



LIBERATION

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WORKERS AND OPPRESSED, UNITE!

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Brexit: Theresa May Government on the Verge of Collapse

Fight for an End to Austerity! Organize against the Brexit Chaos!

By Joseph Adams, RCIT Britain, 26 February 2019

The Tory government of Theresa May is in an enormous crisis. Its ability to rule has been put to the test many times. She has been defeated on her plans for Brexit from the euro-sceptic wing of the party.

Meanwhile the pro-Europeans have lined up with the Blairites in the Labour party, the Liberal democrats and the SNP to oppose Brexit, but they are in a minority.

The biggest problem for the May government is the Irish backstop as the hard border with an EU country Eire which would mean tariffs restrictions and border controls for transport between England and Ireland. It would effectively stop all trade between the two countries. The European Union has said May cannot change the terms of the withdrawal agreement and the Irish backstop remains causing May to promise that she can persuade the EU to agree to her demands in an attempt to soothe her Brexiteers who are opposed to the Irish Backstop. May has

visited both Belfast in the North of Ireland and Strasbourg where she met with little success.

"Theresa May fired a warning shot at Brexit supporters on Tuesday, insisting there was "no suggestion" Britain would leave the EU without an insurance provision to protect against a hard border in Northern Ireland. At a speech in Belfast, May would only accept that technology could "play a part" in any alternative arrangements and that she would not countenance anything that would disrupt the lives of border communities. (...) However, speaking in Belfast, May said she knew there were anxieties in Northern Ireland about replacing the backstop arrangement and said there would always be an insurance option to prevent a hard border contained within the withdrawal agreement. "I'm not proposing to persuade people to accept a deal that does not contain that insurance policy for the future," she said". [1]

British Businesses are fearful that a no deal Brexit on the



Demonstrators at the March against Austerity, London 13 January 2019

29th March will lead to chaos. Food manufacturers have said that they will not be able to import or export their produce and there is fear of empty shelves in supermarkets leading to panic buying and stockpiling. Nissan, the Japanese car maker who promised to build car parts in Sunderland in the north of England, has now reneged on that promise and is now going to build the car parts in Japan.

"Nissan has confirmed it is abandoning plans to build a new model of one of its flagship vehicles at its Sunderland plant, as it warned that uncertainty over Brexit was affecting businesses. The Japanese car manufacturer announced in 2016 it would be making the new version of the X-Trail SUV at the factory in north-east England after receiving assurances about Brexit from the government, but on Sunday it said it would be produced in Japan." [2]

Honda has announced that it is closing its Swindon Plant further evidence that Brexit and its consequences is driving British Imperialism into an indeterminable crisis with no way out.

"Honda is planning to close its factory in Swindon, dealing what trade unions called a "shattering body blow" to the UK automotive sector, which is already wrestling with the effects of Brexit-related uncertainty. The Japanese carmaker is expected to announce as early as Tuesday that it is planning to shut its Swindon plant in 2022, in a move that would put 3,500 jobs at its only European production site at risk and threaten many more in its supply chain." [3]

Split in the Labour Party as 7 MP's Resigns from the Labour Party

Brexit has also created splits in the Labour Party with the right-wing Blairites talking and working with the May Government. On the 18th February 7 right wing Blairite MP's resigned from the Labour party and formed an in-

dependent group in Parliament. Led by Chuka Umuna, Chris Leslie and Luciana Berger these Blairites and Zionists MP's will seek to prop-up the Tories over Brexit and reduce Corbyn's Labour strengths in the Commons. It will give constituents in those working class constituencies an opportunity to choose candidates who will fight for socialism.

"The seven MPs who have quit in frustration at Jeremy Corbyn's leadership will go into the day hoping to persuade more parliamentary colleagues to join their grouping. If the Independent Group can convince another 29 disaffected MPs from any party to join them, they would gain official third party status – overtaking the SNP – and receive taxpayer funding. Those who resigned – Luciana Berger and Chuka Umunna, along with Ann Coffey, Mike Gapes, Chris Leslie, Gavin Shuker and Angela Smith – attacked Corbyn's leadership of Labour, accusing him of betraying members and the country with his Brexit stance". [4]

These MP's and there are likely to be many more are Tories in the Blair tradition. They have over the years supported Blair with his pro-imperialist and pro-capitalist views. They stand now as traitors and fifth columnists who have never espoused socialism and have remained pro-capitalist infiltrators in the Labour Party.

May has promised a cabal of right-wing MP's like Caroline Flint and John Mann who are MP's in deprived northern areas of Britain financial help and support for those communities. They are in effect bribing a layer of Blairites to go along with her Brexit plans in order to create problems for Jeremy Corbyn, the leader of the Labour Party, who favours a customs union and closer ties to the EU. The Blairites themselves are split between the Pro-Europeans like Yvette Cooper and Hilary Benn and others who are in Leave constituencies and fear losing their seats at the next election. Trade union bureaucrats like Len McCluskey of Unite, Dave Prentiss of Unison and Tim Roache of the GMB have been meeting May behind the backs of their

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WORKERS AND OPPRESSED UNITE!



LIBERATION is a Bulletin published by the RCIT Britain. The Revolutionary Communist International Tendency (RCIT) has sections and activists in Nigeria, Zambia, Kenya, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Yemen, Israel / Occupied Palestine, Brazil, Mexico, Britain, Germany, and Austria. Furthermore, the RCIT has fraternal relations with the Alkebulan School of Black Studies (Kenya), the Pan-Afrikan Consciousness Renaissance (Nigeria), Courant des Jeunes Penseurs Congolais (Democratic Republic of Congo), the Marxist Group 'Class Politics' (Russia) and Smif Savaşı (Turkey).

members and in opposition to Corbyn who was reluctant to meet her. This shows the true nature of this trade union bureaucracy which is corrupt as ever and remains very close to the capitalist class and will do a deal with May.

“Theresa May has sparked hopes among senior Labour figures that she is laying the groundwork to compromise on her Brexit deal after next week’s meaningful vote, following a flurry of contacts with union leaders and MPs in recent days. Conservative ministers were calling around Labour MPs on Thursday – including at least one member of the shadow cabinet – to gauge support for May’s deal if she beefs up pledges on workers’ rights. May spoke directly to Len McCluskey, the Unite general secretary who is a close ally of Jeremy Corbyn, and Tim Roache, the GMB general secretary. The calls – the first time she has spoken to either of the union leaders – were one demand made by a group of Labour MPs, including Gareth Snell and Caroline Flint, who met her in Downing Street earlier this week.” [5]

On the 20th February 3 Tory MP’s resigned from the Tory Party and joined the new Independent group of Labour Turncoats who have been added by Joan Ryan, the vicious Zionist MP for Enfield North who has conducted witch-hunts against perceived Anti-Semitism which in fact is Anti-Zionism. The Blairites and the Zionists working together have whipped up a scenario of racism and bigotry against the left wing leadership of Corbyn. There still remains a sizeable amount of Blairites still inside the Labour party organized around Watson, Benn, Cooper and Kinnock who will no doubt choose their moment to inflict as much damage as possible on the Labour party leadership of Corbyn. Their characterization of the Labour party as racist has been exposed when one of the defectors Angela Smith made an openly racist comment at a press Conference.

Threat of Military Involvement Post Brexit

British imperialism, fearful of a no deal Brexit and the lack of clarity from the Theresa May government, feels that Britain would be less safe with threats of terrorism and is now threatening military involvement after the deadline for Britain’s withdrawal from Europe. Gavin Williamson, the defence secretary, recently made a statement on using drone warfare will threaten the working class and the op-

pressed masses. This military power could be used against refugees and migrants and the oppressed as the imperialists try and defend Fortress Britain.

“Gavin Williamson said the specially-adapted drones could be in operation by the end of 2019. He also warned in a speech that the UK needs a bolder and stronger armed forces prepared to use “hard power Speaking at the Royal United Services Institute, Mr Williamson said Britain must stand up to those who “flout international law”. There was an extra £1.8bn for defence in the last budget and Mr Williamson said Brexit had brought the UK its “greatest opportunity” to strengthen its global presence. He said the military’s cyber capabilities will be reinforced to defend and launch attacks.” [6]

The RCIT in Britain advocates a bold policy to meet this crisis of Brexit and the breakup of bourgeois politics with splits amongst the bourgeoisie. The RCIT restates its views on Brexit:

** Expel the remaining Blairites and Zionists MP’s who have organised coups against the Jeremy Corbyn leadership!*

** For Open Borders! Migrants and refugees coming to Britain should have free movement. Reject immigration controls! No to Islamophobia, racism or fascist provocation!*

** Build action committees and self defence guards of the working class and the oppressed! Defend migrants and refugees from fascist or police provocation!*

** For a general strike to bring down this hated Tory government! For a Workers Revolutionary Government! Join the RCIT Britain!*

Footnotes

- 1) <https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2019/feb/05/theresa-may-wont-seamless-border-northern-ireland-brexit-belfast>
- 2) <https://www.theguardian.com/business/2019/feb/03/nissan-confirms-new-x-trail-will-not-be-built-in-sunderland>
- 3) <https://www.theguardian.com/business/2019/feb/18/carmaker-honda-plans-to-close-swindon-factory-reports>
- 4) <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2019/feb/19/tuesday-briefing-independent-group-aims-to-scoop-up-other-frustrated-mps>
- 5) <https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2019/jan/10/theresa-may-contacts-union-leaders-for-brexit-deal-support-from-labour>
- 6) <https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2019/feb/11/uk-will-deploy-drone-squadrons-after-brexit-says-defence-secretary-gavin-williamson>

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)*



Brexit: A Historical Defeat for the Tory Government!

Article by Joseph Adams, RCIT Britain, 16.01.2019

The 15th of January 2019 was a historic day. Theresa May and her government suffered one of the biggest defeats in Parliament in recent times. This was a historical moment for the British bourgeoisie who are in a terminal crisis. The repercussions will be felt throughout Europe and the rest of the world. Nearly a quarter of her own Party voted against her Brexit proposals. So did Labour, SNP and other smaller parties in Parliament.

"Theresa May has sustained the heaviest parliamentary defeat of any British prime minister in the democratic era after MPs rejected her Brexit deal by a resounding majority of 230." [1]
"Theresa May has pledged to face down a vote of no confidence in her government, after her Brexit deal was shot down by MPs in the heaviest parliamentary defeat of the democratic era. On a day of extraordinary drama at Westminster, the House of Commons delivered a devastating verdict on the prime minister's deal, voting against it by 432 to 202. The scale of defeat, by a majority of 230, was greater than any seen in the past century, with ardent Brexiters such as Jacob Rees-Mogg and Boris Johnson walking through a packed division lobby cheek-by-jowl alongside passionate remainers." [2]

Corbyn and the Blairites

On the 16th January, following May's defeat for her Brexit proposals, Jeremy Corbyn, leader of the Labour Party, tabled a motion of No-confidence in May and her government which is in a terminal crisis. Predictably the DUP voted with the government to ensure May survived the No Confidence vote by 325-306 a majority of just 19.

Of course Corbyn has his own opponents in the Labour party, the right wing Blairite faction who are opposed to Corbyn and do not want a general election where Corbyn would form a Labour Government. They are pushing for a second referendum to keep the Tories in power.

"Half a dozen Labour MPs came out in support of a second referendum for the first time at a Westminster photocall, arguing it was the "the only logical option" if the party could not secure a general election.

The timing of the demand, a couple of hours before Jeremy Corbyn was due to open the no-confidence debate, irritated the party's leadership, who said afterwards that another national poll was "not the default option" if the Commons vote was lost. But in response, Corbyn's spokesman said in a briefing that a second referendum was "not the default option". When asked if the MPs' actions were a distraction, he added right now the priority is to bring about a general election; we've got a no-confidence motion down today. Not one of these MPs cares about removing a Tory government, in response to a picture of the photocall". [3]

This action is typical of these Blairite MP's who are more interested in defending the interests of European imperialism than fighting for an end to austerity, homelessness and racism. They have organized coups against Corbyn who is the elected leader of the Labour Party. They should be de-selected in the case of an election and expelled from the Labour party!

The crisis of British Imperialism is a reflection of the crisis of the world-wide crisis of imperialist nations. There is mass opposition by the working classes and the popular

masses against austerity and poverty in France (the yellow vests movement), Greece and Hungary. In the United States there exists a wide opposition against the arch-reactionary and chauvinist Trump Administration. Everywhere imperialism is riven by the inner contradictions of capitalism and the onset of recession and slump. That is what drives them with such ferocity and hatred against the working masses. The RCIT stated this with such clarity in its recently published *Open Letter*.

"We are living in historic times. Everyone with open eyes can see that the imperialist world order is in severe turmoil. We are heading towards a political volcano eruption. The stock markets are in panic, reflecting the capitalists' fear of another, imminent Great Recession which will be even worse this time than in 2008/09. The tensions between the imperialist Great Powers are rapidly accelerating as indicated by the looming Global Trade War, the tensions in the South China Sea, at the Russian-Ukrainian border, the new imperialist scramble for Africa, etc. President Trump's decision to withdraw substantial numbers of U.S. troops from the Middle East and his admission that the U.S. cannot continue to be "the policeman of the world" reflect the official end of the absolute domination of the former super-power. Only a political blind can ignore that the future will be decisively shaped by the rivalry between the imperialist Great Powers – the U.S., China, the EU, Russia and Japan." [4]

The central task in Britain is to push the trade unions and other mass organizations of the working class to organize the struggle on the streets and the work places. The alternative is not to choose between European or British imperialism (i.e. if the UK should remain or leave the EU) but to fight against austerity and against racism. Such a struggle should be combined with the perspective to bring down the Tory government

The RCIT Britain restates its positions:

** For Open Borders! Opposition to racism, chauvinism and immigration controls!*

** Critically support the Pro-Corbyn faction in the Labour party against the right-wing Blairites! Expel and deselect all Blairite MP's from the Labour party!*

** In the event of a general election we would call for a critical vote for the Labour Party.*

** For an indefinite general strike to overthrow this hated Tory Government: For a workers revolutionary government.*

** For revolutionary defeatism. Reject both imperialist camps - Remain and Brexit! For international working class solidarity!*

The RCIT in BRITAIN calls on all workers and oppressed to study our program at www.thecommunists.net/

Footnotes

1) <https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2019/jan/15/theresa-may-loses-brexit-deal-vote-by-majority-of-230>

2) <https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2019/jan/15/theresa-may-suffers-historic-defeat-as-tories-turn-against-her>

3) <https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2019/jan/16/labour-mps-declare-support-for-second-brexit-referendum>

4) <https://www.thecommunists.net/rcit/open-letter-great-tasks-demand-great-initiative/>

UK: Peoples Assembly against Austerity March

Report (with Pictures) of the RCIT Britain, 13.01.2019

5,000 people demonstrated against the Theresa May Government against Austerity, Brexit and Homelessness. The march was dominated by the Socialist Party and the SWP plus other centrist groups. The main slogan was for a General Election Now and to elect a Labour government under Jeremy Corbyn. There were placards like "Britain is broken", "General election now – Tories out", "May must go", and "Kick out the Tories".

There were also banners from the Trade Unions including UNITE, National Education Union, UNISON, RMT, CWU and several Labour Party branches from London including Lambeth, Tottenham, Wood Green, Enfield North, Canterbury and Whistable New Forest and Liverpool West.

Other campaigning organisations also had banners on the march as well including the campaign against cuts in Disabilities and "Jewish Voice for Labour" – an Anti-Zionist organisation active in the Labour Party.

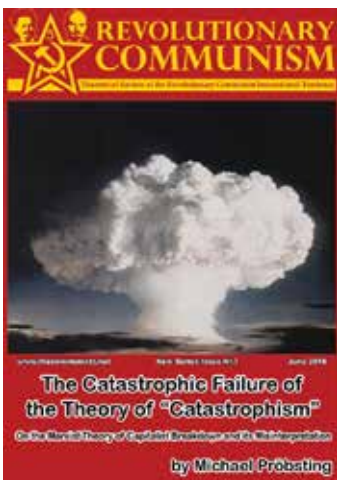
The Demonstration marched from Oxford Street to Trafalgar Square with a very heavy police presence from both the Metropolitan police and the City of London police. Chants on the march, accompanied by an Afro Caribbean band, were "Tories Out!", "General Election Now!", "May

out!", "Kick the Tories out!"

When the march arrived at Trafalgar Square there were several speakers including Steve Turner (Assistant General Secretary of Unite), Weyman Bennet (Stand Up to Racism) and Lindsey Germain (Stop the War Coalition). A speaker from the Yellow Vests campaign from France also spoke as did a former refugee from one of the Detention centres in Britain.

The main speaker was John McDonnell, Shadow Chancellor and Jeremy Corbyn's closest ally. McDonnell said that there should be a general election now to elect a socialist Labour Government. "We want to take power now", he said. There have been over 600 suicides from people sleeping rough in our streets. He said that May and the Tories want a no deal Brexit and on Tuesday in the House of Commons May will be defeated. "When the time comes and is right we will put a vote of No Confidence to bring forward a General election and the election of a socialist Labour government under Jeremy Corbyn"

No doubt, these are the reformist hopes of a reformist party leadership. The real task is to organize the class struggle in the workplaces and on the streets!



NEW RCIT PUBLICATION!

The Catastrophic Failure of the Theory of "Catastrophism"

By Michael Pröbsting, May 2018

On the Marxist Theory of Capitalist Breakdown and its Misinterpretation

by the Partido Obrero (Argentina) and its

"Coordinating Committee for the Refoundation of the Fourth International"

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

A RCIT Pamphlet, 32 pages, A4 Format

UK: Reject All Immigration Controls – No to Racism!

Reject All Immigration Controls – No to Racism and Chauvinism!

Article by Joseph Adams, RCIT Britain, 03.01.2019

Brexit is tearing both the Tory Party and the Labour Party apart. A no deal Brexit agreement is still on the cards. There are divisions in both parties which could lead to splits. Theresa May barely survived a no confidence in her own party over her plans for Brexit which are now in tatters. She agreed that she would not stand as leader in the event of a General Election.

“Theresa May has won a confidence vote in her leadership of the Tory party by 200 to 117. A majority of Conservative MPs backed her in a secret ballot after the prime minister signaled she would step down before the 2022 election”. [1]

May and the leadership of the Tory party remain jittery about the prospect of a no deal Brexit agreement. She has called for the use of troops to ensure essential supplies across the channel in the event of a no deal Brexit agreement.

“Emergency no-deal Brexit contingency plans must now be implemented across government, cabinet ministers have agreed, including reserving ferry space for supplies and putting 3,500 armed forces personnel on standby to deal with any disruption”. [2]

May's refusal to bring her Brexit plans to Parliament because she knows she will be defeated shows the weak position she is in. The DUP her partners in government are opposed to May's botched plan over Brexit which means on three occasions May has lost a vote over Brexit. She intends to bring her final plans to parliament on January 14th, despite the fact that she has lost votes over Brexit. However, May still remains as Prime Minister and refuses to resign.

Chauvinist Hysteria against Refugees

Recent developments have demonstrated the crisis of this Government. Many migrants and refugees from France have been hiring small boats to cross the channel to enter Britain before March 29th – the deadline for Brexit. There has been a campaign of hysteria in the capitalist media stoking flames of hatred and racism against migrants and refugees who are trying to enter Britain on these small crafts. This fear is to whip up divisions and split the working class.

“The home secretary, Sajid Javid, and his French counterpart have pledged to step up joint efforts to tackle cross-Channel people smuggling, as Labour accused the Conservatives of whipping up concern about the issue. On Monday, a group of 12 people, including a 10-year-old child, were being interviewed by immigration officials after they came ashore near Lydd-on-Sea, Kent. A Home Office spokesman said: “Border Force was contacted by Kent police at around 8.25am. Border Force officers were deployed to assist with a group of 12 migrants at Greatstone, Kent”. [3]

Labour, Corbyn and the Blairites

Jeremy Corbyn, the left wing leader of the Labour party, faces down his own inner-party opponents of the right

wing Blairite faction who are opposed to his position on Brexit and want a second referendum to overturn Brexit. The Labour Party at its Conference in 2018 resolved to push for a general election.

But the Blairites led by Chukka Umunna are desperate to prevent a General Election because they fear the election of a Corbyn led government and will do anything to derail Corbyn's plans. In fact the Blairites are the biggest supporters of British capitalism and as long as a second referendum is agreed by the government they will support the Tories. Umunna has been working for an alliance between pro-European Tories, Liberal Democrats and the SNP in a campaign for a second referendum to undermine Corbyn's leadership.

However, Corbyn still retains massive support amongst rank and file Labour party supporters who are opposed to the right wing inside the Labour Party. The Blairites have shown again and again that they are pro-capitalists and have nothing in common with ordinary working class members in the Labour party. The Blairites are desperate to remove Corbyn and split the party. If the Blairite MP's do not accept the democratically elected Leadership of the Party they should be deselected, purged and expelled from the Party.

Corbyn has stated his position on Brexit which is to work for a Customs Union. He accepts that many of his supporters in Leave constituencies support Brexit, but his main aim is to force a general election and force the hated Tory Government out of office.

“Jeremy Corbyn has defiantly restated Labour's policy of leading Britain out of the European Union with a refashioned Brexit deal, shrugging off intense pressure from Labour MPs and activists for the party to throw its weight behind a second referendum. The Labour leader insisted that even if his party won a snap general election in the new year, he would seek to go to Brussels and try to secure a better deal – if possible, in time to allow Brexit to go ahead on 29 March” [4]

Against both British and EU Imperialism!

The RCIT Britain has stated their position on Brexit many times:

“The RCIT Britain and its supporters advocated an abstention vote at the 2016 Referendum. We reiterate our position that neither imperialist option – imperialist Britain outside or inside the imperialist EU – is a solution for the workers and oppressed. The key task for Marxists is to help the workers vanguard taking an independent class position. Hence the RCIT steadfastly defends the orthodox Marxist position (...) to reject support either for the imperialist EU or for the imperialist nation-state. We stand for an independent position of the working class and, therefore, refuse to support both the pro-EU faction and the anti-EU faction of the imperialist bourgeoisie.” [5]

The dramatic events around Brexit are a reflection of massive political crisis in all imperialist nations, Britain is no exception. A period of crisis opens up for the bourgeoisie in every country. The failure of the ruling class to resolve

these contradictions has led to revolutionary developments around the world. In France the “Yellow vests” protest movement has shown the fragile nature of the bourgeois rule in France. The emergence of a mass movement similar to the Yellow vests movement is what the bourgeoisie fear could happen in Britain.

The RCIT Britain continues to oppose both reactionary options – an imperialist Britain ruled by the capitalist oligarchy inside or outside the EU. The working class must not allow itself being used by neither the pro-EU nor by the pro-nationalist factions of the bourgeoisie. In contrast, it must advocate a position of revolutionary defeatism, i.e. consistent opposition against all bourgeois factions and their imperialist plans! It must advocate international solidarity and support the right of migrants to come to Britain. It must orientate to joint struggles with protest movements of workers and oppressed in other countries – like e.g. the “Yellow vests” in France.

We put forward the following demands to unite the working class in a struggle against imperialist war, racism, chauvinism, poverty and austerity.

** For Open Borders! Migrants and refugees coming to Britain should have free movement! Reject immigration controls! No to Racism and Islamophobia!*

** Campaign in the Trade Unions and the working class move-*

ment to have all arrested migrants freed and released!

** For self-defense guards to protect migrants and refugees from fascist or police provocation!*

** For an indefinite general strike to unite the working class and oppressed to overthrow this hated reactionary Tory Government! For a Workers Revolutionary Government!*

** Reject both imperialist camps - Remain and Brexit!*

** Build a new Revolutionary World Party as a weapon to unite all workers and the oppressed to overthrow imperialism globally!*

Footnotes

1) <https://www.theguardian.com/politics/live/2018/dec/12/tory-mps-trigger-vote-of-no-confidence-in-may-amid-brexit-uncertainty-politics-live?page=with:block-5c117699e4b025637fe94420>

2) <https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2018/dec/18/brexit-cabinet-meets-to-discuss-ramping-up-plans-for-no-deal>

3) <https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2018/dec/30/uk-and-france-pledge-drive-to-tackle-people-smuggling-in-channel>

4) <https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2018/dec/21/jeremy-corbyn-labour-policy-leaving-eu>

5) <https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/europe/britain-no-deal-brexit-is-imminent/>

Books of the RCIT

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Anti-Imperialism in the Age of Great Power Rivalry

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

By Michael Pröbsting



Published by the Revolutionary Communist International Secretariat

Free Kashmir! Defeat India's and Pakistan's Warmongers!

Statement of the Revolutionary Communist International Tendency (RCIT), 27 February 2019

1) On 26 February, the Indian Air Force launched a military attack against Pakistan. 12 Mirage 2000 fighter jets crossed into the country and bombed a target in Balakot, a small town located in the hills of eastern Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province. While India media reports claimed 300 were killed, the Pakistani side denies any causality. On the next day, Pakistan military shot down two Indian aircraft inside its airspace and captured one pilot. At least four Pakistani civilians were killed later on the same day in the cross-border fire between the rivals.

2) India's government claims to act "in retaliation" for a guerilla attack in Pulwama, in Indian-occupied Kashmir, which took place on 14 February and which killed 42 Indian paramilitaries. New Delhi accused Islamabad of harboring the *Jaish-e-Mohammed* (JeM), the militant group that claimed responsibility for the attack.

3) This is the worst escalation of the conflict between the two South Asian neighbors was the first time since the 1971 war. A crucial factor behind this development is the fact that India's right-wing Modi government faces general elections to be held in April and May 2019. According to current poll, Modi's *National Democratic Alliance* – a coalition led by the Hindu-chauvinist *Bharatiya Janata Party* – is set to lose its parliamentary majority. Modi is therefore determined to utilize any possibility to wipe up Hindu chauvinism against the country's arch-enemy. The explosive potential of such military aggression between India and Pakistan is evident given the fact that both sides possess between 130 and 150 nuclear warheads each, according to SIPRI.

4) Meanwhile, Indian occupation forces are accelerating the repression against Kashmiri popular organizations. They conducted raids on the houses of four senior Kashmiri nationalist leaders, including the leader of the *Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front* Yasin Malik. A joint group of nationalist leaders have called for a two-day shutdown in Kashmir from 27 February to protest against the raids and "spree of arrests".

5) The *Revolutionary Communist International Tendency* (RCIT) and its South Asian members unreservedly condemn the Indian aggression. It is a cynical attempt of the increasingly unpopular Modi government to avoid electoral defeat. At the same time, we can neither support the neoliberal Pakistani government of Imran Khan. In a military conflict between India and Pakistan the RCIT calls socialists to lend no support to any side. In such a case, we call for a revolutionary defeatist position on both sides.

6) At the same time, we unconditionally support the liberation struggle of the Kashmiri people. Their land is divided and occupied between three powers – Indian, Pakistan and China. The majority of the 14 million people live under Indian occupation; most of the rest live under Pakistan occupation. The people of Kashmir have always strived for an independent state. Since the beginning of the popular uprising in 1989 in the Indian-occupied part of Kashmir, nearly 100,000 Kashmiri Muslims have been killed by Indian security forces. In addition, nearly 10,000 women have been gang raped by marauding bands of Indian soldiers. The Indian state has stationed about 750,000 soldiers and police forces in Kashmir which has a popula-

tion of only 8 million. This means that there is about one Indian soldier for every ten Kashmiris!

7) The RCIT calls for the withdrawal of all foreign troops (i.e. Indian, Pakistani and Chinese forces) from Kashmir. We call the Kashmiri workers, poor and youth to organize for a perspective of *mass struggle against the occupation*. While we defend the heroic guerilla fighters against the Indian repression forces, we consider their strategy as wrong and self-defeating. Neither do we support the ideology of petty-bourgeois nationalist and Islamist organizations in Kashmir. We call for the building of action committees in the work places and neighborhoods to organize the popular masses.

8) The RCIT fully supports the struggle of the Kashmiri people for independence. Such a free and independent Kashmir should be a country controlled by the workers and peasants and not by a small clique of capitalists and land owners. This is why we fight for *an independent socialist Kashmir*, i.e. a *free, united and red Kashmir!* As Marxists we combine such a slogan with the perspective of a *socialist federation of South Asia*. We call the international workers' and popular organizations to support the liberation struggle of the Kashmiri people.

9) We strongly condemn pseudo-Marxist or even "Trotskyist" groups in Pakistan and India which denounce the armed guerilla attack on 14 February, directed against Indian occupation forces, as "terrorism". They are unashamed to express their "sympathies and condolences" for the families of the soldiers which is nothing but a concealed form of solidarity with the Indian occupation forces! Worse, they even demand that "the Pakistan government must in any case be pressured to take action against the JeM!" (Joint Statement by the *Jammu Kashmir Awami Workers Party, Radical Socialist* (India) and the *Pakistan Trade Unions Defense*, 23 February 2019). These right-wing centrist forces, which all have relations with the Mandelist "Fourth International", capitulate once more to the pressure of bourgeois liberalism!

10) It is urgent to advance the creation of a revolutionary party in Kashmir, Pakistan, India and internationally. Only such a party can lead the liberation struggle of the working class and the oppressed people to victory! The RCIT and its Pakistani section call revolutionaries to join us in building such a party!

International Secretariat

We refer reader also to other statements of the RCIT on this issue:

After the Killing of Burhan Wani: Long Live the Kashmiri Intifada! Organize the Workers' and Popular Struggle to End the Indian Occupation! For a Free, United and Red Kashmir!, 21.07.2016, <https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/asia/kashmir-uprising/>

RWO: Pakistan – Prospects for revolutionary class struggle (2102), <http://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/asia/pakistan-action-program/>

Resolution on the Kashmir Question (2010), <http://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/asia/kashmir-resolution/>