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Workers and Oppressed Unite!

English-Language Journal of the Revolutionary Communist International Tendency (RCIT), No. 156, April 2024

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Picture on the cover: Mass demonstration in London in solidarity with Gaza (Source: Stop the War Coalition, <https://www.stop-war.org.uk/article/the-pro-palestine-movement-has-exposed-the-cynicism-of-political-elites-where-will-that-energy-go-next/>)

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

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No to the Imperialist Intervention in Haiti!

Statement of the Revolutionary Communist International Tendency (RCIT), 4 March 2024

Haiti was the first country to become independent in Latin America. In fact, the Haitian revolution preceded the entire independence process that gave rise to the capitalist development in Latin America. But this development was, in relation to capitalism in other countries, late and never definitively broke with imperialist interference, which determined that all these countries went from being colonies to being semi-colonial nations. Haiti was not an exception to this rule, but rather became the most brutal expression of dependence and imperialist interference on a people.

"The World Bank, the report recalled, estimates that in 2023 poverty is likely to reach 34% and 63% of households and 40% of the population - more than 4.35 million Haitians - suffer from acute food insecurity, which affects children in particular and is due not only to the deficit in local production, but also to the dysfunction of the market supply chain, 'a direct consequence of insecurity.'" (Página 12, 24.01.2024)

February 7 was originally intended to mark the inauguration of the first democratically elected Haitian leader since the assassination of Jovenel Moïse in July 2021. However, the country is mired in a multiple crisis and the de facto prime minister, Ariel Henry, faces protests for failing to fulfil his promise to step down from power.

Faced with a process of political and social decomposition, with the actions of gangs of lumpens that confront the government but also massacre the population, the imperialist powers seek to intervene to support Henry's government and plunge the workers and poor even further into misery.

This is not a coincidence, since the current prime minister was not elected by the Haitian people, but rather imposed by the imperialist powers that make up the so-called Core Group. *"The Core Group is made up of the ambassadors of the USA, France, Spain, Brazil, Germany, Canada, the EU, as well as representatives of the UN and the OAS. This group was initially established as a facilitating entity for the work of the United Nations Mission for the Stabilization of Haiti (Minustah), deployed between 2004 and 2017, but in practice it serves to reach a consensus on the political positions of the powers in relation to Port-au Prince."* (DW, 18.07.2021)

Last year, Canadian warships were stationed on the Haitian coast, under the pretext of maintaining security in the face of the country's social crisis. Also in 2023, the UN approved Kenya's intervention in Haiti, with the sending a contingent of 5,000 police troops. However, this contingent has not yet arrived in the Caribbean country. However, should the troops enter Haiti, it will contribute to the collapse and social decomposition, since the Kenyan police are known for their brutality. Even organizations like Amnesty International, which have close relations to imperialist powers, have acknowledged that the Kenyan police has committed thousands of extrajudicial murders.

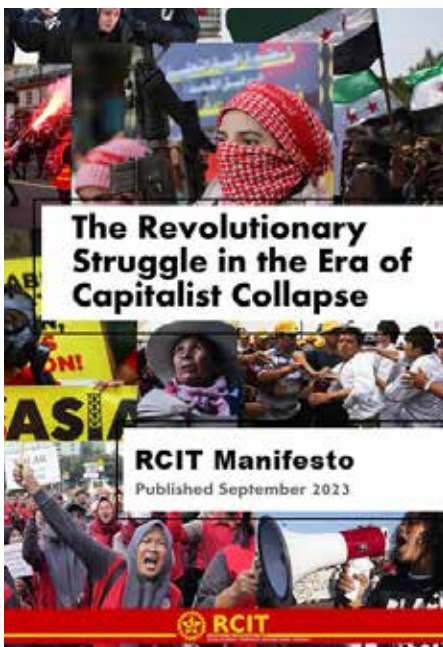
It is more than clear that the expansion of the imperialist intervention in Haiti will not serve to appease the current conflict and much less to guarantee a truly democratic solution that improves the situation of the Haitian people. That is why from the *Revolutionary Communist International Tendency (RCIT)*, we speak out against any imperialist intervention in Haiti, but also against the de facto government of Ariel Henry, a puppet of the great powers.

A truly democratic solution will only be possible by breaking ties with all the imperialist powers that today divide Haiti. Such a solution can only be carried out by a workers and popular government.

*Down with the imperialist intervention in Haiti!
Down with Henry's dictatorship!*

The RCIT reiterates that the only way forward for the popular masses in Haiti is the overthrow of Henry's reactionary and pro-imperialist government and the establishment of a workers and popular government based on councils and militias.

International Bureau of the RCIT



New Program of the RCIT

The Revolutionary Struggle in the Era of Capitalist Collapse

Adopted at the IV. World Congress of the RCIT in September 2023

- * Introductory Note
- * An Era of Catastrophes, Wars and Revolutionary Struggles
- * Wars of Oppression and Wars of Liberation
- * Capitalist Civilization Threats and the Struggle to Save Humanity
- * Capitalist World Economy and the Struggle for a Decent Living Standard
- * Their War of Ideas and Ours
- * The Struggle for Power to Open the Road to a Socialist Future

A RCIT Pamphlet, 20 pages, A5 Format

Israeli Anti-War Activists Call International Trade Unions to Boycott Arms Deliveries to Israel

By Adam Keller (for Gush Shalom) and Yossi Schwartz (for the ISL, RCIT Section in Israel / Occupied Palestine), 03.03.2024

Preface by the RCIT: Below we publish an important appeal signed by two leading representatives of *Gush Shalom* respectively of the *Internationalist Socialist League* (the RCIT Section in Israel / Occupied Palestine). *Gush Shalom* is a well-known peace organization on Israel, founded in 1993 by the late Uri Avnery (http://zope.gush-shalom.org/index_en.html).

Naturally, there exist important political differences between a pacifist organization like *Gush Shalom* and an international Trotskyist current like the RCIT resp. our comrades in Israel / Occupied Palestine. However, this does not stop us from joining forces in calling international trade unions to boycott arms deliveries to Israel. It is highly encouraging to see Israeli activists joining the global pro-Palestine solidarity movement in order to stop the Israeli genocide of the Palestinian people in Gaza!

We call activists all over the world to spread this appeal in their country and, in particular, in their trade unions in order to build a strong international movement for the boycott of arms deliveries to Israel.

* * * * *

The United States has a long-standing policy of providing Israel with massive amounts of military aid (which incidentally provides enormous profits to the American armament industries). This was greatly expanded and intensified since the outbreak of the current war in Gaza.

The constant flow of munitions from the United States - and to a lesser degree, from other Western countries - is completely indispensable for Israel to sustain its war. Israel's own armament industry could in no way provide for a massive bombing campaign, in which Israel in a few months threw far more bombs on a very narrow and overcrowded strip of land than what the US itself did over years of war in Afghanistan and Iraq.

Supplying arms to Israel has been traditionally justified as "helping Israel defend itself" and anyone objecting to it was castigated as "wanting Israelis to be exposed to danger". However, the war which Israel launched - ostensibly as a response to the deadly Hamas attack on Israeli communities and military outposts on October 7, 2023 - was soon revealed to have not the slightest resemblance to any kind of "self defence", and it was never meant to be such.

Rather, it is a completely unrestrained rampage, an orgy of killing and wanton destruction. Under a constant barrage of enormous one-ton bombs - of which a constant supply is provided to Israel by the boatload - schools, universities, Mosques (and some Churches), libraries, public buildings of any kind and most of the private houses in the Gaza Strip were destroyed or greatly damaged. The city of Gaza was left in ruins, as were many smaller towns and villages. Thirty thousand Palestinians were killed, including more than ten thousand children, and the death toll continues to rise. A million and half people were driven out of their homes, to live in horrifying conditions under the open sky. The International Court in the Hague, the highest tribunal

set up to deal with violations of International Law, met to hear South Africa's charge that Israel's acts in the Gaza Strip may culminate in actual genocide - the most terrible of all crimes. Sixteen out of eighteen judges - prominent jurists of various countries and backgrounds - were unanimous in taking very seriously the danger of genocide in the Gaza Strip. Specifically, The International Court found it plausible that Israel's acts could amount to genocide and issued six provisional measures: ordering Israel to take all steps within its power to prevent genocidal acts, including preventing and punishing incitement to genocide, ensuring aid and services reach Palestinians under siege in Gaza, and preserving evidence of crimes committed in Gaza.

The response of Israeli civil and military leaders was to make preparations for an all-out assault on the city of Rafah - the very place to which Israel had driven, in earlier stages of the war, a million and half Gazans displaced from their homes. Israeli leaders persist in making preparations for such an assault on Rafah, even though Israel's own allies warn that this may lead to a terrible carnage and an untold humanitarian disaster. Yet President Biden's making such dire predictions has not made him stop the constant supply of arms and munitions to Israel.

It was under these terrible circumstances that the Palestinian General Federation of Trade Unions (PGFTU) issued an urgent appeal calling on "trade unions in relevant industries" to refuse to build weapons destined for Israel as well as refusing to transport such weapons. Some unions in various countries did respond to that call. For example, five Belgian transport unions issued a joint statement saying they were refusing to load or unload arms shipments heading to the war zone, and the Barcelona dock workers' union announced that it "would not permit activity, in our port, of ships containing war materiel," and called for a ceasefire in Gaza.

We the undersigned, Israeli citizens and activists in political organizations, who are shocked and horrified by the acts of the Israeli government and armed forces, and who want to see a future of brotherhood between Israelis and Palestinians, regard the above acts by Belgian and Catalan trade unions as an appropriate and praiseworthy response to the terrible carnage in Gaza. We call on all other trade unions worldwide to emulate that example, refuse to build weapons intended for Israel and to load or unload such weapons.

Adam Keller (for Gush Shalom)

Yossi Schwartz (for the Internationalist Socialist League, RCIT Section in Israel / Occupied Palestine)

No to the Criminal Complaint against Pro-Palestine Activist Michael Pröbsting!

The following appeal has been signed by numerous organisations and individuals. If you want to sign it, please contact us here: rcit@thecommunists.net

* * * * *

Several pro-Israel forces in Austria have laid a criminal complaint against Michael Pröbsting, the International Secretary of the RCIT. This criminal complaint is based on "suspicion of incitement to commit terrorist offenses and approval of terrorist offenses in accordance with Paragraph 282a, Section 2 of the Criminal Code."

Michael is a long-time solidarity activist and has been a regular speaker at pro-Palestine demonstrations in Austria since many years.

The criminal complaint is based on a paragraph in the RCIT's statement from 7 October 2023 which has been distributed as a leaflet at demonstrations: "The RCIT reiterates that as long as the Zionist state exists, the Palestinians will con-

tinue suffering from state terrorism! This is why we stand for the socialist perspective of a democratic and red Palestine. We support the struggle for the destruction of the Zionist state and the right to return for all Palestinian refugees."

In consequence of the criminal complaint, Michael was summoned to the headquarters of the police in Vienna where he was asked about his political views on the Gaza War and his political activities. If the public prosecution department opens a court case he could, if convicted, face up to two years in prison.

The criminal complaint against Michael Pröbsting is part of a series of attempts to silence the voices of solidarity with Palestine.

The undersigned organisations – irrespective if they agree with the specific positions outlined in the above-mentioned quote or not – defend the democratic right of free speech and protest against such attempts to criminalise pro-Palestine activists.

Argentina: Legislators and Former Legislators from the Left Joined the Campaign in Solidarity with Michael Pröbsting

By the Executive Committee of Convergencia Socialista (RCIT Section in Argentina), 19.03.2024

Hundreds of democratic, union, left-wing, feminist and human rights personalities and organizations in our country have joined the campaign for an end of the persecution of our Austrian comrade, Michael Pröbsting, leader of the Revolutionary Communist International Tendency, who was accused by pro-Zionist forces in that country for his active role in solidarity actions with the Palestinian people.

Among these invaluable signatures are, as could not be otherwise - since solidarity with persecuted fighters must be taken as a matter of principles - several legislators and former legislators of the left, to whom we thank, from *Convergencia Socialista* and the RCIT, for their support:

Laura Marrone, former legislator of the City of Buenos Aires, *Izquierda Socialista* and the *Frente de Izquierda*

Jorge Altamira, leader of *Política Obrera* and former legislator of the *Frente de Izquierda*

Marcelo Ramal, leader of *Política Obrera* and former legislator of the City of Buenos Aires for the *Frente de Izquierda*

Mónica Schlotthauer, delegate of the railway workers and former national legislator, *Izquierda Socialista* and the *Frente de Izquierda*

Luis Zamora, Autodeterminación y Libertad, former legislator of MAS and AyL

Juan Carlos Giordano, national legislator for *Izquierda Socialista* and the *Frente de Izquierda*

Mercedes de Mendieta, national legislator for *Izquierda Socialista* and the *Frente de Izquierda*

Mercedes Trimarchi, legislator of the City of Buenos Aires, *Izquierda Socialista*, FITu

Pablo Almeida, legislator of the City of Buenos Aires, *Izquierda Socialista*, FITu, delegado estatal, ATE

Néstor Pitrola, legislator of the province of Buenos Aires, for the *Partido Obrero* and FITu



Michael Pröbsting

The Al-Rashid Street Massacre in Gaza: A Particularly Heinous War Crime Even for Israel's Standards!

By Michael Pröbsting, RCIT, 1 March 2024

Since nearly five months, the Israeli army is slaughtering the Palestinian people in the Gaza Ghetto on a daily basis. The Zionist monster tries to annihilate as many Palestinians as possible in order to expel the population from their homeland. In short, Israel commits a genocide, a new Nakba.

Even US Pentagon chief Lloyd Austin felt obliged to admit yesterday that more than 25,000 women and children have already been killed. (Revealingly, at the same time, he also said that the U.S. has sent about 21,000 precision-guided munitions to Israel since the start of its war!)

Still, yesterday's massacre at the al-Rashid Street stands out even among the horrendous series of Israel's war crimes. More than 100 Palestinians were killed within minutes after Israeli soldiers and tanks fired on a crowd of thousands waiting for desperately needed food assistance. These people have been bombed and starved by the occupation forces since months and, if that wasn't terrible enough, the Israeli troops kill them when they frantically try to get some food from aid trucks!

No doubt, this is a particularly heinous crime even for Israel's standards! The defensive and ill-prepared reaction of leading officials in Tel Aviv and Washington shows that they are fully aware of the seriousness of this war crime. Even Italy's right-wing government feels obliged to condemn this massacre and to demand an immediate ceasefire. At the meeting of the US Security Council last night, all states except the U.S. wanted to condemn Israel's massacre.

No doubt, the vast majority of the world's population strongly condemns Israel's war of annihilation against the Palestinian people. Even in the U.S. and Western Europe – Israel's most important allies without which it would no longer exist – most people demand an immediate ceasefire.

Israel's partners in crime

Still, the Zionist state can continue its genocide against the Palestinian people. How is this possible? It is possible because Israel is not alone – it has a few but very powerful partners in crime.

To put it short, this ongoing massacre can only take place because of Washington, Cairo, Riyadh and Abu Dhabi. The U.S., as it is well-known, delivers money and weap-

ons year for year and protects Israel against any international sanctions.

Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates make sure that the Arab states don't take any serious actions against Israel. Furthermore, these traitorous regimes have opened a land bridge to bring goods to Israel as Yemen's Houthis have shut down the Red Sea maritime transport route with its glorious strikes against Israel-linked ships.

And General Sisi's military dictatorship in Egypt saves the Zionist monster by keeping the border to Gaza closed for most of the time – it only opens to gates to Rafah with approval from Tel Aviv. In other words, Cairo helps Israel to starve the Palestinian people.

What has to be done?

The key task of the global pro-Palestine movement is to support the resistance and hit Israel and its partners in crime wherever possible. The mass protests all over the world must expand and intensify so that governments don't dare to support the Zionist genocide.

In Europe and the U.S., *transport workers and their unions must boycott all transport from and to Israel*. This is also relevant for India where Modi – leading a Hindutva-chauvinist government which brutally suppresses the popular masses, the Muslims, and the Dalits – sympathizes with the Zionist state. Likewise, we need a *global popular boycott of all Israel-linked corporations and goods*.

In the Middle East, the popular masses, and particularly transport worker, must boycott all trade with Israel. *The land bridge to Israel via Saudi Arabia, UAE and Jordan must be cut by any means necessary*.

In Egypt, the crucial task is to force the regime to open the border to Rafah and *to send the Palestinian people in Gaza everything they so desperately need – food, medicine and weapons!*

Brother and sisters, in the last five months we have built an unprecedented global pro-Palestine solidarity movement. This has shaken the world! But it is not enough! We must redouble our efforts in order to defeat the Zionist monster and to advance the liberation struggle of the Palestinian people!

Unity – Struggle – Victory!



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

Israel: To Whom the UN Belongs?

By Yossi Schwartz, *Internationalist Socialist League (RCIT Section in Israel/Occupied Palestine)*, 08.03.2024

The imperialist western and eastern are the constant members of the UNSC. They are the winners of the massacre of the imperialists in WWII. These states have the veto power and can block any resolution.

Israel's Foreign Ministry says the US, Britain and France have submitted a request for a UN Security Council emergency meeting over the findings of a UN report on the alleged sexual crimes in the October 7 attack, according to the Israeli media.

Reports said that the move comes after a request from Foreign Minister Israel Katz, and the members of the UNSC also wish to meet with Premila Patten, the UN special representative

The UN General Assembly can pass resolutions but unless the UNSC decides to enforce them like the ruling of the ICJ they are meaningless. Thus, the UN is basically the tool of the imperialists. For this reason, Israel continues with the massacre of the Palestinians because the USA used its veto power.

And so, Israel the major war criminal can use its ties to US, Britain and France imperialism that back Israel crimes to denounce Hamas for a lie that has been invented by Israel to justify the genocide of the Palestinians

The UN and especially the UNSC are the continuation of the League of Nations. The League of Nations, according to Lenin, was a unification "on paper only; in reality it is a group of beasts of prey, who only fight one another and do not at all trust one another." [1] He branded the League as a Thieves' Kitchen, a "piece of fakery from beginning to end; it is a deception from beginning to end; it is a lie from beginning to end." (Idem, p.97) Lenin's position was also that of Leon Trotsky. It was the position of the Communist International in Lenin's lifetime.

Meantime the Zionist army is denying that it has commit-

ted the massacre of the Palestinians seeking food from the aid trucks.

"The IDF submitted its findings on Friday regarding the humanitarian aid convoy catastrophe late last month wherein dozens of Palestinians were killed in a giant crush while attempting to get aid. ...The command review found that IDF troops did not fire at the humanitarian convoy but did fire at a number of suspects who approached the nearby forces and posed a threat to them.

The command review reveals that while the trucks were traveling toward the distribution centers, a crowd of about 12,000 Gazans gathered around them and looted the equipment they were transporting.

IDF launched warning shots against looters

Amidst looting, dozens of Gazans also advanced toward IDF troops posing threats to forces standing by, leading to cautionary fire for deterrence purposes.

It was unclear if the associated Palestinians had aggressive intentions or were civilians caught up in a chaotic moment.

IDF sources suggested no special rules were limiting live fire against such civilians in the context of a humanitarian operation or whether the forces could have retreated backward, citing that the area was still a war zone." [2]

This is another lie of the monsters who enjoy the killing as most people who were brought for treatment of their injuries were shot. No doubt most of the mass media in the imperialist states will spread this lie and the USA, Britain and France will likely adopt the lie.

Down with all the imperialists!

For Palestine red and free from the river to the sea!

Endnotes:

[1] Lenin's Collected Works, Vol.XXV, p.297

[2] <https://www.jpost.com/breaking-news/article-790939>

Anti-War Protest in Tel Aviv

By Adam Smith, *Internationalist Socialist League (RCIT Section in Israel/Occupied Palestine)*, 28.2.2024

An anti-war demonstration was organized on Tuesday yesterday (27.2.) by the "Radical Block" group. No slogans were raised as it was a silent protest with holding signs and showing pictures from the atrocities in Gaza. The speaker read testimonies of torture and of the experiences and reality of the Palestinians people in the Gaza.

Down with the Zionist War and Genocide!

For Palestine red and free from the river to the sea!



Website of the *Internationalist Socialist League (RCIT Section in Israel / Occupied Palestine)*: <https://the-isleague.com>

Is President Lula Wrong to Accuse Israel of Genocide in Gaza?

By João Evangelista, *Corrente Comunista Revolucionária* (RCIT Section in Brazil), 24 February 2024

On the last day of his first international trip of the year, on February 18, during which he visited Egypt and Ethiopia, President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva raised the tone of his criticism of Israel, provoking a harsh reaction from Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and his allies in Brazil and around the world. On a trip to Addis Ababa, the capital of Ethiopia, Lula began by criticizing the Hamas attacks on October 7, 2023, and went on to say that the Israeli reaction against the Gaza Strip is being disproportionate and similar to Hitler, when the Nazi regime killed millions of Jews, gypsies, communists and homosexuals in the Second World War: *"What is happening in the Gaza Strip to the Palestinian people has not existed at any other time in history. In fact, it did exist. When Hitler decided to kill the Jews,"* said Lula, answering a question about Brazil's decision to keep donating funds to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Middle East (UNRWA).

Netanyahu reacts to Lula's speech

After the statements, Netanyahu summoned the Brazilian ambassador in Tel Aviv, Frederico Meyer, to give clarifications. The gesture, according to diplomatic protocol, signifies serious discontent with the country's positions. On the same day, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu declared that comparing the actions of the Nazis in Europe with the actions of the State of Israel in Gaza was inadmissible, and called Lula's statement an anti-semitic discrimination against Jews: *"The words of the president of Brazil are shameful and serious. It's about trivializing the Holocaust and trying to harm the Jewish people and Israel's right to defend itself,"* wrote the Israeli premier on his verified account on the X social network.

The following day, the State of Israel mounted a provocation and summoned the Brazilian ambassador for "reprimands" in a public place, the Yad Vashem Holocaust memorial in occupied Jerusalem, where Israeli Foreign Minister Israel Katz declared that President Lula is *"persona non grata"*.

The Brazilian government then decided to withdraw its ambassador from Tel Aviv for ten days, a diplomatic sign of disagreement with the Zionist provocation. The latest news from the Brazilian government indicates the possibility (albeit remote) of Israel's ambassador to Brazil being expelled. The Brazilian government states that *"Everything depends on how this crisis evolves."*

Recently, the government of South Africa, a country where for decades its native population suffered the Apartheid regime, appealed to the International Court of Justice (ICJ) with the same accusation that Israel is practicing genocide in Gaza, an opinion which more than half the countries in the world share. Our comrade Michael Pröbsting, International Secretary of the Revolutionary Communist International Tendency (RCIT), recently published an article on this issue, in which we reproduce the South African government's application to the International Court of Justice (ICJ) against the genocide practiced in Gaza by Israel:

"First of all, the court almost unanimously accepted - only

Judge Sebutinde, appointed by the pro-imperialist dictatorship in Uganda was the only one who consistently voted against all the provisions - South Africa's accusation that Israel commits genocide in Gaza is "plausible". "In the opinion of the Court, the above-mentioned facts and circumstances are sufficient to conclude that at least some of the rights claimed by South Africa and for which it seeks protection are plausible. This is the case with regard to the right of Palestinians in Gaza to be protected from acts of genocide and related prohibited acts identified in Article III, and the right of South Africa to seek that Israel comply with the latter's obligations under the Convention." (§ 54). (1)

Brazil's corporate bourgeois media, led by Rede Globo, joined forces to criticize the Brazilian president's speech, in practice defending the massacre perpetrated by Israel, accusing the president of anti-Semitism, even though he criticized the actions of Hamas on 07 October. A media so subservient to Zionism that, as Netanyahu's mouthpiece, it demands an immediate apology from the president of Brazil, something that not even the US and European imperialism have demanded.

In response to the criticism received by Lula, the *Brazil-Palestine Institute* (Ibraspal) expressed "total solidarity" with the Brazilian president and said that the comparison between Israel's action in Gaza and that of Adolf Hitler in Nazi Germany is appropriate. *"While Hitler's intention was to eliminate the Jews, that of 'Israel' consists of the annihilation of the Palestinian people, in an operation of ethnic cleansing. In this sense, the Nazis and the Zionists can be considered Siamese sisters,"* said Ahmed Shehada, president of Ibraspal, in a statement.

The defenders of Zionism, both individuals and states, for example the governments of the imperialist countries of the West, have a practice of falsely accusing all those who are against the State of Israel with the pejorative name of anti-Zionist, as if we would practice hatred against all peoples of Jewish origin. Nothing could be more false than that. This is reflected in legal proceedings against long-standing anti-Zionist activists, such as our comrade Michael Pröbsting who is being investigated by the authorities in Vienna, Austria, for allegedly encouraging "terrorism". See report in our February 1st article. (2)

In fact, the section of the RCIT in Brazil go further: Following our international policy we advocate that Brazil breaks relations with the state of Israel, see our article entitled *"Let the Lula government break relations with the Zionist apartheid state of Israel!"* (3). We reiterate that as long as the Zionist state exists, the Palestinians will continue to suffer from state terrorism! That is why we defend the socialist perspective of a democratic and red Palestine. We support the struggle for the destruction of the Zionist state and the right of return for all Palestinian refugees.

(1) https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/africa-and-middle-east/on-the-icj-ruling-on-south-africa-s-genocide-case-against-israel/#anker_2

(2) <https://elmundosocialista.blogspot.com/2024/02/otio-nismo-pretende-silenciar-nosso.html>

(3) <https://elmundosocialista.blogspot.com/2023/11/que-o-governo-lula-rompa-relacoes-com-o.html>

Austria: Demonstration against Israel's Genocide in Gaza

Report (with Photos and Videos) from a Rally in Vienna on 24 February 2024, Austrian Section of the RCIT

A little less than 1,000 people demonstrated in Vienna against Israel's genocide in Gaza. The march was organized by the *Palestinian Community of Austria* and *Palestine Solidarity Austria*. There were several speakers from BDS, Handala, Dar al Janub and the Palestinian community.

Michael Pröbsting, International Secretary of the RCIT, was also invited to speak at the demonstration. Michael emphasized in his speech that Western governments' support for Israel does not reflect popular opinion. In reali-

ty, many more people are on the side of Palestine than on the side of Israel. This is globally the case and even in Europe and the USA. Michael also criticized the hypocrisy of many politicians – especially in the Muslim world – who verbally condemn Israel but, at the same time, continue to trade with this terrorist state.

See photos and video clips here: https://www.thecommunists.net/rcit/rcit-activities-in-2024-part-1/#anker_17



Demonstration in Solidarity with Palestine (Vienna, 24 February 2024); Michael Pröbsting speaks (right)

Books of the RCIT

Yossi Schwartz: Palestine and Zionism

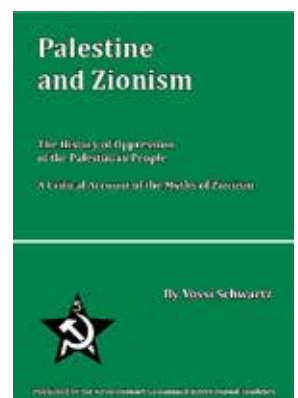
The History of Oppression of the Palestinian People. A Critical Account of the Myths of Zionism

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/>



Israel: On the Conscription of the Orthodox Jews

By Adam Smith, *Internationalist Socialist League (RCIT Section in Israel/Occupied Palestine)*, 23.03.2024

The Supreme Court has ruled that if the government will not present a plan to pass a new conscription law by 24.03, the current one regarding the deferment of the drafting of the orthodox Jews in Israel will be canceled and the orthodox Jews will be forced to join the army. This is after the Supreme Court has given a deadline of June 2023, after more than 6 years of extensions. Once that deadline has passed, the government has decided to give itself an extension until the end of March. [1]

This issue has a long history. Ben Gurion first exempted 400 Torah students to revive the Orthodox World. Ben Gurion – and Zionism for that matter – despite being supposedly secular, politically has always supported and needed religious elements.

The link between Zionism and traditional religious Judaism is clear – both are reactionary isolationist ideologies that believe in Jewish supremacy. Many of the racist practices of Zionism stem from the Talmud, such as a ban on selling land in Israel to non-Jews. Also, religion provides an excuse so that the Zionists believe they are not settlers. For example, Moshe Feiglin even said that without the religious link, he would consider himself a settler.

After Begin and the Heirut/Likud came to power, the number of exempted religious students drastically increased.

In December of 1998, the Supreme Court ruled that the postponement was discriminatory – as a result, the Tal Law was implemented, including a giving period of choice between army and work. It was struck down in February 2012. In its place, a different law, legislated in March of 2014, stipulated higher quotas that must go to the army and criminal sanctions – however, it was a ruse as the criminal sanctions were withdrawn in November 2015 and it was decided to only start enforcing it 6 years later. However, in that time period in 2013, when the Orthodox parties were not in power, the opposition to the draft led to a left-wing movement in the Orthodox camp, including calls for a boycott of settlements and draft dodging. [2] [3]

In December of 2017, this was ruled illegal, again, and a new law has been in making, however, each time an extension has been given, around 8 times for a total of about 6 years (because of elections, as well as the court's hesitancy). After that, the government gave itself an extension, without the court's approval, and after that ran out, we reached the situation we have today. It is clear the courts are not willing to take a strong position on this issue, as they cannot make a discriminatory exemption and yet the

army and the government (and by extension, the courts), are not enthusiastic about the service of the orthodox en-masse.

There are Orthodox Jews who decide to join the army, but they are very few and are from the periphery of the Orthodox world. In fact, most of the soldiers in the "orthodox" battalions (Netzah Yehuda – a particularly notorious West Bank unit for example) are in fact national-religious and prefer a more religious environment.

Until they receive an exemption or are conscripted, Yeshiva students must remain in the Yeshiva and cannot legally work, a practice that drives them to work in relatively precarious positions.

It is clear that the orthodox outlook is reactionary, and that there is a process of integration into the wider Israeli society – in the army, settlements, government, etc. However, so far the orthodox, even if they accept the Zionist ideals, by and large, are still not willing to go to the army for their own reasons (mainly fear of becoming secular), as opposed to other Zionists, which means that there is a possibility of a left-wing split. The Jerusalemite Section has told the court that it is willing to give up funding to not serve in the army.

It is also clear that the army needs more soldiers to fill the ranks, as the conscription rate among the secular and national-religious is already very high (as well as Israelis that moved abroad), and that after October 7th there is greater pressure on the Orthodox Jews to enlist. Therefore, we support the protests of the Orthodox Jews against conscription to the Zionist army, despite all the flaws of their reactionary (and even Zionist in many ways) ideology, because we do not want to strengthen the Zionist army, and the complex reality is that we need to support any cracks in the Zionist apparatus, however small.

For Palestine red and free!

Down with the government's/Supreme Court's conscription attempts!

Endnotes:

- [1] <https://www.ynet.co.il/articles/0,7340,L-5515701,00.html>
- [2] [https://he.wikipedia.org/wiki/%D7%94%D7%A4%D7%92%D7%A0%D7%AA_%D7%94%D7%97%D7%A8%D7%93%D7%99%D7%9D_%D7%A0%D7%92%D7%93_%D7%92%D7%99%D7%95%D7%A1_%D7%91%D7%A0%D7%99_%D7%99%D7%A9%D7%99%D7%91%D7%95%D7%AA_\(2014\)](https://he.wikipedia.org/wiki/%D7%94%D7%A4%D7%92%D7%A0%D7%AA_%D7%94%D7%97%D7%A8%D7%93%D7%99%D7%9D_%D7%A0%D7%92%D7%93_%D7%92%D7%99%D7%95%D7%A1_%D7%91%D7%A0%D7%99_%D7%99%D7%A9%D7%99%D7%91%D7%95%D7%AA_(2014))
- [3] <https://the-isleague.com/haredim-3-201/>
- [4] <https://www.globes.co.il/news/article.aspx?did=1001472130>

The Gaza War 2023-24

See all relevant RCIT documents on our website:

<https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/africa-and-middle-east/compilation-of-articles-on-the-gaza-uprising-2023/>

13th Anniversary of the Syrian Revolution: Glory to the Heroic People of the Revolution!

Down with the Assad Tyranny and its Imperialist Masters! Revive the Arab Revolution!

Statement by the Revolutionary Communist International Tendency (RCIT), 4 March 2023

Brother and sisters, as we are approaching the 13th anniversary of the Syrian Revolution, the RCIT sends its warmest greetings to the heroic Syrian people fighting against the brutal tyranny of Bashar al-Assad! We also send our condolence to the families who have lost relatives in the liberation struggle.

It is true, our struggle for liberation lasts already for many years! But we will not stop! We will not stop because living under Asad is hell, and we can be free only if we bring him and his dictatorship down! A free and just Syria is only possible if the working people – armed and independently organized – take power in their own hands.

We say:

* *Down with Assad the butcher! Hands off Idlib! Victory to the Syrian people!*

* *Expel the imperialist invaders Russia and the U.S.! Kick out the Iranian troops!*

* *Turkish army – out of Syria! National self-determination for*

the Kurdish people!

* *Support the heroic Palestinian resistance in Gaza! Palestine – red and free – from the river to the sea!*

* *Revive the Arab Revolution – From Tunis to Damascus and Jerusalem!*

* *Down with Putin's wars and occupation! Freedom for the Ukrainian and Chechen people!*

* *For workers and peasants republics and a socialist federation in Middle East!*

Unity – Struggle – Victory!

International Bureau of the RCIT

The RCIT has published a number of booklets, statements and articles on the Syrian Revolution which can be read on a special sub-section on our website: <https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/africa-and-middle-east/collection-of-articles-on-the-syrian-revolution/>

Syria: Mass Demonstration at the 13th Anniversary of the Revolution

Report (with Photos and Videos) from a Demonstration in Vienna on 10 March 2024, Austrian Section of the RCIT

About 2,000 Syrian migrants marched in Vienna at the 13th anniversary of the Syrian Revolution. It was an extraordinary lively demonstration with people alternating chanting and singing against the dictatorship of Assad. The demonstration was led by Abdulhkeem Alshater from the association "Free Syrian Community of Austria". As the pictures below show, demonstrators also expressed their solidarity with the people in Palestine. The march was addressed by several Syrian speakers as well as one from the Ukraine. Michael Pröbsting, International Secretary of the RCIT, was the first speaker at the final rally. He emphasized that the Syrian Revolution is still living, and that this demonstration confirmed this.

Michael sent greetings both to the heroic peoples in Syria as well as in Palestine – fighting for their freedom against tyranny. He pointed to the reactionary role of imperialist Great Powers with Russia backing Assad and the U.S. supporting Israel. Michael concluded his speech that Syria can only be free if the working people take political power as well as the economy in their own hands.

Furthermore, our activists sold 49 copies of the new issue of THAWRA – the Arab-language paper of the RCIT.

See photos and video clips here: https://www.thecommunists.net/rcit/rcit-activities-in-2024-part-1/#anker_20



Demonstration in Solidarity with the Syrian Revolution (Vienna, 10 March 2024); Michael Pröbsting speaks (right)

Presidential Elections in Russia: Putin's Fifth Attempt

By Socialist Tendency (RCIT Section in Russia), 4 March 2024

Note by the RCIT: Below we publish the translation of an article which has been published by *Socialist Tendency* – the RCIT section in Russia. We have inserted subtitles and added some words in order to better explain the background for non-Russian readers. The article was originally published on the website of our comrades in Russia: <https://www.socialisttendency.com/post/%D0%B-F%D1%8F%D1%82%D0%B0%D1%8F-%D0%B-F%D0%B-E%D0%B-F%D1%8B%D1%82%D0%BA%D0%B0-%D0%B-F%D1%83%D1%82%D0%B8%D0%BD%D0%B0>

The current fourth presidential term was marked by the most stringent reforms and irreversible decisions made by V.V. Putin's team during the entire 25 years of their rule in Russia.

Let's remember what has happened. In June 2018, on the opening day of the 2018 FIFA World Cup hosted in Russia, Dmitry Medvedev's Second Cabinet announced a bill on a draconian anti-social pension reform, which was not supported by about 90% of the country's population. Putin himself, who recently claimed that while he was head of state, the adoption of such a bill was impossible, shyly made excuses on television, complaining about the need for such extreme measures.

Having begun to carry out this most extremist of all their anti-social and neoliberal reforms, the Government and the State Duma faced a new challenge already in 2020 - the COVID-19 pandemic. The lockdown deepened the crisis in the country, increased police pressure and significantly reshaped the labour market in the Russian Federation and the world. The high mortality rate from the disease was due to the unpreparedness of the health care system for such challenges, the main response to which was tightening the screws and police brutality. Mass protests were banned, and the opposition began to come under increasing pressure from the security forces.

That did not prevent them from carrying out another reactionary reform - the reform of the Constitution illegally adopted in 1993. Amendments to the Constitution provided Putin with a number of terms limited only by his interests and health, the primacy of national law over international law, and many more conservative retrograde points that were happily supported by imperial nationalists and obscurantists.

Reactionary aggression externally and internally

The pension-constitutional-Covid counter-revolution naturally pulled Russia to the bottom, but, as they say, "they knocked from below." After all his statements about the inadmissibility of interference in the sovereign affairs of other states and about Russia's peacefulness, Putin's oli-

garchic-power bloc began military operations on the territory of Ukraine in February 2022. After the annexation of part of the Ukrainian territories in 2014, the very logic of the development of monopoly capital could not help but take the next step. The years 2022-2023 brought Russia hundreds of thousands of mobilized people, hundreds of thousands who left the country, and a huge number of people killed on both sides of the front.

The mobilization caused by the retreat of the Russian Armed Forces from the Kharkov region and from the right bank of the Dnieper in the fall of 2022 was accompanied, especially in the national republics, by mass protests that were quickly suppressed by the security forces. After this, the laws ensuring mobilization and conscription for military service were significantly tightened.

The military rebellion of the far-right Wagner group in the summer of 2023 ended with its suppression, collusion, and then the liquidation of their leader, the rebellious oligarch Prigozhin.

Draconian laws expelled dissidents from political life in the Russian Federation. The Anti-Corruption Foundation (FBK) was recognized as an extremist terrorist organization, and the leader of the Foundation, Alexei Navalny, also recognized as a foreign agent, extremist and terrorist, according to the FBK, was first poisoned by the special services, then, upon his return from treatment in Russia, he was imprisoned, in which he was killed.

Navalny, as the leader of the liberal opposition, advocated the democratization of society and an end to the war. We also support these measures, and in this we were on the same path. Another thing is that he, like all liberals, advocated a half or even a quarter solution to these issues. His democracy remained purely parliamentary, while we advocated workers', grassroots, horizontal democracy, which also extends to the production/distribution system and leads to the destruction of classes. His protest against the war was not a protest against the imperialist system and was justified only by a standard pro-Western view of the reasons for its outbreak.

The left and right margins of the media were cleared. Everyone, from left-wing activist Kagarlitsky to national conservative Strelkov, was imprisoned or left the country.

The need to organise resistance

All decisions during Putin's last presidential term in 2018-2024 are a reflection of the global crisis of the entire system of imperialism and its concrete manifestation in the Russian Federation. Whatever it is - pension or constitutional reform, policing of the COVID pandemic or the collapse of production due to the pandemic and Western sanctions, military action, mobilization, armed rebellion or the imprisonment and murder of oppositionists – all this is the work of Putin and his government, which is part of world ruling parasitic class.

Once upon a time, Rosa Luxemburg put forward the slogan “socialism or barbarism!” Question: what are we closer to now? What will Putin’s fifth attempt to “secure our future” bring us? We are sure - nothing good. The crisis, war, corruption and police brutality will only deepen, and the gears of the system will grind down the remnants of civil society.

In the current conditions in the presidential elections we can do the least - campaign against Putin, Medvedev, Shoigu, Mishustin, Kiriyyenko, Zolotov and the whole gang.

By voting for Putin, you are voting for war! By voting for Putin, you are voting for a new wave of mobilization! By voting for Putin, you are voting for anti-social reforms and police violence!

We need an organized demonstration of rejection, and we must show it not only to the authorities, but also to each other! Don’t trust confusionists and opportunist! There are no “liberal masses”, but there are general democratic anti-war masses of citizens, on which liberal organizations and leaders now have more influence for a number of objective reasons.

Let us repeat: what is the difference between a Marxist and an opportunist and a sectarian? An opportunist will always look for a way to justify the government, trailing behind it, critically or not, but supporting the imperialist war, the “SVO”, certain decisions in the foreign or domestic policy of “his” country. The sectarian will not support all the decisions of “his” government, but he or she will not call for any real actions and political work, justifying this by the fact that the protest is led by the “wrong” leaders, the masses do not have sufficient proletarian consciousness, and will delve into conspiracy theories and demand immediate communism.

A true revolutionary Marxist will work to win the trust of the opposition masses, open their eyes, pull them to the

left and lead the protest where and in those areas where this is possible. It’s difficult - there are no words. It may take years of persistent and hard work. But there is no other way out.

Now we can start it, although this is not much at all - come to your polling station on March 17 at 12:00 and spoil the ballot. It is illegal to tear up a ballot, so you should leave a message to this regime or cross out the paper.

The remaining candidates, besides Putin, are his accomplices, similar to Nikolai Kharitonov, a candidate from the social-chauvinist “Communist” Party of the Russian Federation, who is still supported by part of the left fringe. We propose to support the “Just World” initiative initiated by a number of socialist and communist groups!

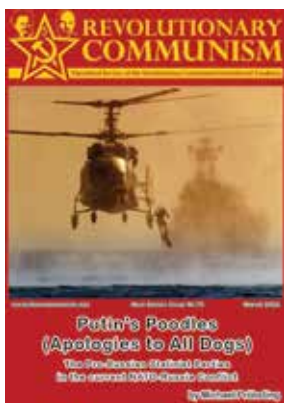
All anti-war forces now need a united democratic front. As the Soviet Marxist philosopher Abram Deborin said, now we need to identify the “*main character*,” that is, the main, primary contradiction facing us. And all oppositionists have the same idea: opposition to war/Putin and radical democratization of the country. Does this cancel our other contradictions? Of course not! But without resolving the primary one, we will not move on to resolving other, deeper contradictions. All of them will be solved not mechanically, but dialectically, because in the solution of some problems lies the beginning of the solution to others.

To speak out now against the united front of the anti-war masses and against the united front tactics of the democratic and leftist opposition in the upcoming elections in March means voluntarily surrendering the grassroots protest movement into the clutches of the liberal “leaders”, means withdrawing from the struggle against the Putin authoritarian regime, thereby losing at least some hope for pulling the political agenda towards the revolutionary left.

Russia without Putin!

For peace and justice!

For international socialism!



PUBLICATIONS OF THE RCIT

Putin’s Poodles (Apologies to All Dogs)

*The pro-Russian Stalinist parties and
their arguments in the current NATO-Russia Conflict*

by Michael Pröbsting, February 2022

Introduction * 1. NATO is the sole aggressor! Really? * Is it relevant for Marxists who is the aggressor? * What is causing the escalation of tensions between Great Powers: the party of warmongers or the imperialist system? * Can socialists defend “legitimate spheres of influence” of Great Powers? * Putin and Great Russian Chauvinism claim that the Ukraine is not an independent nation * Stalinism versus Bolshevism: The Ukraine and the right of national self-determination * From Kazakhstan to Syria: Stalinism is siding with the counterrevolution * Is Russian imperialism a “force of social progress”? Discussion of a remarkable Stalinist document * Stalinism and social-imperialism: concluding remarks * Footnotes

A RCIT Pamphlet, 20 pages, A4 Format

Ukraine: Brief Overview of the Political Situation (February 2024)

By B. Orion and P. Borshcheyk, Spalakh (Ukraine), 1 March 2024

Note by the RCIT: Below we publish the translation of an article which has been published by the Ukrainian comrades of *Spalakh*. The RCIT has fraternal relations with this group of young activists and are we are currently jointly working to create the basis for their integration into our international tendency. (See: *For an Independent and Socialist Ukraine free from Russian Occupation and Western Domination!* <https://www.thecommunists.net/rcit/fraternal-relations-between-spalakh-ukraine-and-rcit/>)

* * * * *

The month of the leap year ended on February 29, so it's time to summarize our first assessments of the political situation in Ukraine. Let's go through some well-known (and not so well-known) news and try to view these from a proletarian standpoint. Among the topics are: Protests in Poland, Forced Mobilization, Situation at the front, Congress in PMR.

Protests of Polish farmers

There have been waves of peasants' protests in Poland for more than a month. But it is time for us to shed light on them for the first time. According to the liberal media, Radio Svoboda, the main demands are the transit of agricultural products of Ukraine further to the West, and that these are not sold in Poland. (<https://www.radiosvoboda.org/a/news-polshcha-fermery-protesty/32826364.html>)

Such protests are a manifestation of two antagonisms: within the country between petty-bourgeoisie (peasants) and large capitalists (agroholdings), and between the countries of Poland and the EU.

First of all, it is worth understanding that peasants are under pressure and at the same time competing with their own big bourgeoisie on the one hand, and with Ukrainian agricultural holdings on the other. Ukraine is able to sell its products at a very low prices thanks to dumping and super-exploitation of its own workers. Such a phenomenon is not purely specifically Polish, because in France the same conflict between peasants and the big bourgeoisie is taking place. If in the case of France, such antagonism takes the form of destroying the products of large enter-

prises, then in Poland it takes the form of blocking the borders with Ukraine in order to avoid the import of grain.

Now we are getting to the next stage: blocking the border with Ukraine leads to antagonism between Poland and the western EU countries. The only simple solution would be to return the need to pay customs duties on Ukrainian goods, but only Brussels has the power to make such a decision. However, Brussels decided to extend the preferential regime for Ukrainian goods (<https://mind.ua/news/20268889-onovleno-evrokomisiya-prodovzhila-pilgovij-rezhim-importu-agrotovariv-z-ukrayini-viklyuchivshi-z-nogo-n>). Poland failed to put enough pressure on Brussels, so the conflict with the center of the EU continues. From now on, the only solution is to transit Ukrainian products past the territory of Poland without selling them on its territory. Such a solution is not so simple and faster to implement, because it requires the ruling class of Poland to take control of trade capital by the method of numerous restrictions, which will take a long time: from the introduction of laws to their implementation in reality. This is all the more so since, in the meantime, merchant capitalists began to compensate for cheap Ukrainian products with Russian ones, according to the investigation of "*Ukrainian Pravda*".

Of course, the conflict between the Polish and Ukrainian bourgeoisie is played out at all these stages. The ruling class of Ukraine incites Ukrainians against the Poles, forcing them to believe that something good will happen to the ordinary worker as a result of the Ukrainian capitalist's grain being exported to the EU. At the same time, Ukrainian ideologues of the ruling class add fuel to the fire and sew the hands of the Kremlin in the Polish peasants' protests. Such a conspiracy theory is baseless, because it is not possible for thousands of farmers to cooperate with the Russian government while remaining "secret", of course, not without the exception of individual farmers. Such a "theory" does not consider the different interests of different capitalists in conditions of competition but rather reduces everything to machinations of one state.

It should not be forgotten that the petty-bourgeoisie can serve as an ally of the proletariat in the struggle against the big bourgeoisie. Neither Polish nor French farmers are our enemies!

The Ukraine War and the NATO-Russia Conflict

See all relevant RCIT documents on our website:

www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/global/compilation-of-documents-on-nato-russia-conflict

Events in the war: Delay in supplies, forced mobilization, change of command

Events related to the front can be summarized in four interdependent news. In the absence of any military experts in the editorial office and in order not to repeat someone else's "analysis", the focus will be more on trends and popular reaction.

First, let's highlight the general context: Ukraine spent this month with almost no supplies from the West, but for the next months, about 10 billion dollars are "promised" from various countries and 60 billion dollars of aid from the USA, which is currently under consideration in the Congress, have been allocated. In addition, among the promised arms deliveries, the main place is occupied by air defense systems, as demanded by Zelensky with which Ukraine will be progressively "pumped up" to continue the long-range war on the territories occupied by Russia. (<https://gordonua.com/ukr/zelenskij-nu-nemaje-v-ukrajini-dalekobijnoji-zbroji-u-rosiji-je-a-v-nas-jiji-duzhe-malo-os-usja-pravda-1698096.html>)

Against this background, the grip of the state in Ukraine is strengthening. The mobilization law was adopted to expand the range of conscripts. (<https://www.unian.ua/society/zakon-pro-mobilizaciju-2024-rada-priynyalaproekt-u-pershomu-chitanni-12536235.html>) Although before this, forced mobilization and forced removal of people did already exist, the new laws will follow the path of gradual "legalization" of all atrocities on the ground.

The change of military command affected the situation on the front and the form of mobilization at the same time. It is known that Zaluzhnyi was released after a long conflict with Zelensky, because the conflict only hindered the conduct of coordinated military operations. After taking office, Sirssky withdrew his troops from Avdiyivka.

The latest decisions on mobilization show a contradiction in the government's policy: the use of all resources for the national liberation war and the decision-making of essentially anti-popular laws. The war no longer resembles the old cliché of the confrontation between Ukrainian "democracy" and Russian "dictatorship", because Ukraine is nothing but the dictatorship of the bourgeoisie.

VII Congress of Deputies in the Transnistrian Moldavian Republic

The Congress of Deputies of all levels was held in the *Pridnestrovian Moldovan Republic* (PMR, also known as Transnistria) for the first time in 18 years. (<https://www.dw.com/uk/nevznana-pridnistrovska-moldavska-respublika-zvernulasa-do-rf-po-zahist/a-68399514>)

One should not buy into communist symbols, because the "bad nineties" never ended in the PMR. The country's ruling class consists of openly gangster capitalists, consolidated around Russian capital in contrast to Moldova, a semi-colony of the West. Concerns about the PMR blockade were expressed at the congress. In fact, it is not PMR itself that is being blocked, but the smuggling of most of its capitalists. This, in turn, will create a polarization of capitalists, some of them will begin to focus on Moldova and the West, because capital does not know its homeland, but only where it is profitable.

What is no less important, the congress called for help not only from the Russian Federation, but also from other institutions such as the OSCE and the UN. The authorities in the PMR are already shaken and soon part of the capitalists may go over to the side of Moldova, if the Russian Federation leaves them to their own devices. The congress is thus a manifestation of the compromise of the warring clans.



Publications of the RCIT

Ukraine: A Capitalist Semi-Colony

On the exploitation and deformation of Ukraine's economy
by imperialist monopolies and oligarchs since capitalist restoration in 1991

By Michael Pröbsting, January 2023

Introduction * I. The Marxist Theory of Imperialism and the Concept of Semi-Colonies * II. The Dead-End of Bureaucratic Stalinism * III. The Devastating Social & Economic Consequences of Capitalist Restoration * IV. The Semi-Colonial Deformation of Ukrainian Capitalism since 1991 (1. Oligarchs: the creation of a comprador bourgeoisie; 2. A semi-colonial supplier of raw materials for the capitalist world market; 3. Deep in the trap of foreign debt; 4. Foreign investment: the imperialist plunder of the Ukraine; 5. Migration: the Ukraine provides cheap labour force) * V. Ukraine: A Dependent Country Torn between Great Powers in East & West * VI. Russia's Push to Colonise the Ukraine since February 2022 and NATO's Efforts to Increase its Influence * VII. The Way Forward: From National Liberation to Social Revolution * Footnotes

A RCIT Pamphlet, 28 pages, A4 Format

Russia: Report on the Main Events (Winter 2023-24)

By Alexey Sedov, *Socialist Tendency (RCIT Section in Russia)*, 28.02.2024

Preface: Below we publish the English-language translation of a report about the political situation in Russia, written by our comrade Alexey Sedov from *Socialist Tendency*, the RCIT's section in Russia. For other recently published articles which deal with the Ukraine War, the death of Navalny, the imprisonment of Kagarlitsky see:

* Ukraine War: Two Years after the Invasion

* Russia: On the Death of Navalny and the Imprisonment of Kagarlitsky

* * * * *

There have been a number of further shocks related to the political and social life of the country in the outgoing winter of 2023-24.

* The pre-election race that had begun ended with the expected refusal to register the opposition-minded liberal politician Boris Nadezhdin as a presidential candidate, for whom anti-war-minded citizens lined up to sign. The social-chauvinist Communist Party of the Russian Federation eventually nominated Nikolai Kharitonov as its candidate, who has been supported by part of the pro-Putin left. Vladimir Putin himself traditionally does not participate in the election campaign.

* On February 16, the leader of the Russian liberal opposition, Alexei Navalny, died in the Polar Wolf colony in the village of Kharp. After his death, information appeared about his possible murder and that negotiations were underway to exchange Alexey for FSB officer Vadim Krasikov, who was sentenced by a German court to life imprisonment for the political murder of Zelimkhan Khangoshvili. The Investigative Committee of the Russian Federation did not immediately agree to hand over the body of the late oppositionist to relatives. The investigator gave Alexei Navalny's mother an ultimatum to agree to a secret funeral, but subsequently, under public pressure, the body was nevertheless handed over to Lyudmila Navalnaya. At the same time, Alexei's wife, Yulia Navalnaya, said that she would continue her husband's work and will

continue to fight the Putin regime. Navalny's death, like the death of Boris Nemtsov in February 2015, was a major blow to the Russian liberal opposition.

Left-wing public figure Boris Kagarlitsky, who moderately opposed Russia's military actions in Ukraine, was sentenced to 5 years in prison.

The recognition of Russian citizens as foreign agents, arrests and imprisonments intensified as the date of the presidential elections approached.

* Russia seized a tactical advantage at the front, and therefore the pace of quiet mobilization was reduced, which, among other things, is natural in anticipation of the upcoming elections, which will be held in the second half of March.

* The increase in prices for food (as well as for domestic appliances), associated with a number of reasons, including Western sanctions, greatly affected the food basket of Russians. Some products have risen in price by 94%.

* The protest movement was, as usual, concentrated in the national republics of Russia. In January, in the city of Baymak in the Republic of Bashkortostan, unrest broke out in connection with the criminal prosecution of local activist Fail Alsynov, during which national and democratic slogans were raised. Clashes with security forces, which resulted in two killed protesters, continued for several days. Amnesty International said unjustified force was used against protesters.

* The authorities have actively begun to take advantage of ultra-right nationalist grassroots movements, such as the "Northern Man" or the "Russian Community".

These organizations help security forces to conduct raids against migrants, and their activists write denunciations against anti-war citizens. The activism of these chauvinistic and racist groups is often linked to the rising tide of street violence.

In general, the country has entered a period of pre-election confrontation, the results of which have long been known to everyone. The shabby robes of democracy are increasingly revealing the bonopartist dictatorship, which, we believe, history will not spare.



Publications of the RCIT

The Inter-Imperialist Cold War between the US and China

By Michael Pröbsting, March 2021

A RCIT Pamphlet, 20 pages, A4 Format

Introduction * A symbolic public row * Two thieves as upholders of moral standards * Escalating the conflict between China and Japan * The Quad Summit * Inter-Imperialist tensions in the Taiwan Strait * Unavoidable continuation and acceleration of inter-imperialist rivalry * Continuing doing business * Towards escalation on the Korean Peninsula? * "Fuck the EU" and Russia, again? * Confirmation of the Marxist analysis * Footnotes

Northern Ireland: Vice President of Sinn Fein Becomes First Minister at Stormont

By Laurence Humphries, RCIT Britain, 19th February 2024

On the 3rd February 2024 Michelle O'Neill was appointed First Minister of the Northern Ireland Executive. It is the first time that a nationalist has held that position since the inauguration of the 1998 Good Friday agreement. Power sharing in Northern Ireland has not existed since Sir John Donaldson leader of the DUP resigned because of differences with the then government of Boris Johnson over Brexit arrangements in Northern Ireland. Power sharing has now returned to Northern Ireland and the executive will now meet under the leadership of Sinn Fein.

"First Minister Michelle O'Neill hugging British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak at Stormont has caused concern among some Conservative MPs, it has been claimed. Mr Sunak paid a visit to Stormont Castle on Monday alongside Taoiseach Leo Varadkar to welcome the first sitting of the new executive. The prime minister greeted Ms O'Neill with a hug, but the embrace has led to criticism among some right-wing commentators on social media, while some Conservative MPs are also said to be up in arms over the show of affection." [1]

Sinn Fein's leading role in the Northern Ireland Executive reflects the bourgeois transformation which the party had undergone since the days it had given up the anti-imperialist struggle against the British occupation. Historically, the plank of republicanism has been to fight for a 32-county republic, i.e. the reunification of the Northern enclave with

the rest of the island to a united Ireland as one state. But O'Neill and Sinn Fein have abandoned cherished republican values for short term collusion with the British state.

"The British and Irish governments have played down Sinn Féin's calls for Irish unity and said Northern Ireland's new devolved government can restore stability and faith in the region. Rishi Sunak said Northern Ireland's place in the UK was protected and urged the Stormont executive – led by Michelle O'Neill, the first nationalist first minister – to focus on bread-and-butter issues, not redrawing the border. It is not constitutional change, it is delivering on the day-to-day things that matter to people," he said on Monday after meeting executive ministers, party leaders and Ireland's Taoiseach, Leo Varadkar, at Stormont." [2]

Sunak is motivated by pragmatic interests to ensure the survival of his highly fragile government in the current period of deep economic and political crisis. He needs the support of the DUP in order to bolster the Tories' parliamentary majority which in itself is faces serious divisions.

The 1998 Good Friday Agreement

In 1998 under the Tony Blair Labour government an agreement was made by both the Republican movement and the Loyalist movements including the paramilitary forces of the Provisional IRA and its brigade command-

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

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By Michael Pröbsting



Published by the Revolutionary Communist International of Theory

ers. Gerry Adams and Martin McGuinness – both leaders of Sinn Fein at that time – were present as was the negotiator George Mitchell from the United States. This ended the armed struggle and anti-imperialist struggle against British imperialism and its outpost in Ulster. Many brigade commanders and members of the IRA opposed the GFA agreement and refused to hand in their arms and vowed to continue fighting until Ireland was free. They formed successor organisations of Sinn Fein resp. the IRA which, however, have remained divided and rather small.

“The Good Friday Agreement (GFA) or Belfast Agreement is a pair of agreements signed on 10 April, Good Friday 1998 that ended most of the violence of the Troubles, an ethno-nationalist conflict in Northern Ireland since the late 1960s. It was a major development in the Issues relating to sovereignty governance, discrimination military and paramilitary groups, justice and policing were central to the agreement. It restored self-government to Northern Ireland on the basis of “power sharing” and it included acceptance of the principle of consent, commitment to civil and political rights cultural parity of esteem, police reform paramilitary disarmament and early release of paramilitary prisoners, followed by demilitarisation The agreement also created a number of institutions between Northern Ireland and Ireland (“North–South”), and between Ireland and the United Kingdom”. [3]

This development represented the transformation process of Sinn Fein in Northern Ireland from a petty-bourgeois nationalist party into a bourgeois party.

Anti-Imperialist struggle in the 1960s

The anti-imperialist struggle mainly led by the Provisional IRA in the 1960's was to fight British imperialism in Ireland. Many catholic families at the time were terrorised by loyalist Unionist gangs together with the corrupt police force of Northern Ireland – the RUC. The IRA's role was to carry out attacks on the police as well as on British soldiers after the Harold Wilson Labour government sent troops into Ulster in 1969. This showed the weakness of British imperialism which had to police the streets themselves with increasing terror right on their backdoor. The history of the state's involvement in Northern Ireland is a history of murder, assassination and continual repression of the nationalist masses in the north of Ireland.

Internment was the method used by the imperialist state to subjugate the nationalist population in the six counties (called “Ulster” by the British). Its method was that many people, often innocent of any crimes, were incarcerated in concentration camps like Long Kesh (“The Maze”) without trial.

Nationalist prisoners incarcerated in Long Kesh had to suffer many abuses by the British authorities. During Margaret Thatcher's government many of the IRA prisoners fought for political status and refused to wear prison clothes and wore blankets instead. This was a determined fight against British imperialism. This courageous political fight led by Bobby Sands was rejected by the Thatcher government. It led to the hunger strikes.

At the same time Bobby Sands was selected to fight for a by-election which he won. This political fight against imperialism resulted in Sand's death and some others who were also on hunger strike. This will come to haunt the present leadership of Sinn Fein who now collude with British Imperialism serving in their institutions and give

up the fight for a United Ireland.

“The 1981 Irish hunger strike was the culmination of a five-year protest during the Troubles by Irish republican prisoners in Northern Ireland. The protest began as the blanket protest in 1976, when the British government withdrew Special Category Status (prisoner of war rather than criminal status) for convicted paramilitary prisoners. In 1978, the dispute escalated into the dirty protest, where prisoners refused to leave their cells to wash and covered the walls of their cells with excrement. In 1980, seven prisoners participated in the first hunger strike, which ended after 53 days.

The second hunger strike took place in 1981 and was a showdown between the prisoners and the Prime Minister, Margaret Thatcher. One hunger striker, Bobby Sands, was elected as a member of parliament during the strike, prompting media interest from around the world. The strike was called off after ten prisoners had starved themselves to death, including Sands, whose funeral was attended by 100,000 people. The strike radicalised Irish nationalist politics and was the driving force that enabled Sinn Féin to become a mainstream political party.” [4].

Failure of centrism on the national question

Most of the current centrist groups in Britain have consciously opposed the national question and failed to engage in an anti-imperialist struggle. Instead, they adopted a pro-social imperialist position particularly relating to Ireland. For example, the Cliffite SWP had dropped the slogan of “Troops Out”, i.e. they effectively supported the British troops entering Northern Ireland and took a social-imperialist position. (Our predecessor organisation in Britain – *Workers Power* – emerged at that time as an opposition within the Cliffites against this capitulation.)

The RCIT has always supported anti-imperialist struggle and, where possible, engaged with socialists and others to put such solidarity into practice. We have been active in international workers aid campaigns during the Bosnian War (1993-95) as well as the Ukraine War. Likewise, we are playing an active role in the pro-Palestine solidarity movement.

For a 32-County Workers Republic

The RCIT in Britain puts forward the following transitional demands to unite the Irish masses in a revolutionary struggle to unite Ireland as a revolutionary workers republic.

* *Abolish the Stormont Executive, repeal the Good Friday Agreement, break with British imperialism*

* *For a revolutionary Constituent Assembly*

* *For armed defence guards and militia to protect the masses from suspected loyalist gangs and fascist provocateurs as well as the police and the Garda*

* *For the nationalisation of all major corporations under workers control and without compensation for the capitalists.*

* *For a United 32-County Workers Republic in Ireland*

Footnotes

1) [First minister's embrace of Rishi Sunak said to have sparked criticism of PM from Conservative colleagues \(msn.com\)](#)

2) [British and Irish governments play down Sinn Féin's calls for united Ireland \(msn.com\)](#)

3) [Good Friday Agreement - Wikipedia](#)

4) [1981 Irish hunger strike - Wikipedia](#)

Internationalist Meeting in Milano: An Inspiring Conference!

Report by the Delegation of the Revolutionary Communist International Tendency (RCIT), 22 February 2024

At the weekend 17/18 February, the second *Internationalist Meeting* took place in Milano in Northern Italy. It was organised – like the first meeting in July 2023 – by a coalition of radical leftist organisations in that country.

28 different organisations had sent written contributions in the weeks before and most of them also participated at the conference in person with one or two delegates. All delegations had the right to make a contribution for 15 minutes on each of both days.

The forces present included a wider range of traditions – Left Communists, Anarchists and Anarcho-Syndicalists, as well as Trotskyists. Many delegates were from Italy (e.g. Lotta Comunista, AMR Controvento, ControCorrente, FIR/FT), Argentina (Partido Obrero), Greece (e.g. NAR, OKDE), Türkiye (SEP), France (NPA), Serbia (ASI), and Russia (Novyj Prometej). In addition, several international organisations were present with leading representatives like the International Socialist League (MST in Argentina), the International Trotskyist Opposition (PCL in Italy), the League for the Fifth International, the Workers International Network, Internationalist Standpoint, Socialismo O Barbarie (Nuevo MAS in Argentina) as well as the League for the Fourth International.

The *Revolutionary Communist International Tendency* (RCIT) was present with two delegates – Medina Avdagić and Michael Pröbsting. Together with our Ukrainian comrades in *Spalakh* we had circulated a written contribution for the debate several weeks before the conference. This document has been published in 9 languages. (<https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/global/rcit-statement-for-milano-conference-february-2024>)

The conference was very well organized. It took place in a local of Lotta Comunista, a sizeable Italian organisation coming from the Left Communist tradition. They also provided stewards, translators, food and water, etc. Irrespective of political differences, one must make a big compliment to the comrades of Lotta Comunista whose way of organising can be taken as a model in many regards!

The debates reflected the most important issues of the world situation – the capitalist crisis and the inter-imperialist rivalry, the Gaza War as well as the Ukraine War. Given the wide range of forces, it is hardly surprising that these debates revealed deep differences between the participating organisations. As one of the organisers correctly noted, this meeting was first and foremost a forum for debate, not a united front for joint activities.

One important issue of these debates was the class character of China and Russia. Delegates of the RCIT – as well as from other organisations like the ISL-LIS, ITO/PCL or L5I – defended the Marxist analysis that these two states are new imperialist powers. Consequently, socialists need to take a dual defeatist position in all conflicts between the Great Powers in East and West.

This debate was precluded by a polemic which the Argentinean PO had published against the RCIT several days before the beginning of the conference and to which we wrote a reply. (Ukraine War: Reply to another ill-considered Polemic of PO, <https://www.thecommunists.net/>

[worldwide/global/ukraine-war-reply-to-another-ill-considered-polemic-of-po-argentina/](https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/global/ukraine-war-reply-to-another-ill-considered-polemic-of-po-argentina/))

Another important issue was the character of the national and democratic question in the current period and, in particular, in the context of the wars in Gaza and the Ukraine. Some organisations wrongly take a consistent economist position and oppose supporting any national liberation struggle (in particular those forces coming from the Left Communist and Anarchist tradition). Others take an inconsistent economist position and defend the Palestinians against the Zionist settler state but refuse to side with the Ukrainian people against the invasion of Russian imperialism (e.g. PO, SEP, NPA, OKDE).

Again, the delegates of the RCIT – as well as those from the ISL-LIS, ITO/PCL and the L5I – defended the consistent anti-imperialist position of siding with the military struggle of the Palestinian as well as of the Ukrainian people.

We also used the conference to draw attention to the criminal complaint which has been filed by pro-Israel forces in Austria against Michael Pröbsting, the International Secretary of the RCIT. 11 of the organisations which were present signed a petition in protest against this threat and we hope to get more signatories in the next days. (Petition: No to the Criminal Complaint against Pro-Palestine Activist Michael Pröbsting! <https://www.thecommunists.net/rcit/petition-no-to-criminal-complaint-against-pro-palestine-activist-michael-proebsting/>)

The organisers of the Milano conference have already announced their plan to hold a similar event in 2025 – something which is certainly to be welcomed.

However, the RCIT considers it as necessary and possible to go one step further. Those forces which stand on the right side of the barricade in the most important world events – currently this is the Gaza War, the Ukraine War and the inter-imperialist Great Power rivalry – should think about more regular forms of discussion and practical collaboration. An *international conference of organisations* which have broad agreement on these three issues might be a useful framework to discuss about possible forms of collaboration. Such a conference should include – in addition to the above-mentioned ISL-LIS, ITO/PCL and L5I – sizeable international organisations like UIT-CI and LIT-CI. The same applies to other organisation which share such an approach respectively which are open to move in this direction.

Naturally, such collaboration can not and should not ignore serious existing differences between such forces (e.g. on the support for the bourgeois candidate Massa at the last presidential elections in Argentina or on the COVID Counterrevolution).

However, we live in an explosive period of wars and revolutionary upheavals. It would be irresponsible to passively wait until we agree on each and everything before starting serious discussion and collaboration! The RCIT will contribute as good as possible to advance such a process.

