized version of Lockdown policy is spreading * New information concerning severity (or not so severity) of the pandemic * Telling figures for Europe, Sweden and Ischgl * The worst pandemic in Africa? Really? * Capitalism and care homes as deadly traps for old people * The real nature of the ruling class bonapartist offensive under the cover of COVID-19 * Why is the ruling class opting for a local lockdown strategy? * Excuse: A crisis characteristic for the present period of capitalist decay * The nature and inner contradictions of the local lockdown strategy * Preparing for a new counter-revolutionary offensive * The Lockdown Left: a never ending embarrassment * The shameful example of the PSTU/LIT-CI * The imperialist aristocratism of the Lockdown Left * Building a Revolutionary World Party * Footnotes

A RCIT Pamphlet, 20 pages, A4 Format

to impose the lockdown!

5. The *Revolutionary Communist International Tendency* (RCIT) strongly welcomes the spontaneous working class protests in Madrid! They show that more and more people are no longer frightened and paralyzed by the governments' systematic campaign to utilize the COVID-19 crisis for their political and economic interests. We have already seen spontaneous workers and popular rebellions against the bonapartist Lockdown regime in various countries in Africa and Latin America as well as in China. However, the protests in Madrid are the first of such kind in Europe. These mobilizations contrast positively from various demonstrations in Europe and North America against the governments' COVID-19 policy. Until now various demonstrations in Britain, Germany, U.S. and other countries had a petty-bourgeois populist character. This offered space for right-wing provocateurs and weirdos in tin foil hats who try to exploit the legitimate popular outrage against anti-democratic attacks for their reactionary policy. This shows that if the leadership of the workers movement and left fails to take up the cause of the democratic struggle against the bonapartist Lockdown policy, it opens the field for reactionary populist forces. The rebellion in Madrid however demonstrates that even the worst treachery of the reformists can not break the spirit of resistance of the workers and poor!

6. It is not only the ruling class in Spain which is promoting a bonapartist anti-democratic and pro-business agenda by creating a regime of fear and hysteria. Similar public campaigns followed by draconic Lockdown attacks are taking place – or are in preparation – in Britain, France and other countries. Another actual example can be seen in Israel where the ultra-right-wing government of Netanyahu imposed another Lockdown which also bans all demonstrations. This development does not come as a surprise. The RCIT has already warned in July that the ruling class will again wipe up a campaign of fear and hysteria in order to justify a second wave of the COVID-19 Counter-revolution in form of local Lockdowns.

7. It is important that the workers and poor in Madrid build workplace and neighborhood assemblies which meet regularly and elect delegates in order to discuss and decide about the next steps in the struggle. This could encourage workers in other parts of the country in order to build a national movement against the lockdown policy and for an expansion of the health system as well as for a program against the economic depression. It will be also important to advocate the formation of self-defense units in order to defend the people against the police repression and to drive the repression forces out of the working class neighborhoods. Revolutionaries have to advocate a program focused on the expansion of the public health sector under workers control which must include, among others, free mass testing and special protective measures for people in nursing homes (who constitute by far the largest segment of vulnerable people). Furthermore, revolutionaries need to advocate nationalization of the corporations under workers control, a public employment program for the unemployed, and the abolition of all anti-democratic measures.

8. The RCIT has elaborated in numerous documents from early February onwards that while COVID-19 is a serious pandemic it is, however, not unique. The world

has experienced several pandemics in the past decades which resulted in the death of millions of people (e.g. the so-called *Asia Flu* in 1957-58, the so-called *Hong Kong flu* in 1968, HIV/AIDS, severe Influenza seasons, etc.). In addition, one should not forget to view the COVID-19 crisis in proportion to other diseases and preventable health risks (respiratory infections, tobacco, alcohol, etc.) which also cause millions of death every year. In other words, COVID-19 is not "*the worst pandemic*" (as the fear-mongering governments and media tell us) and it definitely does not justify in any way draconic lockdown regimes, imposing a stage of siege and wide-reaching attacks on democratic rights. In fact, this pandemic is utilized by the ruling class as a pretext to promote specific political and economic interests of the ruling elite. Their real goal is to justify the expansion of the police and surveillance state, to find a scapegoat for the Third Depression of the capitalist world economy, to use it as an instrument against Great Power rivals, to help creating extraordinary business opportunities for capitalist corporations in industries like drugs, biotechnology, robotics, Artificially Intelligence and the whole IT industry, the online retail sector, etc.

9. It is a scandal that large sectors of the so-called "left" – the Stalinists, Bolivarians, left social-democrats and most "Trotskyists" – fully support the bonapartist Lockdown policy. In Spain, the *Partido Comunista de España* – the historic party of Spanish Stalinism – and its ally *Izquierda Unida* are even part of the pro-Lockdown government coalition which has ordered the army on the streets in spring. It reflects the total degeneration of large parts of the so-called "left" that they openly support the historic attack on democratic rights which has been taken place globally since half a year. This policy which the RCIT characterizes as *social-bonapartist* – "socialist" in words but bonapartist in practice – underlines that the Lockdown Left is isolated from the masses of the working class and rather adapts to the prejudices of the liberal middle class and the labor aristocracy which, in turn, are tied to the bourgeoisie's apron strings. Hence, the workers and poor uprising in Madrid is not only a warning shot against the government but also a slap in the face of the Lockdown Left which pathetically repeats the "*Stay at Home!*" phrases of the ruling class in order to isolate and atomize the popular masses. Any struggle against anti-democratic bonapartism and militarization and for a social and health program must go hand in hand with an intransigent fight against the treacherous reformist leadership of the workers and popular organizations and its social-bonapartist policy.

10. It is to be hoped that the encouraging example of the Madrid workers and poor spreads to other countries and helps to prepare a global uprising against the COVID-19 counterrevolution. The RCIT repeats its call to revolutionaries for close collaboration and, if possible, fusion of their forces on the basis of an unambiguous socialist, internationalist and democratic program against the Triple Crisis of Third Depression, chauvinist state bonapartism and COVID-19 pandemic! This is the road on which the RCIT hopes to fight alongside other revolutionary forces in building a new World Party of Socialist Revolution!

International Bureau of the RCIT

Britain: Fascists harras Migrants & Asylum Seekers

Build Self-Defense Guards to protect our Brothers and Sisters against Fascists!

Article by Laurence Humphries, RCIT Britain, 16 September 2020

Hundreds of asylum seekers, refugees and migrants crossing the channel from France have been kept in what one may call concentration camps. They are fleeing imperialist war mainly in Syria, Iraq and parts of the Middle East and are seeking refuge and refugee status to stay in Britain. Many of them have travelled in small boats and craft in dangerous conditions, often with children or elders with them.

What has been the response of the Boris Johnson government? Its inhuman response was to treat them as an invading military force. Johnson's Home Secretary Priti Patel, probably the most racist and chauvinist of Johnson's Ministers, used the military including the Navy to attack and prevent these people from coming to Britain which is their right even under International Law. Patel has continued to strengthen border controls using the coastguard and other armed vehicles to stop migrants entering Britain. This is the result of British imperialism which is built on racism, chauvinism and hatred of semi colonial peoples. A great majority of our brothers and sisters are now being held in Yarlswood, an immigrant detention centre, while others are housed in hotels in Dover and Birmingham.

This has led to Fascists from Britain first harassing and photographing migrants, questioning them and making the migrants fearful of their lives.

"The leader and deputy leader of the far-right group Britain First have been charged with religious harassment. Paul Golding, 35, and Jayda Fransen, 31, both from Penge, south-east London, were arrested in May. Kent Police were investigating the distribution of leaflets in the Thanet and Canterbury areas, and the posting of online videos during a trial at Canterbury Crown Court in May. Both have been bailed to appear before Medway magistrates on 17 October. Ms Fransen has been charged with four counts of causing religiously aggravated harassment. Mr Golding has been charged with three counts" [1]

"A far-right British group has sparked outrage after releasing a series of videos in which they harass asylum seekers housed

at hotels. In one video released by Britain First, circulated widely on social media, the far-right activists enter a hotel in Bromsgrove, near Birmingham, and interrogate asylum seekers, accusing them of wasting taxpayers' money.

"In the video, they bang on bedroom doors, demanding to know what country the asylum seekers are from. They also accuse hotel management of housing "illegal immigrants" and insist they have the right to enter the hotels. Andy Hewett, the head of advocacy at the Refugee Council, condemned Britain First's actions as "shameful".

"People who come to the UK in search of safety and protection deserve to be treated with respect and dignity," he said.

"It's shameful that far-right groups feel entitled to intimidate people seeking asylum and make them feel so unwelcome"[2].

Cancer of Britain's Politics

The fascists who are some of Boris Johnson's strongest supporters during the Brexit spew out hatred and unashamed racism. They are aligned and close to Tommy Robinson of the English Defense League (EDL) and continue to stir up racial divisions as the Nazis did during the 1930s. They are a cancer in the body politic and must be driven off the streets of Britain.

"Members of the far-right group Britain First filmed themselves hounding refugees staying at the Daresbury Park Hotel, in Warrington, Cheshire, in scenes that have been branded 'thuggish' by anti-racism campaigners. The far-right 'cowards' filmed themselves randomly knocking on doors in the Daresbury Park Hotel, in Warrington, Cheshire, and then interrogating anyone who answered.

In scenes that have been branded 'thuggish' by campaigners, the members repeatedly asked refugees which countries they were from.

At one point a Britain First member confronted an Iranian guest in the lobby of the hotel and ranted about his taxes being spent on the man's accommodation"[3].

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)



"Eleven Syrian asylum seekers have been abandoned outside the airport in Madrid where a Home Office charter flight deposited them, the Guardian has learned.

The men, ranging in age from 18-45, said they had been sitting in temperatures of 32 degrees since their flight landed in the Spanish capital at around 10am on Thursday morning.

The asylum seekers said many of them were removed from the UK without their identity. One man said he had worked as a farmer before the conflict in Syria began, and that he had left his wife and four children, hoping to bring them to join him if he was granted refugee status in a safe country.

Syrian refugee claims are generally accepted in many European countries but the Home Office sent the 11 men back to Spain because all had been fingerprinted by the police there" [4].

This shows the callous attitude of Patel and the Johnson government who, using their Brexit arguments, are just deporting anyone who they consider undesirable. These people have a right to asylum and safe from harassment from fascist scum, but the actions of this reactionary government are enabling the actions of the fascists. This is the true face of Brexit as advocated by the Tories. Patel has already started to attack fundamental democratic rights of protest and expression by stating that Extinction Rebellion (the climate change activist group) should face criminal charges, in fact criminalizing a whole section of society who wants to express their rights on the issue of climate change. Deportations continue in secret. It is only because of the COVID-19 pandemic that flights are being restricted but they go ahead without any democratic accountability back into the war zones created by the imperialists.

Authentic Marxists fight for Open Border

The RCIT in BRITAIN advocates against immigration controls and for free movement by all. Immigration policies are racist and chauvinist and should never be supported by Marxists (the centrist opportunists of the CWI have not learn this lesson yet and support immigration control irrespective of its racist nature).

In one of our plenty articles on open borders, the RCIT stated correctly what is still true today: "The RCIT calls the workers movement, migrant and popular organizations in Europe to jointly fight for the immediate opening of the borders of European Union! We say: down with the overcrowded refugee camps on Greece's islands which are nothing but open-air prisons! There is enough space in Europe for refugees: every major city has tens of thousands of empty apartments! Open the la-

bour market for refugees who would enable them an independent income and, furthermore, it would also allow a cut in working hours for Europe's workers. The bourgeois governments and their media claim that there is not enough money for refugees. What a silly lie! Europe is home of hundreds of billionaires – lazy parasites who got rich at the expense of the workers in Europe and the South! Let us take the money from them with a special tax so that they, for once, could make a useful contribution to the society!

We know that refugees are often victims of brutal attacks by racist and fascist gangs as well as of reactionary police forces. It is urgent that the workers and popular organizations, in cooperation with migrants and refugees, build self-defence units in order to prevent such racist aggressions." [5]

The RCIT in BRITAIN puts forward these transitional demands to combat fascism and racism, to protect migrants and refugees from provocations and attacks, to unite with all oppressed and to fight together for equal rights for all!

* Open the borders for all refugees, migrants and asylum seekers! Equal rights and equal pay for all migrants and refugees! Unconditional and immediate full citizenship rights for all people who live in Britain!

* Call on the Labour and Trade Union movement to campaign through demonstrations, pickets and occupations against the Fascists! It is the responsibility of the Trade Unions to defend migrants from being attacked by this Fascist filth!

* Organize Armed Self-defence Units to protect and defend asylum seekers and refugees from attacks by the fascist gangs of BRITAIN FIRST and against any police provocations!

* In the current crisis of pandemic, recession and fascist attacks: Organize rallies and strikes up to an indefinite General strike to rid ourselves of this racist and chauvinist government! We fight for a Workers Government, based on mobilisations on the streets which can stop fascist attacks for good!

Join the RCIT and help us to build the Fifth International – a World Party of Socialist Revolution!

Footnotes

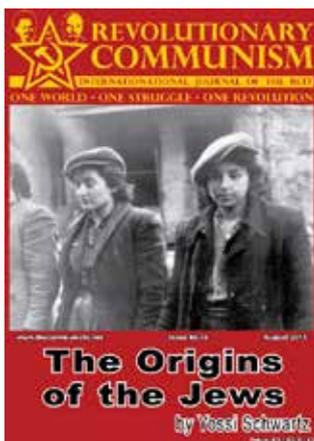
(1) <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-kent-41338328>

(2) <https://www.middleeasteye.net/news/britain-first-out-rage-harassing-asylum-seekers>

(3) <https://www.mirror.co.uk/news/uk-news/cowardly-britain-first-go-migrant-22595314>

(4) <https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2020/sep/03/we-dont-know-what-to-do-asylum-seekers-flown-to-spain-by-home-office>

(5) <https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/europe/open-europe-s-borders-for-syrian-refugees-now/>



Publications of the RCIT

The Origins of the Jews

By Yossi Schwartz, July 2015

Chapter I: What are the origins of the Jews?

Chapter II: The Rise of Anti-Semitism

Chapter III: Anti-Semitism and Zionism

Chapter IV: The Russian Revolution:

Bolshevism, the Bund, and Stalinism

Thailand: Another Bloody Crackdown Looms against the Democracy Movement!

Down with the military dictatorship! Abolish the monarchy!

Emergency Statement by the Revolutionary Communist International Tendency (RCIT), 15 October 2020 (13.00 UTC)

1. Today, at 4.00am local time, Thailand's military regime led by General Prayuth Chan-ocha imposed a draconic state of emergency. The ruling bans unauthorized gatherings of more than five people and gives authorities other powers they deem needed to prevent unrest, including detaining people at length without charge. It also outlaws the news that "distorts information" or could cause a "misunderstanding." Authorities also arrested several top protest leaders – among them Arnon Nampa, Panusaya "Roong" Sithijirawattanakul, Parit "Penguin" Chiwarak, and Jatupat "Pai Daodin" Boonpattaraksa. All of them, except the first one, are in their 20s. While other leaders of the democracy movement have vowed to continue their demonstrations, the army command threatens to brutally smash any new protest assembly.

2. The crackdown comes after unprecedented mass protests yesterday. In their largest demonstration yet with up to 100,000 people, the student-led movement marched on the anniversary of a 1973 student-led uprising against a military dictatorship. The protest escalated as King Maha Vajiralongkorn and other key member of the royal family visited the area at the same time. That led to a moment captured in photos and video that circulated widely on social media in which protesters gestured and shouted just meters from the royal motorcade. Such actions are unprecedented in Thailand, where those waiting for a royal motorcade regularly sit on the ground or prostrate themselves.

3. The current demonstrations are the latest high-point of three months of protests which have been started by a new generation of young students. They denounce the elections last year which the regime manipulated in order to make General Prayuth – the leader of the military coup in 2014 – the new Prime Minister. They call for Prayuth's resignation, for a new constitution and an end to the harassment of activists. Other demands are for curbs

on the constitutional powers of the king and for him to transfer back personal control he took of some army units and a palace fortune valued in the tens of billions of dollars.

4. The *Revolutionary Communist International Tendency* (RCIT) states its full and unconditional solidarity with the democracy movement! It is urgent now to broaden the movement and call for a *general strike* against the military crackdown. The students must energetically work towards mobilizing the workers and poor peasants. In the past weeks there have been already some links with activists of the so-called "*Red Shirts*" movement affiliated with former prime ministers Thaksin and Yingluck Shinawatra who were both overthrown in the past by military coups. Despite their suppression by the regime the "*Red Shirts*" still have strong roots among the popular masses.

5. In the current situation, revolutionaries need to focus on democratic demands including the removal of the draconic lese majeste law, the right to assembly, free press, etc. as well as the abolition of the monarchy. Furthermore, socialists should call for the election of a *Revolutionary Constituent Assembly* under the control of the armed people. Students, workers and peasants must create self-defense guards in order to protect their protests. They should work towards a *general strike and popular uprising for the overthrow of the Prayut Chan-o-cha regime!* Any lasting solution requires the creation of a workers and poor peasant government which *nationalizes the corporations and banks under workers control, which expropriates the big land estates in order to improve the situation of the small and landless peasants and which breaks the country's domination by imperialist Great Powers – most importantly the U.S. and China!*

International Bureau of the RCIT

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

Thailand: Over 100,000 Students and Workers Demonstrate against the King and the Regime

Article by Laurence Humphries, RCIT Britain, 2 October 2020

Since July 2020 there have been continual protests by students and workers calling for the resignation of Prayut Chan-o-cha (Prime Minister of Thailand) and for an end of the monarchy. This regime, which will not relinquish power, is hated and despised for its decision to ban the *Future Forward Party*, a bourgeois party campaigning for democracy. In Thailand, its leader was arrested and the party was banned preventing it from standing candidates or fight against these anti-democratic practices. The Thai regime overthrew the Yingluck Shinawatra government in 2014.

In 2019 the *Pheu Thai Party* polled enough votes to at least challenge for power. This was thwarted by Prayut Chan-o-cha and his party, Palang Pracharat, because as the Prime Minister at the time of the election he was able to appoint 250 military personnel to the Senate and thereby ensure his majority under Thailand's anti-democratic constitution.

"Openly challenging the rule of Thai King Maha Vajiralongkorn, thousands of protesters have marched in Bangkok for the second straight day to present demands that include a call for reforms to curb his powers.

Protesters have grown bolder during two months of demonstrations calling for reform of the monarchy, as well as for the removal of Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha, a former military government leader, and a new constitution and elections-dominated establishment. The king is not in Thailand, and the Grand Palace made no immediate comment.

The marchers were blocked by hundreds of unarmed police manning crowd-control barriers, but protest leaders declared a vic-

tory after saying Royal Guard police had agreed to pass on their demands to police headquarters." [1]

King Vajiralongkorn is contemptuous of his subjects and while Covid-19 was raging through Thailand, he left the country with his entourage and harem of consorts and booked himself into a hotel in Germany. He is still there together with over 70 million baht from the Thai treasury. This decision has all the makings of a decadent regime accepting diktats from a corrupt monarchy.

"Demonstrators want a revised constitution and are also calling for reform of the monarchy - a sensitive subject in Thailand. Under Thai law, anyone criticising the royal family faces long prison sentences. There have been almost daily student-led demonstrations in recent weeks. Several protest leaders have been arrested.

But organisers said they hoped Sunday's rally would show broader support for change beyond the student groups. We want a new election and a new parliament from the people," 24-year-old student activist Patsalawalee Tanakitwiboonpon told the cheering crowd. 'Lastly, our dream is to have a monarchy which is truly under the constitution.'" [2]

Red Shirts of the United Front for Democracy Against Dictatorship join the Protests

The most significant development of this growing protest movement has been the involvement of the *Red Shirts*, seasoned supporters of Thaksin Shinawatra – the founder of the Thai Rak Thai Party. Shinawatra had the backing of his veteran supporters (mainly workers) as his petty bour-

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



geois messages attracted support from the urban poor and the proletariat in Thailand. It was due to their support that the Shinawatra clan was able to win power and allow a minimum programme of reforms like the rice allowance under Yinluck Shinawatra's government, which helped workers who worked in the rice fields.

"The mostly young demonstrators, who began the day by assembling at Tha Prachan campus of Thammasat University nearby, have also vowed to press for a new constitution, an end to military-dominated government and reform of the monarchy, an issue that has provoked strong reactions from more conservative segments of society.

However, an increasing number of seasoned protest veterans from the red-shirt United Front for Democracy against Dictatorship (UDD), after keeping a low profile for the past few years, have decided it's time to throw their support behind the movement" [3].

"Our greatest victory in the two days is showing that ordinary people like us can send a letter to royals," Parit "Penguin" Chivarak, (who has since the demonstration been jailed by the regime) told the crowd before it dispersed.

At the biggest demonstration in years, tens of thousands of protesters on Saturday cheered calls for reform of the monarchy as well as for the removal of Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha, a former junta leader, and a new constitution and elections.

Shortly after sunrise on Sunday, protesters cemented a plaque near the Grand Palace in Bangkok in the area known as Sanam Luang, or Royal Field. It reads, "At this place the people have expressed their will: that this country belongs to the people and is not the property of the monarch as they have deceived us". [4].

For a Workers Government based on the Urban and Rural Poor

The RCIT fully supports the actions of the students and Workers who demonstrated in Bangkok. This was a historic moment in the revolutionary developments emerging in Thailand. The task in Thailand is to take these protests further and unite students, workers, the rural and the urban poor in a campaign of insurrection to remove the

Prayut Chan-o-cha regime and abolish the monarchy of King Vajiralongkorn. This can only be achieved through the construction of a revolutionary trained combat party. The regime and the king are the twin pillars of an authoritarian Bonapartist dictatorship. Bourgeois democracy in Thailand is being erased. The importance of these demonstrations cannot be underestimated. Workers and particularly the most progressive wing of the Red Shirts in the United Front for Democracy Against Dictatorship (UDD) and the militant students will form the backbone of a revolutionary movement dedicated to overthrowing this regime.

We would welcome discussions with workers and students about our programme, which we present as a basis for discussion on the way ahead for students, workers, the urban and rural poor.

** For the expropriation of big business and International Corporations. Nationalize the Banks under workers control!*

** For a Revolutionary Constituent assembly where full democratic discussion can take place based on Councils of action and popular assemblies.*

** Continue to support the current demonstrations of students and the urban poor! Organize strikes and protests leading to an indefinite General strike! For the overthrow of the Prayut Chan-ocha regime!*

** For armed self-defense guards to protect workers, students and communities from police provocations and fascist attacks!*

** Abolish the monarchy! For a Workers Government based on the rural and urban poor!*

** Join the RCIT and help us build the 5th International! Let us fight together for an international revolutionary movement dedicated to the destruction of Imperialism and Capitalism!*

Footnotes

- (1) <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2020/09/20/thai-demonstrators-challenge-monarchy-as-huge-protests-escalate/>
- (2) <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-asia-53798826>
- (3) https://www.bangkokpost.com/learning/easy/1988255/thousands-gather-at-sanam-luang?cx_placement=related
- (4) <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-thailand-protests/thai-protesters-challenge-monarchy-as-huge-protests-escalate-idUSKCN26A11V>

RCIT's International Secretary Michael Pröbsting Participates in Webinar with Kashmiri Politicians

Report by the Editorial Board of the RCIT, 14 September 2020

A webinar on the Kashmir question and the danger of a nuclear war in South Asia took place on 13 September 2020. It was organized and chaired by Naeem Khan, President of the Organisation for Human Rights in Asia (Vienna). The participants were Abbas Butt (Chairman of the Kashmir National Party, UK), Ghulam Hussain (Leader of the Kashmir Free Movement and General Secretary of the Jammu Kashmir National Independence Alliance) and Michael Pröbsting (International Secretary of the Revolutionary Communist International Tendency)

In his contribution, Michael Pröbsting emphasized the unconditional support of the RCIT for the national liberation struggle of the Kashmiri people. He also explained that the accelerating military tensions in South Asia are a result of the decline of the imperialist world order. As long

as the capitalist ruling classes remain in power, war is inevitable in the region.

It can be viewed below resp. on the RCIT's YouTube Channel: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uW7lphWAV14>



Kyrgyzstan: “October Revolution” Drives Out Authoritarian Government

Statement by the Revolutionary Communist International Tendency (RCIT), 08 October 2020

1. A revolutionary situation has opened up in Kyrgyzstan, a country of 6.5 million and one of the poorest in Central Asia. According to the official results of last Sunday’s election, two parties – one closely aligned with President Sooronbai Jeenbekov and another linked to a former top customs official – won the election. However, there is lot of evidence that this result has been massively manipulated. In response, mass protests in the capital, Bishkek, and other cities broke out and resulted in a popular uprising, now widely referred to as the “*October Revolution*”. They seized several government buildings in Bishkek, freed various politicians from jail and announced the overthrow of the President as well as of Prime Minister Kubatbek Boronov. Until now, fighting between the demonstrators and police resulted in one dead and up to 1,000 people injured.

2. At the moment, a power struggle is going on as President Jeenbekov refuses to resign. Opposition parties are divided in three groups. The first is a *Coordination Council* set up on October 6 and mainly composed of established political parties opposing Jeenbekov. The second is the *People’s Coordination Council*, which announced its existence on October 7 and which unites five lesser-known opposition parties whose leaders have not held any senior government positions. They call for a “*clean generation of politicians*” and a purge of the traditional elite. Finally, there is the *Ata Zhurt* party. It nominated former lawmaker Sadyr Japarov, who was freed from prison by protesters, as the new Prime Minister. However, other opposition parties oppose him and a parliamentary session electing Japarov failed to gather a quorum.

3. Kyrgyzstan, which already saw two major popular uprisings in 2005 and 2010, is a poor semi-colonial country, strategically located between China and Kazakhstan. While it was dominated by U.S. imperialism in the decade after the collapse of the Stalinist USSR in 1991, this has changed in recent past. Today, Kyrgyzstan is a semi-colony of Russian imperialism. It also hosts a Russian air base. Due to widespread poverty, up to 1.5 million Kyrgyz have left for Russia where they are super-exploited as migrant workers by Russian capitalists.

4. Consequently, Moscow is highly worried about the developments in its south. Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said that “*the situation looks like a mess and chaos*”. He pointed out that Russia has “*obligations*” under a security treaty between the two countries to avoid a complete breakdown of government. Alexander Bortnikov, the head of Russia’s FSB security service, has already spoken to the new acting security chief of Kyrgyzstan, Omurbek Suvaniyev. It is clear that Russian imperialism is determined to work towards “*restoring order*”, i.e. to liquidate the unrest and to re-impose a regime loyal to Moscow. We have already seen such a policy in Belarus where Putin supports the Lukashenko regime and its attempts to smash the popular protests. Understandable, Moscow fears that the spark of popular unrest could provoke similar mass protests in Russia itself. Furthermore, Putin is not willing

to let “*its semi-colonies*” come under the sphere of influence of rivaling Great Powers.

5. The *Revolutionary Communist International Tendency* (RCIT) strongly welcomes the “*October Revolution*” of the Kyrgyz workers and popular masses! It is important that the uprising is not hijacked by bourgeois opposition parties and rivaling factions of the elite. The popular masses should organize in councils elected in workplaces and neighbourhoods. They need to create popular militias in order to defend the protests against police and paid thugs.

6. Revolutionaries should advocate the creation of a *Revolutionary Constituent Assembly* which would be under the control of the armed and organized popular masses. The only way forward is the overthrow of the ruling class and the creation of a workers and popular government. Such a government should *nationalize the key sectors of industry, service and finance under workers control and without any compensation of the capitalists!* It should organize a *public employment program* under control of the workers and popular organizations. Such a program could abolish unemployment and poverty and help reconstructing the country. Furthermore, it would break Kyrgyzstan’s dependence of Russian imperialism as well as any other Great Power.

7. Likewise, it is urgent to link the mass protests in Kyrgyzstan with other popular uprisings like the ongoing liberation struggle in Syria against the Russian-backed Assad regime, in Iraq, Lebanon and Libya, in Kashmir, in China (East Turkestan and Hong Kong) and many other countries. The RCIT calls socialist activists to unite in building a *revolutionary party* as part of a new *Revolutionary World Party!*

** Build Workers and Popular Councils and Militias!*

** For a Workers and Popular Government!*

** Close the Russian air base! Kick out Russian imperialism and any other Great Powers!*

** Link the popular uprising with other revolutionary struggles in the Arab world and Asia!*

** Long live the socialist world revolution! Forward in building a Revolutionary World Party!*

International Bureau of the RCIT

What the RCIT Stands for

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

No future without socialism!

No socialism without a revolution!

No revolution without a revolutionary party!

