



Banking & Stock Market Crunch: Another Crisis of Capitalism!

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International Womens' Day 2023

By Medina Avdagić, Revolutionary Communist International Tendency (RCIT), 8th March 2023

In 1917, the revolution in Russia was sparked by the protest of women, on the International Womens' Day. More than a century later, we see the dawn of the same spirit rising again.

On this Historic Day We March, because our Iranian sister Mahsa Amini was brutally killed in custody by the Gasht-e Ershad (Guidance Patrols). The notorious moral police took her life, so we took the streets fighting for freedom.

On this Historic Day We March, united with all the sisters in Ukraine who are fighting against the occupation war of imperialist Russia. A truly free and independent Ukraine can only be achieved without NATO, EU and other imperialists hijacking the just defense of our people.

On this Historic Day We March, singing on the streets with our sisters in Peru, fighting against the Boluarte regime and all the attempts to stigmatize our voices of struggle (TERRUQUEO). THEY will never succeed to silence us.

On this Historic Day We March, following the paths of the women in America Latina and Africa who organize campaigns and protests of the masses against gender violence. All the women who punch back, protecting their lives, their sisters, and future generations.

On this Historic Day We March, honoring the hundreds of thousands of poor workers and farmers, mostly women

who built a resistance movement in India over the last year against the massive hunger crisis. Caring for the land, they cared for all activists too.

On this Historic Day We March, facing how our homes in Palestine are burnt down by Zionist settlers, our family and friends murdered by the Apartheid state. They believe to destroy us with fire, but we are clinging to flames... the flames of our resistance, of our Intifada.

On this Historic Day We March, because THEY tried to take away:

Our Freedom and Independence

Our Voice and Bodily Autonomy

Our Land and Food

Our Homes and the Homes of our Ancestors.

The International Womens' Day is the day we take the flowers gifted to us, to put them in our hair, our uniforms, our weapons.

The flowers will accompany us in the socialist revolution when we smash the capitalist system and its integrated patriarchy.

The flowers will fall from our hair, our uniforms, our weapons into the graves of those who thought they can take away what always was and is, truthfully ours.



Medina Avdagić, leader of the Revolutionary Communist International Tendency

RCIT documents on Women's Liberation

on our website: <https://www.thecommunists.net/oppressed/>

France: For an Indefinite General Strike!

Escalate the struggle now to stop the pension reform and the Macron government!

Statement by the Revolutionary Communist International Tendency (RCIT), 21 March 2023

1. France is at a turning point. Macron could only force through the widely despised pension reform by invoking the undemocratic Article 49.3 which allows a bill in parliament to be passed without a vote. Yesterday night, his government barely survived a no-confidence motion which garnered 278 of the 287 votes needed to pass. Such weakness of the government reflects the fact that over 80% of the population opposes the pension reform and over 70% call for the government's resignation. Even bourgeois commentators are forced to acknowledge that Macron and his government are battered and have lost public legitimacy.

2. This is the result of a series of mass struggles including six national days of actions. On 7 March about 700,000 people demonstrated in Paris and 3.5 million nationwide, the largest day of protest since several decades. Furthermore, there has been a series of strikes and blockades by workers in the oil, gas, electricity, ports, and transport sector. Sanitation workers and garbage collectors in Paris are also on strike for more than two weeks. In addition, many students are supporting the movement with their own protests. Another day of national mobilization shall take place on 23 March. Of particular importance is the fact that in the last few days, wild strikes as well as spontaneous and militant street demonstrations have spread around the country.

3. The weakness of the government, its loss of public legitimacy, the wave of mass struggles including militant direct actions – all these are indications that France is close to a *pre-revolutionary situation*. Such a development is of crucial importance for the class struggle in Europe and internationally. This is the case not only because France is a major country on the continent but also because these developments take place in the midst of two global crises: a) a banking and stock market crunch which has spread from New York to London, Shanghai and Tokyo and b) the ongoing Ukraine War with its consequences for the acceleration of inter-imperialist Great Power rivalry.

4. The central problem of the current situation in the crisis of working-class leadership. The crisis of capitalism, and in particular the crisis of the Macron government, is much more advanced than the process of creating authentic and independent organs of the workers and youth. This uneven development is the main factor why the government is still in power and why it might be able to enforce the pension reform. In a number of enterprises, workers are meeting regularly to discuss and decide about the next steps of the struggle. However, such initiatives remain limited to local levels.

5. There have been promising initiatives to link such local committees in order to advance towards a general strike like the *Réseau de la Grève Général* (Network for the

Books of the RCIT

Michael Pröbsting: Marxism and the United Front Tactic Today

The Struggle for Proletarian Hegemony in the Liberation Movement and the United Front Tactic Today.

The RCIT is proud to announce the publication of a new English-language book – MARXISM AND THE UNITED FRONT TACTIC TODAY. The book's subtitle is: The Struggle for Proletarian Hegemony in the Liberation Movement and the United Front Tactic Today. On the Application of the Marxist United Front Tactic in Semi-Colonial and Imperialist Countries in the Present Period. It contains eight chapters plus an appendix (172 pages) and includes 9 tables and 5 figures. The author of the book is Michael Pröbsting who serves as the International Secretary of the RCIT.

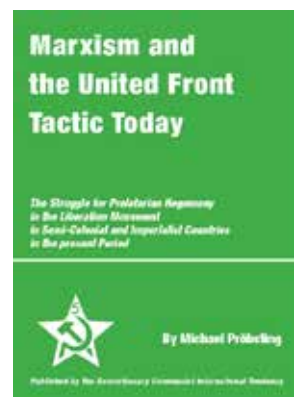
The following paragraphs are the back cover text of the book which give an overview of its content.

The united front tactic is a crucial instrument for revolutionaries under today's circumstances in which the mass organizations of the working class and the oppressed are dominated by social democratic, Stalinist and petty-bourgeois-populist forces.

The purpose of this document is both to summarize the main ideas of the Marxist united front tactic while at the same time explaining its development and modification which have become necessary due to political changes which have transpired in the

working class liberation movement since the tactic's original formulation.

In this book we initially summarize the main characteristics of the united front tactic and elaborate the approach of the Marxist classics to this issue. We then outline important social developments in the working class and the popular masses as well as in their political formations in recent decades. From there we will discuss how the united front tactic should be applied in light of a number of new developments (the rise of petty-bourgeois populist parties, the decline of the classic reformist parties, the role of national minorities and migrants in imperialist countries, etc.). The eight chapters of the book are accompanied by nine tables and five figures.



General Strike) which has been initiated by the Trotskyist organization *Révolution Permanente*. However, such initiatives are still in their early stages and, for now, the trade unions and reformist parties are the dominating force on a national level. The most important ones among these forces are two trade union federations – the ex-Stalinist CGT and the moderate social democratic CFDT – as well as the parliamentary alliance NUPES which is led by Jean-Luc Mélenchon's LFI but which also includes the Socialist Party, the Communist Party and the Greens. These bureaucratic forces want to limit the struggle to a few symbolic and limited days of actions respectively to parliamentary channels. It is no accident that the trade union leadership deliberately avoided to organise any mass demonstration on the days before the no-confidence vote in the parliament as they did not want to "*interfere in politics*".

6. The decisive task now is to overcome the fruitless and impotent strategy of having symbolic one-day mobilisations. As the RCIT emphasised already in early February, it is crucial to move forward to an *indefinite general strike* here and now in order to *stop the pension reform*. Such a general strike must also go beyond purely economic issues and call for the *downfall of the macron regime*. Socialists should advocate the creation of a *workers government* based on representative bodies of the mass movement against the pension reform.

7. Socialists need to combine the struggle for a general strike with supporting the formation of *independent action committees* in workplaces and neighbourhoods which should be linked by delegates-based regional and national coordination councils. These committees could become an alternative to the bureaucracy and stop the traitorous leaders to contain and divert the mobilization. They could also serve so that the workers organized in the unions have an alternative leadership which allows them to confront their leaders and replace them with others who organize the general strike together with the independent self-organ-

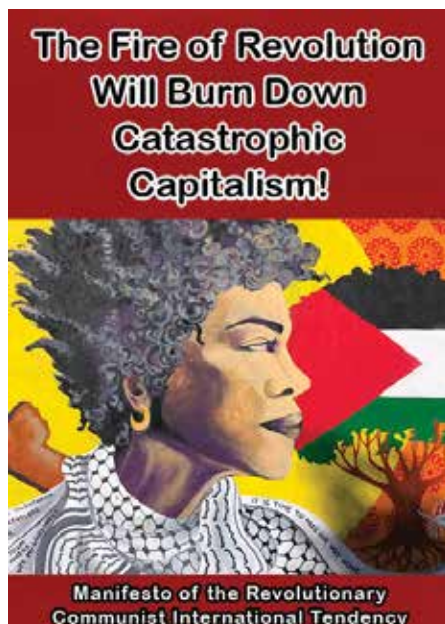
ization committees. As long as the committees can not replace the bureaucracy, they should put pressure on the union leaderships to such support such a general strike with all their material resources. However, as the trade union leadership are reluctant to support a general strike and are prepared to sell-out the struggle, socialists should work towards organising mass actions independently wherever it is possible. Furthermore, it is urgent to organise *self-defence units* in order to protect strikes and demonstrations against police violence.

8. Most importantly, socialists need to work towards the creation of a new *revolutionary workers party* which organises the vanguard independently of the reformist bureaucracy and centrist muddleheads. Such a new party should fight for an anti-capitalist program, i.e. for the expropriation of the key corporations under democratic control of the workers and for the overthrow of the ruling class via a socialist revolution.

9. In the current phase, the RCIT considers it as crucial to link economic struggles – like the one against the pension reform – with a political strategy. This means that socialists should advocate, on one hand, the struggle for a workers government and, on the other hand, an internationalist and anti-imperialist perspective. The latter includes the support for the popular resistance in former colonies in Africa for the expulsion of French troops. Likewise, we call for siding with the Ukraine in its war of national defence against Putin's invasion. Such support for the Ukraine does neither imply any political support for the bourgeois Zelensky government nor for Western sanctions. We say: Against Russian as well as against NATO imperialism!

10. The RCIT calls all activists, who agree with such a strategy, to join forces in building a new party of socialist revolution on a national as well as international scale.

International Bureau of the RCIT



New Program of the RCIT

Manifesto for the Liberation Struggle

Adopted at the III. World Congress of the RCIT in April 2021

* Introductory Note

* A New Era of Counterrevolutionary Offensive and Revolutionary Upheavals

* The Capitalist State Monster Attacks Democracy!

Defeat Chauvinism and Bonapartism!

* Great Power Rivalry and Imperialist Aggression in the South:

Turn the Guns against the Lords of Power and Money!

* Crisis of Revolutionary Leadership: How to Organize and How to Fight?

A RCIT Pamphlet, 24 pages, A5 Format

“Nationalization” of Lithium in Mexico

A smokescreen to cover the delivery of the resource to China

By Damian Quevedo, *Convergencia Socialista (RCIT Section in Argentina)*, 22.02.2023

The president of Mexico, Andrés Manuel López Obrador, signed a decree on Saturday whereby almost 235,000 hectares of the northern state of Sonora, bordering Arizona, will be converted into a mining reserve for the exploitation of lithium. *The measure establishes that the concessions already granted will not be withdrawn, a line that benefits the Chinese company Ganfeng Lithium, which has the most advanced exploration project in the region* [1].

This measure announced with great fanfare is a crude maneuver, like the “tero”, a bird that builds its nest in the open field, but pretends to lay its eggs elsewhere. In the same way, López Obrador pretends to defend national interests, although, in reality, he plays in favor of certain multinationals, in this case Chinese, since by prohibiting new foreign companies from establishing themselves, he annuls any competition for existing ones.

The creation of a state lithium extraction company does not mean any threat to the big capitalists who exploit lithium in Mexico, which could become another link in the production chain of multinationals. The capitalist State is in charge of managing and protecting the businesses of big businessmen, therefore the nationalizations and privatizations are nothing more than tools at the service of that policy.

An emblematic case of “nationalization” has been that of Sidor, decreed by Hugo Chávez, who bought the company from the Techint group, well above the company’s market price, when it was beginning to generate losses. Another example was the “nationalization” of YPF in Argentina, which served as a “smoke screen” for the handover of the Vaca Muerta business to the multinational Chevron.

The populists are great conjurers who, with pompous gestures that do not change anything and that always benefit the capitalists, seek to win over the masses. Today, the general economic crisis and the collapse of the bourgeois democratic regime, make these maneuvers turn against those who execute them, because the “national and popular” can only sell smoke.

The left must denounce these maneuvers in favor of some multinationals, pointing out that nothing changes for the working class. That will only change when workers and poor people take control of companies and natural resources, through a social revolution that imposes a socialist government.

[1] Página 12 / 02/21/2023

Argentina: Gabriela Capurro Speaks at Teachers Trade Union Conference on Kicillof’s Anti-Educational Reform

Report (with Video) by *Convergencia Socialista (RCIT Section in Argentina)*, 24.2.2023

In the assembly convened by the teachers trade union SUTEBA Lanús, with the purpose of voting on CTERA’s report and balance, the provincial leadership defended the need to sign a salary agreement that will not recover what we have lost during these years due to inflation.

In addition, from the table, La Celeste vindicated the policy of destruction of the public school and the teaching statute, which is being carried out by the provincial government, through the Educational Reform, which lowers the budget, makes teaching work precarious, liquidates subjects and lower the content.

Gabriela Capurro, a member of the Green List and grassroots delegate from secondary school 56, strongly questioned the reform. (To learn more about the reform, see and read [in Spanish language]: an [explanatory article](#) and [video by Gabriela](#))



Gabriela Capurro, leader of Convergencia Socialista

“Markets are wild”: Banks and Stock Markets Teeter on the Brink

Some notes on the nature of the crisis and its political and economic consequences

By Michael Pröbsting, International Secretary of the Revolutionary Communist International Tendency (RCIT), 15 March 2023

Panic is spreading at the stock markets. Within a few days, two U.S. banks – the Silicon Valley Bank and the Signature Bank – have collapsed. Today, the share price of Credit Suisse, one of the nine largest global investment banks (“Bulge Bracket”), dropped nearly 25%. Add to this that Asian stock markets also stumbled in the last few days.

Clearly, this is a serious crisis of the global financial system and not a temporary wobble caused by a particularly incompetent bank. *Reuters* quotes an Italian banker saying: “Markets are wild. We move from the problems of American banks to those of European banks, first of all Credit Suisse”.¹

The Biden Administration and the Fed intervened over the weekend in order to avoid a collapse of the stock markets a la “Black Friday” in 1929. Shortly before the opening of Wall Street, the U.S. President said in a televised statement from the White House: “Americans can rest assured that our banking system is safe. Your deposits are safe,” the president said. “Let me also assure you we will not stop at this; we’ll do whatever is needed.”

While this intervention helped to avoid an immediate collapse, it can not remove the fundamental problems of the financial sector in the U.S. A highly interesting academic study published on Monday points to the highly fragile nature of America’s banking system. The authors of the study – to which the *Financial Times* drew attention – conclude that its real market value of assets is \$2 trillion lower than its official book value.

“The U.S. banking system’s market value of assets is \$2 trillion lower than suggested by their book value of assets. We show that these losses, combined with a large share of uninsured deposits at some U.S. banks can impair their stability. Even if only half of uninsured depositors decide to withdraw, almost 190 banks are at a potential risk of impairment to even insured depositors, with potentially \$300 billion of insured deposits at risk. If uninsured deposit withdrawals cause even small fire sales, substantially more banks are at risk. Overall, these calculations suggest that recent declines in bank asset values significantly increased the fragility of the US banking system to uninsured depositors

*runs.”*²

The collapse of Credit Suisse – which was triggered by the announcement of its biggest shareholder (the Saudi National Bank) that it would not inject more money into the ailing bank – reflects that the rottenness of the financial system is not limited to the U.S.

We will see if other governments and central banks will also intervene decisively to avoid a 1929-like scenario and how far they are prepared (and able!) to go in their determination to bail out the bankrupt banks and shareholders.

What can be said already now is that this is a serious crisis which will not go away. If the capitalist governments and central banks manage to avoid an immediate collapse, they will only put off the evil day.

Another confirmation of the Marxist analysis of the current period of Great Depression

At this point, we have to limit ourselves to a few notes about the nature and the consequences of the crisis of the global financial sector. First, the latest financial crisis does not come out of the blue. It confirms the analysis of the RCIT that the capitalist world economy remains stuck in a period of Great Depression which began in autumn 2019. After a first phase of slump which lasted until the second half of 2020, the global economy saw a brief period of recovery which soon came to a close by another phase of slump at the end of 2021. This second slump has a more protracted character compared with the phase in spring 2020. We will see if the current stock market crunch opens a new stage of this crisis. In short, the capitalist world economy is not experiencing its usual cycle of booms and busts – it is in a long-term period of stagnation and decay.³

Given the serious nature of the current crisis, it inevitable that it will have massive political and economic consequences. Let us note only a few of these at this point. If the Biden Administration stays the course and tries to avoid a collapse of the financial sector by massive state-capitalist

Table 1. Global Public Debt, 2007-21 (Percent of GDP)⁷

	2007	2021
World	61.1	96.0
Advanced Economies	71.7	119.5
Euro Area	66.0	97.8
Japan	172.8	262.1
United Kingdom	41.4	102.8
United States	64.6	128.1
Emerging Market Economies	35.0	64.5
China	29.2	71.5
Others	36.7	58.5
Low-Income Developing Countries	28.8	48.5

intervention, this will inevitable result in a dramatic increase of public debt. However, this is a risky policy since the U.S. did already use this instrument in the past 15 years. As a result, public debt in the U.S. doubled from 64.6% of GDP in 2007 to 128.1% in 2021. Such a policy can not last forever as it risks, at one point, to result in national bankruptcy.

As we show in Table 1 below, such massive indebtedness is not limited to the U.S. but a phenomenon of global capitalism. In average, global public debt increased by half from 2007 to 2021 – from 61.1% to 96%. The most dramatic increase took place in China where public debt increased from 29.2% to 71.5% in the same period.

Possible consequences for the global position of U.S. imperialism

There is a huge driving factor for Biden's pro-interventionist policy, and this is the approaching period of Presidential elections. It is difficult to win an election in a period of economic collapse. No doubt, Biden is fully aware of the fate of Herbert Hoover, the U.S. President in 1929-33 who lost his re-election campaign against Franklin D. Roosevelt by 59-472, winning only 39.7% of the popular vote, a plunge of 26 percentage points from his result in the 1928 election.

However, a long and massive state-capitalist policy of bailing out the financial sector by dramatically increasing public debt will have huge consequences. It will undermine the status of the U.S. as the leading power and, in particular, of the U.S. Dollar as the key currency in global markets. This is even more the case as the position of the Dollar has already been undermined in the last period by the sanctions policy of the U.S. against Russia and China.⁴ As result of this policy, a growing number of nations are turning to other currencies (like the Euro or the Yuan). If Biden sticks to such a pro-interventionist policy, it is not excluded that the next period could see a collapse of the Dollar's hegemonic role.

It is also likely, that a state-capitalist interventionist ap-

proach of the Biden Administration in face of the economic turbulences will strongly influence Washington's foreign policy. It is difficult to imagine how the White House could finance a continuation of its military aid for the Ukraine in such a situation. Hence, the financial crisis would massively increase the factors which, as we pointed out in a recently published document, have already pushed the U.S. to look for a pacification of the Ukraine War and a compromise with Russia.⁵

Could another slump force the U.S. to look for temporary accommodation with its main imperialist rivals – Russia and China? It is difficult to answer this question at the moment since, as we know from history, a period of domestic crisis can also push governments to look for a foreign adventure in order to deflect attention and to boost its prestige.⁶

As it is well-known, Vyacheslav Plehve, Minister of the Interior in Tsarist Russia, famously said that "*we need a small victorious war*" when the regime decided to go for a military confrontation with Japan in 1904. In less than a year, Russia had suffered humiliating defeats by the rising Asian power, the Tsarist autocracy was shaken to the very foundations by a workers and popular revolution and Plehve had been killed in a bomb attack by Igor Sazonov, a militant of the *Social-Revolutionary Party*. You see, foreign military adventures are a pretty risky thing!

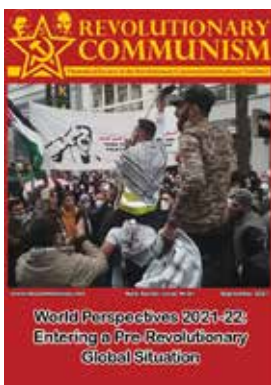
We can not predict the future but, for sure, big things are coming!

Footnotes

1 Noele Illien and Francesco Canepa and Rae Wee: 'Markets are wild': Credit Suisse leads Europe bank rout in fallout from SVB collapse, Reuters, Mar 15, 2023, <https://financialpost.com/fp-finance/banking/credit-suisse-svb-banking-market-rout>

2 Erica Jiang, Gregor Matvos, Tomasz Piskorski, and Amit Seru: Monetary Tightening and U.S. Bank Fragility in 2023: Mark-to-Market Losses and Uninsured Depositor Runs? 13 March 2023, p.8; see also: Robin Wigglesworth: The US bank system is more fragile than you'd think, Financial Times, 2023-03-14, <https://www-ft-com.ezp.lib.cam.ac.uk/content/84c4446a-d7aa-4f70-a286-adeb4fc4988c>

3 The RCIT has analysed the crisis of the capitalist world economy in much detail. The latest documents are compiled on a special sub-page on our website: <https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/global>



Publications of the RCIT

World Perspectives 2021-22: Entering a Pre-Revolutionary Global Situation

Theses of the International Executive Committee of the RCIT, 22 August 2021

Introduction * I. Great Depression, its Genesis and its Relevance for the COVID Counterrevolution * II. Peculiar Features of the Crisis and Prospects of the Capitalist World Economy * III. Acceleration of the Cold War between the Imperialist Great Powers * IV. The COVID Counterrevolution Enters a New Phase * V. A New Global Wave of Mass Struggles * Entering a Pre-Revolutionary World Situation of Accelerating Polarization between Classes and States * Footnotes

A RCIT Pamphlet, 28 pages, A4 Format

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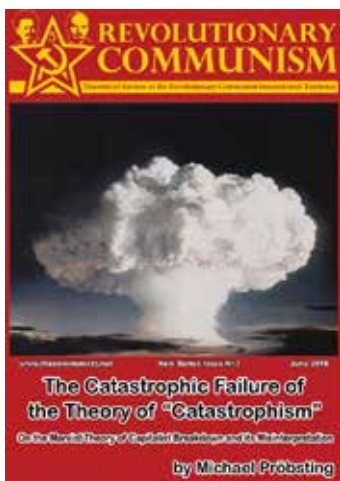
4 See on this e.g. RCIT: Chip Sanctions: Another Step towards War between U.S. and China. Neither Washington nor Beijing! Revolutionary defeatism against all imperialist Great Powers! 25 October 2022, <https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/global/chip-sanctions-another-step-towards-war-between-u-s-and-china/>. For more documents on the Global Trade War see the compilation of our articles on our website, <https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/global/collection-of-articles-on-the-global-trade-war/>. See also e.g. Michael Pröbsting: Less Than 9%. Many Western corporations continue to make business with Russia despite the official sanction policy, 11 February 2023, <https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/global/western-corporations-continue-to-make-business-with-russia/>.

5 RCIT: Towards a Turning Point in the Ukraine War? The tasks of socialists in the light of possible lines of development of the war of national defence in combination with the inter-imperialist Great Pow-

er rivalry, 11 March 2023, <https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/global/towards-a-turning-point-in-the-ukraine-war/>; We refer readers to a special page on our website where more than 160 RCIT documents on the Ukraine War and the current NATO-Russia conflict are compiled: <https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/global/compilation-of-documents-on-nato-russia-conflict/>. In particular we refer to the RCIT Manifesto: Ukraine War: A Turning Point of World Historic Significance. Socialists must combine the revolutionary defense of the Ukraine against Putin’s invasion with the internationalist struggle against Russian as well as NATO and EU imperialism, 1 March 2022, <https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/global/manifesto-ukraine-war-a-turning-point-of-world-historic-significance/>; see also: Manifesto on the First Anniversary of the Ukraine War. Victory to the heroic Ukrainian people! Defeat Russian imperialism! No support whatsoever for NATO imperialism! 10 February 2023, <https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/global/manifesto-on-first-anniversary-of-ukraine-war/>.

6 The RCIT has dealt on numerous occasions with the inter-imperialist rivalry of the Great Powers. See e.g. RCIT: World Perspectives 2021-22: Entering a Pre-Revolutionary Global Situation, 22 August 2021, <https://www.thecommunists.net/theory/world-perspectives-2021-22/>; see also our book by 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, RCIT Books, Vienna 2019, <https://www.thecommunists.net/theory/anti-imperialism-in-the-age-of-great-power-rivalry/>; see also the following works by the same author: “A Really Good Quarrel”. US-China Alaska Meeting: The Inter-Imperialist Cold War Continues, 23 March 2021, <https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/global/us-china-alaska-meeting-shows-continuation-of-inter-imperialist-cold-war/>; Servants of Two Masters. Stalinism and the New Cold War between Imperialist Great Powers in East and West, 10 July 2021, <https://www.thecommunists.net/theory/servants-of-two-masters-stalinism-and-new-cold-war/>; for more works on this issue see these sub-pages: <https://www.thecommunists.net/theory/china-russia-as-imperialist-powers/> and <https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/global/collection-of-articles-on-the-global-trade-war/>.

7 International Monetary Fund: Global Debt Monitor 2022, December 2022, p. 6



Publications of the RCIT

The Catastrophic Failure of the Theory of “Catastrophism”

By Michael Pröbsting, May 2018

*On the Marxist Theory of Capitalist Breakdown and its Misinterpretation
by the Partido Obrero (Argentina) and its
“Coordinating Committee for the Refoundation of the Fourth International”*

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

A RCIT Pamphlet, 32 pages, A4 Format

The Black Sea Drone Incident Is Very Telling

Pentagon reacts cautiously after Russian fighter jets down a U.S. drone

By Michael Pröbsting, International Secretary of the Revolutionary Communist International Tendency (RCIT), 17 March 2023

On 14 March Russian fighter jets intercepted a U.S. surveillance drone over the Black Sea close to the Crimea. The two Sukhoi Su-27 dumped fuel on the drone and finally caused it to crash in the sea. According to the Pentagon this has been caused by one of the Russian fighter jet colliding with the drone, a claim which the Kremlin denies. Nikolai Patrushev, the secretary of Russia's Security Council, said that an attempt would be made to recover the drone debris.

Reflecting the serious character of this incident, shortly after calls took place between U.S. Defence Secretary Lloyd Austin and Russian Defence Minister Sergei Shoigu, as well as between Joint Chiefs of Staff Chairman Gen. Mark Milley and Gen. Valery Gerasimov, chief of Russian General Staff.

Unsurprisingly, both sides put the responsibility for the crash to the other side. Moscow accuses the U.S. of provoking the incident by ignoring flight restrictions it had imposed because of its military operations in Ukraine. The U.S. said the drone was operating in international airspace.

This is a classic case of two crooks accusing each other of fraud. Obviously, the Pentagon is no innocent party. The drone was a MQ-9 Reaper – one of the U.S. most powerful unmanned aerial vehicles. It was produced by the U.S. as part of its hunter-killer program. It is often used for intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance as well as for targeted strikes. Since the Russian fighter jets intercepted the drone about 60 kilometres southwest of the Crimean port of Sevastopol (according to Russian media), its mission was clearly to spy on Russia's military.

On the other hand, who is the Kremlin – which has invaded the Ukraine and annexed parts of its territory (including the Crimea) – to accuse others of illegal activities?!

Humiliation for Washington

This event is important for several reasons. While Russia and NATO member countries routinely intercept each other's warplanes, the latest incident over the Black Sea marked the first time since the end of the Cold War in 1991 that a U.S. aircraft went down during such a confrontation.

This is clearly a humiliation for the self-proclaimed "indispensable nation" – even more so as it is one of their most modern fighter drones which costs \$32 million each. It rubs salt into the wound that it would be, according to a Navy official, "extremely difficult and time-consuming" for the U.S. to recover portions of the downed aircraft since it does not have any ships in the area.¹

It is unclear if the Russian Navy will manage to recover valuable parts of the debris in its search-and-rescue operation. This is no easy task since waters at the place of the crash are 1,200 to 1,500 meters deep. However, if they succeed, it might enable Russia to study the wreckage and find data parameters about US drones from sensitive parts of its debris.

A telling reaction by the Pentagon

The reaction of the U.S. is not less important than the incident itself. One could have expected a harsh reaction to the downing of one of the U.S. first-class drones by its arch-enemy. It is less than a year ago that Biden publicly called, in a major speech in Warsaw in March 2022, for the removal of Putin. ("For God's sake, this man cannot remain in power.") And Washington had imposed "sanctions from hell" against Russia after Putin invaded the Ukraine on 24 February 2022.

Of course, there are Cold Warriors like Lindsey Graham, a notorious Republican Senator from South Carolina, who said that Russia should be "held accountable" for the destruction of a US military drone. He said on Fox News: "What would Ronald Reagan do right now? He would start shooting Russian planes down if they were threatening our assets. American foreign policy is in freefall." Addressing Putin, he threatened: "If you ever get near another US asset flying in international waters, your airplane will be shot down."²

Anatoly Antonov, Russian Ambassador to the United States, reacted furiously to Graham's statement and threatened: "Some lawmakers' calls go far beyond common sense. (...) Of course, it is a shame for the Pentagon to lose expensive piece of equipment. But in this case, the US military should redirect accusations of unprofessional actions back to themselves. (...) Does Senator Graham really believe that a direct military clash with Russia is in the interests of the voters who entrusted him with their lives and livelihood? (...) A deliberate attack on a Russian aircraft in neutral airspace is not just a crime under international law, but an open declaration of war against the largest nuclear power. An armed conflict between Russia and the United States would be radically different from the proxy war the Americans are waging remotely against us in Ukraine. Is the Capitol willing to put American citizens and the international community at risk of a full-scale nuclear war? Give us an answer, distinguished Senator!"³

However, Graham is a right-wing Republican who does not represent the Biden Administration. And, interestingly, the official reaction of Washington is very different. In fact, it works overdrive to avoid any escalation of the tensions with Russia. U.S. officials have emphasized that they don't accuse Russia of intentionally bringing down the drone. John Kirby, spokesman for the White House National Security Council, told reporters: "It is not clear to us that the pilots intended to strike the drone. At best, it's reckless flying. At worst, it's reckless and incompetent. (...) I can't point to that video and say this is a deliberate intent to escalate."⁴

Brig. Gen. Pat Ryder, the Pentagon's Press Secretary, even said that the U.S. does not ask the Kremlin for an apology! According to an official transcript of a press briefing, a journalist asked: "Did the U.S. [did] ask for an apology from Russia on taking down the drone? And did Russia offer an apology?" Ryder replied: "No, we did not ask for an apology."⁵

This kind of reaction makes it clear beyond doubt that Washington is not looking for an escalation of tensions with Russia in the present situation, despite the public humiliation it has suffered.

Some lessons

There are several lessons to be drawn from the Black Sea drone incident.

First, the fact that we have seen such a military encounter between the U.S. and Russia for the first time since 1991 shows the massive escalation of tensions between the two powers. It is not difficult to imagine how such incidents could result in a more serious confrontation. It confirms the analysis of the RCIT which has explained for some time that we are living in a period of accelerated rivalry between the imperialist Great Powers.⁶

Second, as shown above, there are clear signs that the Biden Administration is not looking for an escalation of the conflict with Russia. This confirms an important trend to which the RCIT did already point in a statement last November⁷ and, in a more elaborated form, in a recently published document ("*Towards a Turning Point in the Ukraine War?*").⁸

In the latter theses, we explained that there is a growing concern among the Biden Administration as well as Western European government that a continuation of the Ukraine War would harm their interests for several economic, political and military reasons. Since the Kremlin would most likely be prepared to accept a ceasefire which would leave the Russian army in control of the occupied territories, there are powerful objective factors which make "*the Great Powers strive to impose a pacification of the conflict.*" This is even more the case as "*the White House and the Pentagon become uneasy with the fact that the Ukraine War deflects attention from its strategic focus on its rival China – that axis of conflict which they consider as the most fundamental*

challenge. Such worries exist all the more since the Ukraine War could dramatically escalate and transform into a direct confrontation between NATO and Russia." Hence, we see a danger that the U.S. and the EU could try to force the Ukraine to stop its legitimate resistance against Putin's invasion.

We can add now that Washington's strive for pacification and avoidance of a military confrontation with Russia has certainly increased in the last few days since the beginning of the banking and stock market crisis. The Biden Administration will need a lot of money to finance its banking bail-out program and, therefore, is likely to have no interest in another escalation of its conflict with Moscow.⁹

This is even more the case as America is moving towards a Presidential campaign in which Biden's likely opponents from the Republican party are positioning themselves as critiques for his support of the Ukraine. Both former President Trump as well as his inner-party rival Ron DeSantis (the Governor of Florida) have called for an end of Washington's policy of confrontation with Putin. This could push the White House to deescalate the tensions with Moscow in the next period.

Russia aggressive attitude against the U.S. and the cautious reaction of Washington demonstrate, once again, that Russia is not a "semi-colonial" or "sub-imperialist" country as our critics repeatedly claim. It is rather, as the RCIT has explained in a number of documents, an imperialist Great Power in its own right.¹⁰

Finally, the Black Sea drone incident contains also powerful lessons for China. As it is well-known, there are repeatedly conflicts in the South China Sea and, in particular, in the Taiwan Strait as the U.S. regularly sends surveillance aircrafts for spying on Chinese military installations. The

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.

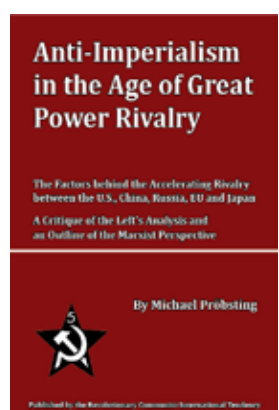
Anti-Imperialism in the Age of Great Power Rivalry demonstrates the validity of the Marxist analysis of modern imperialism. Using comprehensive material (including 61 Tables and Figures), Michael Pröbsting elaborates that a correct understanding of the rise of China and Russia as new Great Powers is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



fact that Washington reacts rather cautiously to the downing of one of its aircrafts will certainly encourage Beijing to confront similar incursions more aggressively.

Global Times – the English-language mouthpiece of the Stalinist-capitalist regime – published an article which quotes the views of Chinese military experts about the incident. Unsurprisingly, the restricted nature of the reaction of the White House did not slip their attention. One of military experts, Song Zhongping, is quoted as saying that “after the incident, the US may alter the way in which it collects related intelligence.” Zhang Xuefeng, another expert, said “that the US is using the incident to test Russia’s bottom line in response to its aggressive deployment of drones, while Russia drew the line through the interception.”¹¹

It might not take too long until we see a similar incident between American and Chinese aircrafts.

The stance of socialists

In face of the ongoing Ukraine War and the inter-imperialist rivalry between the Great Powers, we reiterate the RCIT’s position that this conflict has a *dual character*. It is a legitimate war of national defence by the Ukraine against Putin’s invasion. At the same time, the conflict contains also the conflict between two imperialist camps – the U.S. and Western Europe versus Russia.

Socialists have to take a consistent internationalist and anti-imperialist position which requires a *dual tactic* in such a situation. We side with the Ukraine – a semi-colonial capitalist country – against Russian imperialism but warn against the bourgeois and pro-NATO policy of the Zelensky government. We defend the Ukraine’s right to get weapons from wherever possible.

At the same time, we lend no support whatsoever to the chauvinist and militarist policy of any Great Power against its rivals (like e.g. armament programs or economic sanctions). The RCIT has summarised such an approach in the slogan: “Defend the Ukraine against Putin’s invasion! Beware of NATO and Zelensky – transform the resistance against the Russian occupation into a Popular War! Against Russian and against NATO imperialism!”

Hence, socialists don’t choose any side in military confrontations like the recent Black Sea drone incident, i.e. we take a position of dual defeatism against NATO as well as against Russian imperialism. This, of course, remains also the case if, contrary to the present indicators, the tensions between Washington and Moscow, would escalate.

Footnotes

1 Quoted in CNN: Austin says US will continue to fly drones over Black Sea and condemns Russian downing as ‘aggressive’, 15 March 2023, <https://edition.cnn.com/2023/03/15/politics/lloyd-austin-russian-aircraft-us-drone/index.html>

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3 TASS: Attack on Russian plane in neutral airspace to be seen as declaration of war – diplomat, 16 March 2023, /TASS/. <https://tass.com/politics/1589407>

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5 Pentagon Press Secretary Brig. Gen. Pat Ryder Holds an

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6 The RCIT has dealt on numerous occasions with the inter-imperialist rivalry of the Great Powers. See e.g. RCIT: World Perspectives 2021-22: Entering a Pre-Revolutionary Global Situation, 22 August 2021, <https://www.thecommunists.net/theory/world-perspectives-2021-22/>; see also our book by 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, RCIT Books, Vienna 2019, <https://www.thecommunists.net/theory/anti-imperialism-in-the-age-of-great-power-rivalry/>; see also the following works by the same author: “A Really Good Quarrel”. US-China Alaska Meeting: The Inter-Imperialist Cold War Continues, 23 March 2021, <https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/global/us-china-alaska-meeting-shows-continuation-of-inter-imperialist-cold-war/>; Servants of Two Masters. Stalinism and the New Cold War between Imperialist Great Powers in East and West, 10 July 2021, <https://www.thecommunists.net/theory/servants-of-two-masters-stalinism-and-new-cold-war/>; for more works on this issue see these sub-pages: <https://www.thecommunists.net/theory/china-russia-as-imperialist-powers/> and <https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/global/collection-of-articles-on-the-global-trade-war/>.

7 RCIT: Ukraine War: The Liberation of Western Kherson Oblast and the Danger of a Great Power Deal. Full liberation of the Ukraine! Defeat Russian imperialism! No support whatsoever for NATO imperialism! 15 November 2022, <https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/global/ukraine-war-liberation-of-kherson-danger-of-great-power-deal/>

8 RCIT: Towards a Turning Point in the Ukraine War? The tasks of socialists in the light of possible lines of development of the war of national defence in combination with the inter-imperialist Great Power rivalry, 11 March 2023, <https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/global/towards-a-turning-point-in-the-ukraine-war/>

9 See on this e.g. Michael Pröbsting: “Markets are wild”: Banks and Stock Markets Teeter on the Brink. Some notes on the nature of the crisis and its political and economic consequences, 15 March 2023, <https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/global/banks-and-stock-markets-teeter-on-the-brink/>

10 The RCIT has published numerous documents about capitalism in Russia and its rise to an imperialist power. The most important ones are several pamphlets by Michael Pröbsting: The Peculiar Features of Russian Imperialism. A Study of Russia’s Monopolies, Capital Export and Super-Exploitation in the Light of Marxist Theory, 10 August 2021, <https://www.thecommunists.net/theory/the-peculiar-features-of-russian-imperialism/>; by the same author: Lenin’s Theory of Imperialism and the Rise of Russia as a Great Power. On the Understanding and Misunderstanding of Today’s Inter-Imperialist Rivalry in the Light of Lenin’s Theory of Imperialism. Another Reply to Our Critics Who Deny Russia’s Imperialist Character, August 2014, <http://www.thecommunists.net/theory/imperialism-theory-and-russia/>; Russia as a Great Imperialist Power. The formation of Russian Monopoly Capital and its Empire – A Reply to our Critics, 18 March 2014 (this pamphlet contains a document written in 2001 in which we established for the first time our characterisation of Russia as imperialist), <http://www.thecommunists.net/theory/imperialist-russia/>; see also these essays by the same author: Russia: An Imperialist Power or a “Non-Hegemonic Empire in Gestation”? A reply to the Argentinean economist Claudio Katz, in: New Politics, 11 August 2022, at <https://newpol.org/russia-an-imperialist-power-or-a-non-hegemonic-empire-in-gestation-a-reply-to-the-argentinean-economist-claudio-katz-an-essay-with-8-tables/>; Russian Imperialism and Its Monopolies, in: New Politics Vol. XVIII No. 4, Whole Number 72, Winter 2022, https://newpol.org/issue_post/russian-imperialism-and-its-monopolies/; Once Again on Russian Imperialism (Reply to Critics). A rebuttal of a theory which claims that Russia is not an imperialist state but would be rather “comparable to Brazil and Iran”, 30 March 2022, <https://www.thecommunists.net/theory/once-again-on-russian-imperialism-reply-to-critics/>. See various other RCIT documents on this issue at a special sub-page on the RCIT’s website: <https://www.thecommunists.net/theory/china-russia-as-imperialist-powers/>.

11 Liu Xin and Liu Xuanzun: Russian, US defense ministers discuss drone incident, hinting at little possibility of escalation, Global Times, 16 March 2023, <https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202303/1287419.shtml>

Argentina: Rally on the Anniversary of the Ukraine War

Report by *Convergencia Socialista* (RCIT Section in Argentina), 28.02.2023

On February 24, an important act of the left that supports Ukraine against the invasion of Russian imperialism was held. The rally was organised by Izquierda Socialista, MST, Opinión Socialista, Comuna Socialista, PSTu and Convergencia Socialista (Argentinian Section of the RCIT).

Juan Giglio, representing *Convergencia Socialista* and the *Revolutionary Communist International Tendency* (RCIT), spoke at the event. Welcoming the initiative, he proposed that the parties that called for it continue promoting unitary actions, since it is a matter of principle to be located in the trenches of Ukraine.

Our comrade compared the invasion of Ukraine with the

invasion of the Malvinas Islands, by British imperialism, in 1982. There, the revolutionaries defended Argentina's right to expel the pirates from the islands, despite the dictatorial government that ruled at that time. He was at the forefront of the war at the time. A similar situation, since the semi-colonial Ukraine, like Argentina, has been attacked by an imperialist power.

This position does not mean that we defend the Zelensky government, quite the contrary, since we tell the masses that to defeat Russia the best thing is to get rid of the bourgeois government and build their own militias and their own government – a workers' and socialist government.



Rally in Solidarity with the Ukrainian People: Juan Giglio addressing the rally (above)

On the 12th Anniversary of the Syrian Revolution: Greetings 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), 14 March 2023

On the occasion of the 12th anniversary of the Syrian Revolution, the RCIT sends its warmest greetings to the brothers and sisters in Syria, in the refugee camps abroad and in the diaspora! We send our condolences to the families who have lost relatives in the liberation struggle or in the recent tragic earthquake!

There are very few other peoples in the world who have been forced to make so many sacrifices since 2011! Still, despite all the setbacks, the Syrian masses have not given up their resistance against the tyrannical regime of Bashar al-Assad and his master Putin. Hence, the RCIT reiterates its call for international solidarity with the liberation struggle!

Likewise, we state our support for the struggle of the Kurdish people defending themselves against the relentless aggression of the Erdoğan regime. We call the Kurdish resistance organization to join the liberation struggle in Syria and the rest of the Arab world!

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 people fighting against the Zionist state! Victory to the 3rd Intifada!*

** Solidarity with the Kurdish, Arab, Azeri and Persian people rising up against the Mullah dictatorship in Iran! Down with the oppression of women!*

** No to the state repression in Tunisia! Bring down the Said dictatorship!*

** 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 this website: <https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/africa-and-middle-east/collection-of-articles-on-the-syrian-revolution/>



Publications of the RCIT

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

By Michael Pröbsting, April 2017

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

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

A RCIT Pamphlet, 24 pages, A4 Format

The Intifada is Spreading in the West-Bank and Gaza

By Yossi Schwartz, ISL (Section of the RCIT in Israel/Occupied Palestine), 27.02.2023

According to a record via Al Jazeera[1], the Zionist butchers have killed from the starting of the 2023 sixty five Palestinians, thirteen of them children, and wounded many hundreds. It is the bloodiest killing since 2000. On Thursday they murdered Mohammad Jawabreh, a young man aged 22 in Arroub refugee camp north of Hebron. Jawabreh was once a police officer with the Palestinian Authority (PA) and labored in Bethlehem city. He was once also an undergraduate student in media technological know-how at the Palestine Technical University Kadoorie.

Clashes with the Zionist armed forces had broken out on Thursday throughout the occupied West Bank in response to Israel's butchering eleven Palestinians and wounding greater than one hundred others in Nablus on Wednesday.

In addition, two Palestinian men had been shot by right-wing Zionist settlers who had descended on the Palestinian village of Qusra in Nablus, and are in vital condition.

Armed groups in the besieged Gaza Strip responded to the Israeli military raid in Nablus by launching rockets at Israel late on Wednesday and threatening a wider escalation.

The Lions' Den armed crew from Nablus whose members have been attacked all through the Zionist raid on Wednesday called on the people of the occupied West Bank to take to the streets and protest at nighttime on Thursday. A call that was heard and agreed by many thousands that appreciate the heroic younger warriors and who loathe the PA that collaborates with the Zionist butchers against the Palestinians.

To win against the Zionist apartheid state from the river to the sea it is critical to form self defense armed committees in every village and in each and every local section of an army with democratically elected country wide leaders. To get rid of the traitor Abu Mazen and his gang. To arrange a Revolutionary Constituent Assembly. To turn to the Arab masses in the Arab states to start again the Arab revolution that will get rid of the local Arab ruling classes that are members of the Abraham Accord serving the USA and the Zionists imperialists.

Enough with the ridiculous enchantment to the imperialists in the USA and Europe who condemn Israel with empty phrases and help it by means of deeds. No illusions in

the demonstrations that call for democracy however solely for the Jews. The Israeli Professor Neve Gordon writes correctly: *"The dominant narrative about Israel presently circulating in the Global North is that Israel is "the sole democracy in the Middle East". As such, reviews that are reputedly criticizing the new Netanyahu authorities as "undemocratic" are really serving to whitewash the inherently undemocratic nature of Israel and its main institutions, consisting of its Supreme Court. Sure, there is democracy in Israel – however it is comparable to the one that existed amongst whites in apartheid South Africa than it is to the democracy that presently exists in the United Kingdom or France.*

Millions of Palestinians in the West Bank stay beneath Israel's rule and can't take part in the political process, whilst heaps of Palestinians living in annexed East Jerusalem are "residents" and hence can't vote in the country's national elections. And even although Palestinian citizens of Israel can take part in elections, they too are subjected to a sequence of discriminatory laws. All this, in accordance with many researchers, prison scholars, activists and revered global organizations such as Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch, that say Israel is not a \ functioning liberal democracy but an "apartheid". Put differently, the democracy that is presently "under attack" from the authorities in Israel is a democracy solely for the Jews.

Similarly, the Israeli Supreme Court, portrayed in worldwide media as a principled defender of democratic rights – however solely for the Jews. As numerous research has shown, the court docket has performed an integral position in enabling Israel's colonial undertaking and legitimizing the state's abuses towards Palestinians. Its rulings supplied legitimacy to the expropriation of Palestinian land, and prison cowl for extrajudicial executions, domestic demolitions, deportations, and administrative detentions focused on Palestinians. A few of its justices are themselves settlers and, as such, criminals in accordance to international law" [2]

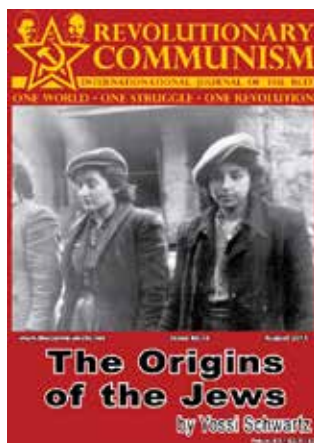
Down with the Zionist apartheid state!

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

Endnotes:

[1] <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2023/2/24/israeli-forces-kill-palestinian-thousands-protest-violent-raids>

[2] <https://www.aljazeera.com/opinions/2023/2/22/the-problem-with-israels-so-called-crisis-of-democracy>



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

Occupied Palestine: The Pogrom and its Supporters

By Yossi Schwartz, ISL (Section of the RCIT in Israel/Occupied Palestine), 02.03.2023

Get up and walk through the city of the massacre,
 And with your hand touch and lock your eyes
 On the cooled brain and clots of blood
 Dried on tree trunks, rocks, and fences; it is they.
 Go to the ruins, to the gaping breaches,
 To walls and hearths, shattered as though by thunder:
 Concealing the blackness of a naked brick,
 A crowbar has embedded itself deeply, like a crushing crowbar,
 And those holes are like black wounds,
 For which there is no healing or doctor.
 Take a step, and your footstep will sink: you have placed your
 foot in fluff,
 Into fragments of utensils, into rags, into shreds of books:
 Bit by bit they were amassed through arduous labor—and in a
 flash,
 Everything is destroyed...
 And you will come out into the road—
 Acacias are blooming and pouring their aroma,
 And their blooms are like fluff, and they smell as though of
 blood.
 And their sweet fumes will enter your breast, as though delib-
 erately,
 Beckoning you to springtime, and to life, and to health;
 And the dear little sun warms and, teasing your grief,
 Splinters of broken glass burn with a diamond fire—
 God sent everything at once, everyone feasted together:
 The sun, and the spring, and the red massacre!" [1]
 "In the City of Slaughter" is Haim Nahman Bialik's poem
 about the 1903 Kishinev pogrom, a terrible ethnic riot dur-
 ing which the large Jewish community of this small city in
 the Russian Empire was attacked over the course of three

days by mobs of the Black Hundreds.

The most famous line of this poem is: "Vengeance for the
 blood of a small child, Satan has not yet created"

This poem is relevant to the pogrom the Zionist settlers in
 the 1967 occupied West bank carried out protected by the
 Zionists armed butchers.

Israeli settlers have carried out at least 300 attacks, includ-
 ing shootings and arson, in a rampage through Palestin-
 ian villages in the Nablus area of the occupied West Bank,
 Palestinian officials say, in what has been described as a
 "pogrom".

"A 37-year-old Palestinian man identified as Samih al-Aqtash
 was shot in the stomach on Sunday night by settlers protected
 by the Israeli army in the village of Zaatara south of Nablus. He
 died of his injuries. The father of five returned home five days
 ago after volunteering to help earthquake survivors in Turkey."

"At least 390 Palestinians were injured in the settler rampage
 across the villages of Huwara, Zaatara, Burin and Asira al-Qib-
 liya – all south of Nablus, the Palestinian Red Crescent said,
 adding that the majority were wounded from tear gas fired by
 the Israeli army as well as smoke inhalation from widespread
 fires set by the settlers." [2]

"Saddam Omar, a resident of Huwara, described the violence
 as "barbaric". "Yesterday we witnessed a new level of coloniz-
 ing settler crimes, where they aggressively attacked everything,"
 he told Al Jazeera on Monday. "I mean literally shops, people,
 supermarkets, houses, trees, cars, car garages," he said. "They
 tried to enter the houses. They burned almost everything."
 Omar added that the settlers "were 100 percent protected by the
 Israeli army". At least 30 Palestinian homes and 100 cars were
 set on fire by settlers" [3]

Books of the RCIT

Yossi Schwartz: The Zionist Wars

A History of the Zionist Movement and Imperialist Wars

In *The Zionist Wars* Yossi Schwartz gives an overview about the pro-
 cess of Zionist colonialization of Palestine as well as the resistance of
 the indigenous Arab population. He deals in detail with the popular
 struggles of the Palestinians against their expulsion by the Zionists.
The Zionist Wars elaborates in detail the character of Israel's mili-
 tary campaigns in 1948 and the following decades which result-
 ed in the expulsion of large parts of the Palestinian population.
 These wars were also crucial to implement the imperialist subju-
 gation of the Arab countries.

However, as Yossi Schwartz elaborates, the Zionist state has passed
 its peak already some time ago which has been demonstrated by
 its failed military campaigns in Lebanon as well as in Gaza.

In *The Zionist Wars* the author also discusses in much detail the
 program of the communist movement on the Palestinian ques-
 tion. He shows the adaptation and finally capitulation of Stalin-
 ism to the Zionist project – culminating in massive arms ship-
 ments for the Israeli forces during the War of 1948.

In this book Yossi Schwartz elaborates the analyses and conclu-
 sions of Leon Trotsky and the Fourth International for the libera-

tion of Palestine. He also discusses the strength and weakness
 of his successors in dealing with the Zionist state and the Arab
 liberation struggle against it.

In *The Zionist Wars* Yossi Schwartz defends the national liberation
 struggle of the Palestinian people and outlines a socialist perspective.

The book contains an introduc-
 tion and 20 chapters (136 pages)
 and includes 2 Tables and 4 Maps.

The author of the book is Yossi
 Schwartz, a leading member of the
 Revolutionary Communist Inter-
 national 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/the-zionist-wars/](https://www.thecommunists.net/theory/the-zionist-wars/)

**THE
 ZIONIST
 WARS**

A HISTORY OF
 THE ZIONIST MOVEMENT
 AND
 IMPERIALIST WARS

BOOK BY
 YOSSE SCHWARTZ

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Out of 200,000 Zionist protesters against the Legal reform, 1000 came out in the entire country to protest against the pogrom. A spokesman for the Standing Together social justice group said that more than 1,000 protesters turned out Monday night in Tel Aviv, Jerusalem, Haifa, and Beer-sheba, for an "emergency protest" against the "settler government lighting the country on fire." The protest came less than 24 hours after hundreds of extremist settlers entered the Palestinian town of Huwara to carry out a pogrom.

A military source said Israeli troops were not involved in the shooting that killed 37-year-old Sameh Aqtash. There was no immediate comment from Border Police officials on the incident, and it remained unclear whether he had been shot by the settlers.

Protesters on Monday in Tel Aviv and elsewhere waved Palestinian flags and sported placards with anti-occupation messages, including "the settler government is bad for all of us" and "there is no democracy without freedom," as well as messages of solidarity with Huwara.[4] Judging by the slogans it is likely supporters of Hadash.

This of course is much better than the 200,000 protesters, mostly Ashkenazi middle class, who have ignored for six weeks the oppression of the Palestinians and the nature of the Zionist apartheid. However, this protest is very different from the best revolutionary Russian workers who defended the Jews against the pogroms in 1903 and 1905 with hammers, pistols and metal poles. The settlers who organize the pogrom must be smashed. It is important to demand from the Arab states to send heavy weapons to the Palestinian fighters and at the same time to explain that there is no chance that the local Arab ruling class will support the armed freedom fighters. It is also important to say the truth that Netanyahu's government is very racists but so were the former governments of the left Zionists like the former governments of Ben Gurion (responsible

for the ethnic cleansing of 1947-8), Golda (responsible for the settlers in Hebron), Peres (minister responsible for the massacre of Jenin 2002), and Rabin (who ordered to break the hands and legs of the Palestinians).

Gideon Levy writes in Haaretz: "In 1982, the Israeli military did not stop the Phalangists carrying out a massacre of 600 men, women and children in a Lebanese refugee camp. This week in the West Bank, no one stopped the extremist settlers from running amok in Hawara" [5]

Amos Harel writes in Haaretz: "The West Bank has known many instances of rioting by Jews in response to terrorist attacks, but what we saw on Sunday evening in the Palestinian town of Hawara seems to be unprecedented in scope. Over a period of hours, scores of settlers ran riot in the town after the murder of Hillel and Yagel Yaniv, two brothers from the settlement of Har Bracha. The rioters assaulted Palestinians and torched homes and vehicles. The army and the police, which had stationed relatively small forces there despite mounting warning signs of what was about to happen" [6]

The Zionist state must be destroyed and be replaced by a Palestinian socialist state with civil rights for the Jews.

Endnotes:

[1] Excerpt from the poem "In the City of Slaughter", translated by Vladimir Jabotinsky

[2] <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2023/2/27/unprecedented-israeli-settlers-wreak-havoc-on-occupied-nablus>

[3] Ibid

[4] <https://www.timesofisrael.com/police-clash-with-tel-aviv-protesters-rallying-against-huwara-settler-rampage/>

[5] <https://www.haaretz.com/israel-news/2023-02-28/ty-article/premium/israeli-settlers-hawara-pogrom-was-a-preview-of-sabra-and-chatila-2/00000186-94ae-d3a9-a1cf-b5ff5adb0000>

[6] <https://www.haaretz.com/israel-news/2023-02-28/ty-article/highlight/the-west-bank-is-erupting-israels-top-brass-finally-see-the-writing-on-the-wall/00000186-94c1-d9b3-a587-beef854f0000>

Books of the RCIT

Yossi Schwartz: Palestine and Zionism

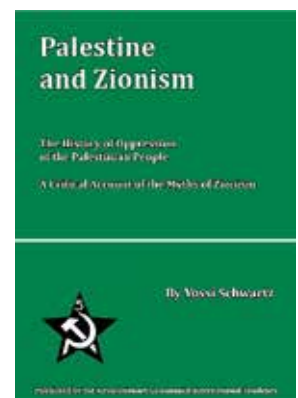
The History of Oppression of the Palestinian People. A Critical Account of the Myths of Zionism

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/>



Tunisia: Down with Dictator Kais Saied!

For a Workers and Poor Peasant Government!

By Yossi Schwartz, ISL (Section of the RCIT in Israel/Occupied Palestine), 6 March 2023

The Arab revolution began in Tunisia in 2010 and is known as the *Jasmine Revolution*. The popular uprising against corruption, poverty, and political repression forced President Zine al-Abidine Ben Ali to step down in January 2011 and he fled the country after 23 years in power. The success of the uprising inspired a wave of similar protests throughout the Middle East and North Africa, known as the Arab Spring.

In October last year we wrote about the coming new round of the Arab revolution and the protests in Tunisia: *"As we know that revolution, lacking revolutionary working-class leadership, failed. Its imperialist enemies and their servants (the bourgeois politicians and the mass media) enjoying the failure, have called the revolutionary wave the "Arab winter".*

*"They ignored the fact that in 1848 the "spring of nations" in Europe that was betrayed by the liberal bourgeois failed but like a phoenix the revolution took place again in the shape of the Parisian Commune in 1871. The Russian revolution of 1905 failed but the revolution of 1917 won".*¹

Tunisia has been in political and economic crises since 2021. The crisis has become deeper since July 2021, when the new dictator Kais Saied unilaterally suspended the parliament. He dissolved the government, ruling by decrees before his new constitution enshrined his one-man rule.

*"Before July 25, 2021, Tunisia was seen as the only democracy to have emerged from the Arab uprisings of 2011. That is when Saied dissolved the parliament, surrounding it with tanks to deny access to dumbstruck lawmakers. In addition to summarily dismissing the government and the Supreme Judicial Council, the body that is meant to assure judicial independence, Saied approved a new constitution vastly expanding his powers. The charter was passed in a referendum held last year with under 30% turnout. Turnout at two rounds of parliamentary elections held in December and January under a new electoral law, with 8.8% and 11.4% participation, respectively, dealt a further blow to Saied's melting legitimacy".*²

In June 2020, bourgeois media reported: *"Minister of Finance Nizar Yaish and Foreign Minister Nouredine al-Rai, who accompanied Saied on his visit to France to talk with Macron, emphasized the economic results of the talks, including a new French loan to Tunisia worth 350 million euros (400 million dollars). Tunisian expert in international politics Faraj Maatouq valued a bilateral agreement aimed at "boosting the economic, financial and technological partnership between the two countries, which includes the establishment of a rapid railway line to link the northernmost part of Tunisia with its south."*³

No doubt - if Kais Saied loses power, he will escape to France, his real lord.

Afraid of the oppositional political parties uniting in the National Salvation Front, Saied has arrested several political figures connected with them. The *National Salvation Front (NSFT)*, a coalition composed of bourgeois and petit-bourgeois parties (religious and seculars) is headed by Ahmed Najib Chebbi. It was founded on 31 May 2022, 10 months after the beginning of the political crisis in Tunisia. The Front includes the *Ennahda Movement*, *Amal Movement*, *Tunisia Movement of Will*, *Dignity Coalition* and *Heart of Tu-*

nisia, *Citizens' Movement against the Coup*, the *Democratic Initiative*, the *National Salvation Meeting*, and the *Tunisian Movement for Democracy*.

The powerful Tunisian General Labour Union (UGTT) has rallied in the country's capital, mobilizing thousands of supporters against President Kais Saied in a demonstration of its strength, after Saied's recent crackdown on opponents and his racist remarks on the refugees from Sub-Saharan Africa.

On February 26, hundreds of protesters took to the streets in the capital to denounce racism and express solidarity with migrants after the authoritarian President had claimed that there's a plot to erase his country's identity by bringing in Sub-Saharan Africans.

People shouting, *"No to Racism!"*, *"Solidarity with Migrants!"* and *"No to the Police Crackdown!"* while they marched through central Tunis as part of the demonstration, which was staged by Tunisia's journalists' union and several nongovernmental organizations.⁴

The Bonapartist regime is continuously arresting political figures that oppose the government. *"Abdelhamid Jlassi and his wife, Mounia, were having dinner at their apartment in Tunis' Bardo neighborhood when they heard a knock at the door. Fifteen security officials stood outside. "Before my parents knew what was happening, one of them shoved a search warrant in their faces, seized my mother's phone, took my dad's phone, iPad and laptop, then hauled him off without any explanation," the couple's daughter, Mariem, told Al-Monitor. Jlassi, a former senior figure in Tunisia's beleaguered Islamic-leaning Ennahda party, is among at least 10 people who were arbitrarily arrested over the weekend in part of a systematic crackdown by Tunisia's aspiring dictator, President Kais Saied, to consolidate the power grab he began last July. Among those being held at anti-terrorism detention centers in the capital are Nouredine Bhiri, a top Ennahda veteran; Nouredine Boutar, head of Mosaique FM, Tunisia's main independent news outlet, and Kamel Eltaief, an influential businessman known for his close links to Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, the dictator who was overthrown in Tunisia's 2011 Jasmine Revolution. Bhiri's wife wrote on Facebook that 100 security officials swarmed their house to drag her husband away. She said they assaulted her".*⁵

The Western imperialists who love to speak about human rights show their bigotry by not doing anything to stop the abuse of the human rights by their supported dictator in Tunisia.

*"The EU, the UN and the United States have, alongside numerous rights watchdogs, condemned Saied's actions. State Department spokesman Ned Price said Wednesday, "We are deeply concerned by the reported arrests of multiple political figures, business leaders and journalists in Tunisia in recent days." But he stopped short of calling for their release. The Biden administration is talking about halving the \$85 million allotted for aid to Tunisia in the next fiscal year. Few are impressed."*⁶

Furthermore, the militant trade union is attacked for their protests by the regime: *"The UGTT — the one-million-member-strong trade union federation that plays a big role in Tunisian politics — has been muted in its criticism, chiefly because Saied was targeting a common foe, Ennahda. Now it too is feel-*

ing the heat. On Jan. 31, Anis Kaabi, secretary-general of the union's highway branch, was arrested after leading a strike by toll booth workers to protest austerity measures sought by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) for a \$1.9 billion bailout for Tunisia. The North African nation of 12 million is struggling with runaway inflation and acute food shortages amid fears that it might default on its sovereign debt.⁷

However, it became also very clear that the bureaucratic leadership of the trade union is limiting the success of the protests with their reformist outlook: "On March 2, trade unionists took to the streets. the UGTT on the one hand, the presidency of the republic and the government on the other. The UGTT accuses the authorities in power of wanting to revoke subsidies on basic products, sell public sector institutions in implementation of the conditions of the International Monetary Fund and repress all forms of dissent with a campaign of targeted arrests. Ahead of the protest, the secretary-general of the UGTT, Nouredine Taboubi, delivered a speech to the crowds. "The workers are united, and we have chosen the path of struggle; struggle does not come cheap. We will not accept the suppression of freedoms in the country, and there will be no tyranny in Tunisia. We salute the imprisoned politicians in Mornaguia prison. We reject the intimidation and nightly raids on politicians' homes and the intimidation of their families. The era of injustice, persecution and tyranny is over," he added.⁸

While there is nothing wrong with joints demonstrations with the Salvation Front in this situation, nor with the demands to release bourgeois politician from jail in Tunisia, this speech is in *political support* for the politicians of the National Front rather than for independent road of the working class and the poor.

The road forward is for the working class to fight in an indefinite general strike. It needs to fight for:

* For expropriation under workers control of the industry that the government of the capitalists has privatized, namely oil, phosphates, agri-food products, car parts manufacturing and other sectors!

* For expropriation of the banks under workers' control! Not one penny for the IMF!

* For a workers' and poor peasants' government!

For this struggle the trade union bureaucracy with its reformist limitations as well as the reformist parties must be replaced by a real revolutionary leadership.

Finally, the crisis in Israel and of the Palestinian Authorities while the Intifada is growing may be a factor that will assist the revitalization of the Arab Revolution, which needs the revolutionary uprising of the Tunisian masses once again.

Footnotes

1 <https://the-isleague.com/the-arab-revolution-is-knocking-on-the-doors-of-the-states-in-the-middle-east-the-new-struggles-in-tunisia/>

2 <https://www.al-monitor.com/originals/2023/02/west-looks-away-tunisia-saeid-dismantles-democracy>

3 <https://english.aawsat.com/home/article/2357131/exclusive-kais-saeid-unveils-paris-tunisia%E2%80%99s-position-libya>

4 <https://apnews.com/article/tunisia-government-kais-saeid-tunis-racism-9accbdfdf8669edb103412275eaebb>

5 <https://www.al-monitor.com/originals/2023/02/west-looks-away-tunisia-saeid-dismantles-democracy>

6 Ibid

7 <https://www.al-monitor.com/originals/2023/02/west-looks-away-tunisia-saeid-dismantles-democracy>

8 <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2023/3/4/tunisian-labour-union-starts-major-protests-against-president>

Books of the RCIT

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

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

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

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

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

