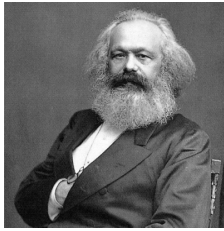


Towards Marxist-Leninist Unity

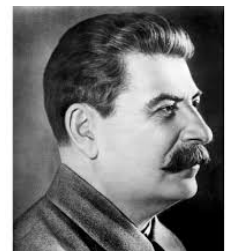


A Journal of Discussion and Debate



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To see the reasoning behind publication of TMLU, please see the article “Why ‘Towards Marxist-Leninist Unity’” in the first issue on the website below. Though we believe that a Party must have ideological unity, we include progressive articles from groups with varying views. Also, note that unsigned articles, as well as comments before articles, are mine (George Gruenthal).

Note that we reprint many articles without asking for permission. Clearly the authors are in no way responsible for other views in this publication.

Comments, criticisms and articles are welcome. The next issue of TMLU should appear in December 2023. Material should be sent in by the end of November.

TMLU is temporarily hosted on the internet by Red Star Publishers, at www.RedStarPublishers.org. This site will now let one download complete issues of books and articles in pdf format for free.

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Israel's War against the Palestinian People

As this is being written, Israel is carrying out daily attacks on the people of Gaza, including the bombing of a major hospital that killed over 500 people. Meanwhile, it is preparing for a new genocidal ground war on Gaza. U.S. imperialism, including President Biden and almost all politicians, immediately came out in support of Israel. The US government has now sent a second aircraft carrier group to the eastern Mediterranean to “protect” Israel. Since the founding of the Zionist state, the US has given it over \$260 billion dollars, more than it has given any other country in the world. The US is currently giving Israel \$3.8 billion in military aid each year.

The bourgeois media in the US has almost unanimously supported Israel. It is spreading lies that it was a Palestinian group that bombed the hospital by mistake (remember all the lies that Iraq snatched babies out of incubators in Kuwait, and that it had “weapons of mass destruction” and condemned the pro-Palestinian protests. It has attacked members of DSA (Democratic Socialists of America), some of whom made pro-Palestinian statements, although several of these members have either retracted or modified their statements.

Students and professors at several major universities who came out in support of Palestine are being targeted and threatened with being fired.

Some progressive trade unions have made statements condemning US support for Israel. The 78th UE convention “demands the U.S. government end all military aid to Israel,” the resolution states. This was passed on September 21, before the latest war. <https://inthesetimes.com/article/gaza-palestinians-israelis-jews-unions-labor>

There are also those who are criticizing Hamas in the name of Marxism-Leninism (they know who they are). They should realize that they are only driving revolutionaries away from Marxism-Leninism, because most revolutionaries see, correctly, that Hamas, despite its religious outlook, is actually fighting imperialism and Zionism.

I am including several statements from groups in support of Palestine, with the most recent statements first.

<https://twitter.com/WorkersinPales1/status/1713908923848130880/photo/2>



16 October 2023

CALL TO ACTION

Israel has demanded that 1.1 million Palestinians evacuate the northern half of Gaza, whilst subjecting them to constant bombardment. This ruthless move is part of Israel's plan, backed by unwavering support and active participation from the US and majority of European states, to carry out unprecedented and heinous massacres against 2.3 million Palestinians in Gaza and to ethnically cleanse it altogether. Since Saturday Israel has indiscriminately and intensively bombarded Gaza, and cut off fuel, electricity, water, food, and medical supplies. Israel has killed more than 2,600 Palestinians – including 724 children – leveling whole neighbourhoods, wiping out entire families and injuring more than 10,000 people. Some international law experts have begun warning of Israel's genocidal acts.

Elsewhere. Israel's far-right government has distributed more than 10,000 rifles to extremist settlers in '48 Palestine and the occupied West Bank to facilitate their escalating attacks and pogroms against Palestinians. Israel's actions, massacres, and rhetoric point to its intention to implement its long promised second Nakba, expelling as many Palestinians as possible and creating a 'New Middle East' in which Palestinians live in perpetual subjugation.

The response by Western states has been one of complete and total support for the State of Israel, without even a cursory nod towards international law. This has amplified Israel's impunity, giving it carte blanche to carry out its genocidal war without limit. Beyond diplomatic support, Western states are supplying Israel with armament, sanctioning the operation of Israeli weapons companies within their borders.

As Israel escalates its military campaign, **Palestinian trade unions call on our counterparts internationally and all people of conscience to end all forms of complicity with Israel's crimes – most urgently holding the arms trade with Israel, as well as all funding and military research.** The time for action is now – Palestinian lives hang in the balance.

This urgent, genocidal situation can only be prevented by a mass increase of global solidarity with the people of Palestine and that can restrain the Israeli war machine. We need you to take immediate action – wherever you are in the world – to prevent the arming of the Israeli state and the companies involved in the infrastructure of the blockade. We take inspiration from previous mobilisations by trade unions in Italy, South Africa and the United States. and similar international mobilisations against the Italian invasion of Ethiopia in the 1930s, the fascist dictatorship in Chile in the 1970s and elsewhere where global solidarity limited the extent of colonial brutality.

We are calling on trade unions in relevant industries:

1. To refuse to build weapons destined for Israel.
2. To refuse to transport weapons to Israel.
3. To pass motions in their trade union to this effect.
4. To take action against complicit companies involved in implementing Israel's brutal and illegal siege, especially if they have contracts with your institution.
5. Pressure governments to stop all military trade with Israel, and in the case of the US. funding to it.

We make this call as we see attempts to ban and silence all forms of solidarity with the Palestinian people. We ask you to speak out and take action in the face of injustice as trade unions have done historically. We make this call in the belief that the struggle for Palestinian justice and liberation is not only a regionally and globally determined struggle. It is a lever for the liberation of all dispossessed and exploited people of the world.

Palestinian General Federation of Trade Unions, Gaza.

General Union of Public Service and Trade Workers
General Union of Municipal Workers
General Union of Kindergarten Workers
General Union of Petrochemicals Workers
General Union of Agricultural Workers
Union of Palestinian Women's Committees
Generation Union of Media and Print Workers

Palestinian General Federation of Trade Unions (PGFTU)

General Union of Palestinian Teachers

General Union of Palestinian Women

General Union of Palestinian Engineers

Palestinian Accountants' Association

Professional Associations federation including:

Palestinian Dental Association – Jerusalem center
Palestinian Pharmacists Association – Jerusalem Center
Medical Association – Jerusalem Center
Engineers Association – Jerusalem Center
Agricultural Engineers Association – Jerusalem Center
Veterinarians Syndicate – Jerusalem Branch

Palestinian Journalists' Syndicate

Palestinian Bar Association

Palestinian Nursing and Midwifery Association

Union of Kindergartens Workers

Palestinian Postal Services Workers Union

Federation of Unions of Palestinian Universities Professors & Employees

The General federation of Independent Trade Unions, Palestine

The Palestine New Federation of Trade Unions

Palestinian General Union of Writers

Palestinian Contractors Union

Federation of Health Professionals Syndicates

Palestinian Union of Psychologists and Social Workers

To get involved, contact us at:

workersinpalestine@gmail.com

X (Twitter) WorkersinPales1

Insta: workersinpalestine

WORKERS
in
PALESTINE

#StopArmingIsrael
#EndAllComplicity

The facts of the Ahli/Baptist Hospital Bombing

Some basic facts

Today marks the twelfth day since the beginning of Al Aqsa Flood and the subsequent Israeli crimes against the Palestinian people. Since October 7, Israeli colonial forces have murdered thousands of Palestinians in Gaza. The Ministry of Health is struggling to provide accurate numbers, as at least 1,300 bodies remain trapped under the rubble of destroyed buildings—among them homes, shelters, bakeries, clinics, UNRWA food depots, hospitals, and schools. The most recent estimate is 3,478. This is likely a significant undercount. More than a thousand of those murdered are children.

Last night, Israeli forces targeted and bombed Al Ahli Arab hospital, also known as the Baptist hospital in Gaza city. This was not the first time Israeli forces attacked Al Ahli hospital, as it had been targeted and hit by airstrikes only a few days before on October 14, damaging two floors and injuring four people. This hospital was not only housing patients, as well as doctors, nurses, and other healthcare workers, but also sheltering hundreds last night who assumed the Christian hospital was a safer place to take cover than most. The airstrike killed at least 500 Palestinians, with some estimates doubling the number. Videos at the scene of the bombing show bodies dismembered, scattered across a courtyard and carried away in pieces. Each of these people were someone's loved one.

It is clear that Israeli authorities and the forces carrying out these genocidal attacks on Gaza are trying to destroy as much infrastructure and resources supporting human life as possible. In the days before this massive hospital strike, Israeli forces targeted UNRWA depots which housed extra food resources, as well as shelters, homes, and bakeries. Israeli forces have ordered Palestinians to evacuate from the north to the “safer” south, yet continue to bombard Rafah, Khan Younis, and many other areas of the south, making it just as unsafe as the north. Palestinians in Gaza remain without access to electricity, fresh water, food resources, and the aid sent for them on the other side of Rafah crossing. Despite attempts by Israeli forces to threaten medical workers into evacuating 22 hospitals across Gaza, most hospitals and medical workers refuse to evacuate, stating that they will not abandon their patients to die. In the midst of murder and death, Palestinians continue to teach life.

As international condemnation about targeting a hospital—a war crime, for anyone tallying Israel's war crimes during this murderous campaign—began, Israeli forces immediately pointed the finger away from their own US-backed forces to blame Hamas, then the Palestinian Islamic Jihad. These accusations are an attempt to confuse and create doubt, when it is obvious to anyone paying attention that there is only one military with both the intent and means to murder this many civilians in one strike. The Evangelical Church in Jerusalem published a statement today that it received three phone warnings before Israeli forces struck the hospital. Furthermore, it is a common tactic of the Israeli state and military to deploy false information when confronted about war crimes, and reminds us of the initial responses to the murder of Shireen Abu Akleh at the hands of invading Israeli forces in Jenin, during which Israeli forces claimed that she was shot by resistance fighters. Israeli forces continue to spread misinformation throughout this attack on Gaza; you can read a critical analysis and response to Israeli attempts to frame Palestinian resistance here. It is incumbent on those who know better to not only share accurate information, but correct those around them and reach out to mainstream media who consistently have spread false and misleading information. Here is an eyewitness account in English by Dr. Ghassan Abu Sitta, a Palestinian-British doctor who arrived in Gaza to volunteer at local hospitals.

Last night and this morning, Palestinians in Ramallah, Bethlehem, Jenin, Nablus, and elsewhere across the West Bank took to the streets across Palestine, standing in support of Gaza and with the resistance against Israeli colonialism and genocide. They also called out the complicity of the Palestinian

Authority, and were met by tear gas and live bullets in return. No doubt, this uprising will continue. Across political factions, there is unity among the people in supporting each other and standing against the violence of a state so desperate to erase us. In Gaza, in response to new calls to evacuate certain areas, many Palestinians have stated clearly, “We will not leave.” Despite increasing Zionist pressure campaigns on Palestinian communities throughout all of Palestine, including displacement of Palestinian communities and settler attacks in the West Bank, Palestinians are steadfast.

As we mourn, we must take action. We cannot build the new world we envision or create the justice we seek simply by asking for the mass murder to stop. We know that simply calling for a ceasefire is not enough, as tomorrow, Palestinians in Gaza will remain under siege, those in the West Bank will continue to face settler attacks and forced displacement, home demolitions will continue everywhere, and we will still suffer under Zionist settler-colonialism. We need an end to the siege on Gaza and an end to Israeli colonialism.

Stand with Gaza and all Palestinians now—don’t stop organizing. Call your representatives and politicians of all stripes and state your demands, demonstrate wherever you can, educate your community, speak to your friends and get them to join in, and please continue to uplift Palestinian analysis and coverage of the situation—especially from those in Gaza. Below is a list of specific actions you can take.

If you are in Canada, [sign this petition](#) to condemn Israeli violence against Palestinians.

Those in Canada can also [write a letter](#) to end subsidies to Israeli settler organizations.

For those based in the US, [find nation-wide protests here](#).

[Donate to support the Al Ahli hospital](#) which was bombed last night.

Until liberation and return,
Lara Kilani
Good Shepherd Collective
Communications



Below is a statement from Hezbollah, the militant group in Lebanon which fought off Israel’s invasion of that country in 2006.

<https://www.workers.org/2023/10/73975/>

Hezbollah statement condemns U.S. intervention in Palestine

This statement was issued by Hezbollah on Oct. 11.

We were not surprised at all by the political positions and field actions taken by the American administration, especially the recent statements of the U.S. president in openly supporting the Zionist killing machine and aggression against the Palestinian people. This is the true essence of the complete American policy in its continuous support for aggression and terrorism since the establishment of this usurping occupying entity.

We consider the United States to be a full partner in Zionist aggression, and we hold it fully responsible for the killings, crimes, siege,



destruction of homes and houses and horrifying massacres against innocent civilians, including children, women and the elderly.

We call on the masses of our Arab and Islamic nation, which knows the ugly truth of America and its aggression against the peoples of our nation in Iraq, Syria and Afghanistan, to condemn the American intervention along with its international and regional partners and to expose this intervention at all political, popular, media and legal levels and in various regional and international forums and gatherings.

Sending aircraft carriers to the region with the aim of raising the morale of the enemy and its frustrated soldiers reveals the weakness of the Zionist military machine, despite the crimes and massacres it commits, and thus its need for continuous external support to provide this temporary usurping entity with the means of life. Therefore, we affirm that this step will not frighten the peoples of our nation or the factions.

The resistance is ready for confrontation until final victory and complete liberation is achieved.

The statement below is from Al-Awda, The Palestinian Right to Return Coalition, whose web-site is www.al-awda.org. However, on many computers it is hard or impossible to reach this site. Trying to access it from a computer at the NY Public Library, I received the message: "This site can't be reached." Of course, this country claims that it is free from censorship!

We, the Al-Awda Palestine Right to Return Coalition, firmly stand in unwavering support of the Palestinian resistance, and we fervently urge our Palestinian people to mobilize in the face of colonial genocide. This ongoing struggle, born from a deep-seated yearning for justice and liberation, demands our resolute solidarity. It is a powerful response to decades of unspeakable atrocities, relentless oppression, and the suffocating blockade that has imprisoned the Gaza Strip and refused its population – mostly Palestinian refugees – their right to return.

The Israeli occupation regime, the perpetrator of these heinous acts, has rained down a deluge of violence upon Palestinian towns and cities, while sacred sites are desecrated with impunity. Families have been torn apart, their lives shattered under the iron grip of an occupying force. To turn a blind eye to these atrocities is to forsake our moral compass and betray the very essence of our shared humanity. The Palestinian resistance, through their brave actions, are forging a path to bring the ongoing Nakba to an end.

Yet, in the face of such adversity, the Palestinian people rise as an indomitable force, their spirit unyielding, their determination unbreakable. They demand their inalienable right to self-determination, liberation and return, their unwavering cry for freedom echoing through the annals of history. We must never underestimate the power of an oppressed and occupied people yearning to breathe the air of liberty.

As people of conscience struggling for justice and liberation, it is our solemn duty to heed this call, to champion the cause of justice, and to stand shoulder to shoulder with the Palestinian resistance. We must cast aside the shackles of complacency and embrace the urgency of their struggle. Together, we shall forge a path towards justice, return and liberation for Palestine, from the river to the sea.



Let our voices resound with unwavering conviction, shaking the foundations of U.S. government complicity in these crimes, including nearly \$4 billion in annual military aid to the Zionist colonizer. Let us rally the international community, igniting an unquenchable fire of solidarity. For it is in unity that we find strength, and it is through collective action that we shall dismantle the walls of oppression.

The time for action is upon us. Let us march forward, unwavering in our support, unwavering in our commitment to justice. Together, we shall unleash a tidal wave of transformation, where the Palestinian people rise victorious over colonialism, reclaiming their freedom, claiming their right to return, exercising their right to live in dignity in a liberated Palestine, free of imperialism, colonialism, racism and Zionism.

We demand the United States government and the international community end their complicity in the ongoing crimes against the Palestinian people, a people living under colonial occupation and denied their right to return home for over 75 years. Palestinians in exile and diaspora have been illegally denied their homeland, including the over 70% of Palestinians in Gaza who are themselves Palestinian refugees. The Palestinian people possess an inherent right to resist occupation, a fundamental right that must be upheld and defended.

We further demand the United States government immediately end all aid and support to the Israeli occupation regime. Every year, our tax dollars fund \$4 billion dollars in weaponry to arm the occupier against the Palestinian people. This complicity in war crimes and genocide must immediately end.

We further demand that the United States cease its efforts to impose “normalization” projects on the Arab region through the so-called “Abraham Accords” and other attempts to legitimize Zionist colonialism in the region through bribery and illegitimate imperialist sanctions. The Palestinian resistance has exposed the bankruptcy of this project, and it must come to an end once and for all.

The United States has been part and parcel of the blockade of Gaza for over 16 years, imposing a siege on the Palestinian people that was meant to kill the resistance. However, the resistance has not been killed – it has flourished despite the brutality of the open-air prison imposed upon the Palestinians of Gaza. We demand not only the end of the crimes, but reparations to the Palestinian people for the reconstruction and development of Gaza and all of Palestine.

We will return!

From the river to the sea, Palestine will be free!



Gaza's Al-Rimal Neighborhood

The announced military intervention in Haiti is an unacceptable threat!

Let those who support the UN's decision to authorize the sending of a military intervention force to Haiti cite only one such intervention, orchestrated by the Western imperialists, that has been beneficial to the Haitian people! As always, behind the display of generous and humanitarian intentions, lies the imperialists' desire to maintain their domination in the region. The worst thing is that they manage to manipulate a part of public opinion that believes that the end of the tragedies suffered by the Haitian people could come from the very people who are responsible for them. Obviously, the media under orders hides the fact that the main popular organizations of this country* have sent a statement to all the institutions concerned, both at the regional and international levels, to oppose such an intervention. Have those who still have illusions about the imperialists' motives learned nothing from the consequences of the interventions in Iraq and Libya? It was to protect the world from Saddam Hussein, who was accused of wanting to destroy it with "weapons of mass destruction" - which never existed - that the "Crusaders" intervened in Iraq. The country has been devastated, today the people are living a hell and Westerners continue to enrich themselves on their backs. It was supposedly to protect the poor Libyan people from the ruthless dictatorship of Muammar Gaddafi that the "Crusaders" bombed Libya and armed the terrorists. Today, this people is also living a living hell while the Westerners, proud of having destroyed a rebellious state and prevented the creation of an African currency, enjoy the spoils. Should we wish for such a rescue in Haiti?



But the imperialists know how to learn from their experiences. Aware that it is increasingly difficult for them to deceive public opinion, they try to hide behind proxies. This is why the US is sending Kenya and some Caribbean countries to the front line in the intervention project in Haiti, just as the French government had instructed ECOWAS to carry out a military operation in Niger[†].

* You can find the text and the list of signatories in N° 199 of "Jik An Bout" dated October 30, 2022 (see our website).

[†] The outcry against the decision of ECOWAS – which, by the way, is supposedly an economic grouping that does not have the competence to take such decisions – and above all the mobilization of the populations in the countries concerned against this intervention, have made it impossible to carry it out. As far as Kenya is concerned, the vote of the Parliament opposing the military engagement in Haiti has, for the moment, blocked the project.

This time, the pretext invoked by the Western imperialists to justify their interventionism is to neutralize the gangs that terrorize the population.

To neutralize the gangs, the first question to consider is: "Who are the people who control them and who arm them?" There is no denying that at the helm are large economic groups, a certain fringe of the police and politicians linked to the power imposed by foreign countries. It is also undeniable that the powerful weapons at the disposal of criminals do not come from Haiti and that the United States has all the necessary means to prevent them from entering the country. When Western imperialists want to destabilize a country without intervening directly, they know how to finance, arm and train subversive groups. What support do all these "crocodiles" who claim to want to protect the Haitian people give to the popular organizations that have never ceased to fight with exemplary courage against all dictatorships internally, and against all aggressions coming from outside? To be truly in solidarity with the Haitian people, we must stand with the popular movements.

We must respect and support their choice to reject foreign intervention. What is happening in Haiti today cannot be separated from the decisive confrontation that has already begun between the profiteers of Western imperialist hegemony and the peoples who intend to build another world. In this sense, our solidarity must be reflected in the strengthening of our own struggle against the colonialist presence in the Caribbean region.

Who Does not Support the Haitian People?

On October 2, the UN Security Council authorized a "Multinational Security Support Mission for Haiti." This motion passed by a vote of 13 in favor with 2 abstentions. This is open interference with the right of the Haitian people to form their own government, without outside intervention. It is in the interest of the United States and other imperialist countries, which are causing and taking advantage of the misery of the Haitian people.

The two countries that abstained on this resolution, China and the Russian Federation, both have veto power in the Security Council, but they refused to use it. They have thus sold out the Haitian people, this time in collaboration with U.S. imperialism.

One should remember that in 2011, the UN Security Council passed a resolution authorizing a "No-Fly Zone" over Libya. This led to NATO's bombing of Libya, the destruction of Gadhafi's regime and his brutal execution. In this resolution, China and Russia again abstained (along with Germany, Brazil and India – the last two also a member of the BRICS bloc). This was another sell-out of the oppressed people of Libya.

This is how the "Friends of the People," Russia and China (as well as other members of BRICS) "support" their "friends."

<https://zzs-blg.blogspot.com/2023/09/multipolarity-false-hope-for-left.html>

Friday, September 29, 2023

Multipolarity: False Hope for the Left

Since the end of the Cold War, important, profound changes in the relations between capitalist states, coupled with equally sharp changes in the content of those relations, have seduced left-wing intellectuals and academics to embrace those countries whose governments clash-- for untold reasons-- with the political or economic demands of the US and its allies. They began to uncritically see these countries as fellow combatants in the struggle for social justice, for example, as anti-imperialists. Even upstart rivals for spheres of

interest were seen as anti-imperialist, if they opposed US hegemony. Stated crudely, they present the enemy of their enemy-- the US and the "West" -- as their friend.

Why did so many on the left subscribe to this fallacy?

We must begin with the nature of imperialism in the Cold War.

The Cold War sustained unique, though historically bound alignments. The world was divided between socialist-oriented countries led by Communist or Workers' Parties, the leading capitalist powers and their neo-colonies, and the non-aligned countries refusing to join in the anti-Communist crusade organized by the capitalist powers. Such a clearly defined order with an equally clearly defined conflict between the leader of the socialist camp, the USSR, and the leader of the capitalist camp, the US, led many to believe that the era of classical imperialism, the era of inter-imperialist rivalries, was over.

They were wrong.

The demise of the USSR and the emergence and intensification of numerous capitalist crises-- political, social, ecological, and, especially, economic-- created powerful centrifugal forces pulling apart the capitalist camp and dissolving its unity. In addition, global changes-- the mobility of capital, the ready marriage of capital and labor in new regions and countries, inexpensive, effective transportation, the emergence of new technologies, new classes of commodities, and the commodification of public, common, and freely accessed goods-- generated new competitors and intensified competition.

Crises and competition are the fertile soil of capitalist rivalries and state conflicts.

The world that emerged after 1991 had more in common with the world that Lenin knew before World War I than with the Cold War era and its clash of social systems and their blocs. Just as nineteenth-century capitalists strived to set the rules for peacefully carving up the world and establishing free trade by means of the Berlin Conference of 1884-1885, the post-Cold War capitalist allies sought rules, alliances, trade agreements, and the elimination of barriers to capital movement, commodity exchange, and labor exploitation globally. Both periods were widely heralded as triumphant for capitalism and its inevitable reach to every corner of the globe.

But as the great nineteenth-century powers came to understand, uneven development, upstart rivals, and ruthless competition disrupted the promise of peace and harmony. After a promising interlude of relative peace-- the first period of modest Western harmony since the Napoleonic wars-- the new nineteenth century order began to unravel with economic instability, conflicts, military build-ups, colonial resistance, and nationalist wars.

Similarly, the post-Cold War capitalist powers enjoyed an interlude of rapidly expanding world trade-- so called "globalization" -- and the regulatory guidance of powerful international institutions. This harmony, too, proved elusive, to be shattered by a series of economic crises and regional wars at the turn of the twenty-first century. The so-called dot-com crisis marked "paid" on a decade of capitalist swagger and the ideology of there-is-no-alternative. Rocked again by a global "little" depression, a European debt crisis, a false debt-fueled recovery, a global public health disaster, and now a prolonged period of stagnation and inflation, the promised concord of capitalist rule has been shattered on the shoals of constant wars, social and political instability, and economic dysfunction.

That is the capitalist world of today-- not so different from the capitalist world on the eve of 1914.

The most farsighted thinkers of the turn of the last century saw the end of capitalism's nineteenth-century stability and apparent harmony as an opportunity. Lenin and others perceived the beginning of a new era ripe for revolutionary change. They foresaw a stage of capitalism bringing war, misery, and suffering on the masses in Europe and beyond. For these visionaries, the only escape from the despair inevitably wrought by the dominance of finance and monopoly organized in a global system of imperialism was revolution and socialism. The tragic First World War proved them right.

Today, without a vision to rescue working people-- those feeling the brunt of capitalism's expanding crises, more frequent wars, displacement of people, and bankruptcy of solutions-- the field of politics is left to the right-wing opportunists, the faux-populists, the demagogues, the nostalgia peddlers, and other assorted hucksters of right and left. Bizarrely, most of the Euro-American left treat these charlatans as though they were aliens dropping from the sky, rather than the natural, logical product of the vacuum remaining from a left that lacks ideological clarity, cohesion, and a revolutionary program.

More broadly, even "liberal" governments are turning to nationalism, trade barriers, tariffs, and sanctions, the traditional posture of the right. Largely not noted by the left, the Biden administration, for example, has continued most of the trade and sanction regimens, and even the immigration policies, of the Trump administration.

As capitalism retrenches behind narrow self-interest, fierce, ruthless competition, and state-against-state conflict, the vast majority of the Euro-American left continues to circle-the-wagons around an increasingly discredited liberalism and social-democracy. With no answer to a world of ever-growing nation-state rivalries and global tensions, far too many on the left are locked into a defensive strategy that promises more of the same or a return to an imagined "golden age": before Trump and right-wing populism or before Reagan, Thatcher and market fundamentalism. Failing to locate capitalism's decadence in capitalism itself, this left promises to manage capitalism to better results-- a hundred-year-old delusion.

Equally delusional is the notion-- popular with a prominent section of the left-- that an emerging bloc or order constitutes the foundation of a powerful movement against imperialism when that bloc itself is made up of capitalist-dominated states or states with a major capitalist economic sector. If Lenin is right-- and we have overwhelming reasons to believe that he is-- capitalism is at the very core of the system of imperialist rivalry. How can capitalism-dependent states collaborate, putting aside their own self-interest, to create a world without competition, friction, conflict, and war between states, themselves made up of competing capitals? Is not capitalism the essence of imperialism, and rivalry, conflict, and war the inevitable outcome? Has there been a counter-tendency since Lenin wrote **Imperialism** in 1916?

Beginning thirteen years ago, with the foundation of a modestly alternative grouping of five powerful states denied access to the top, exclusive club of capitalist states, the BRICS alignment became a cause for some leftists. Based more on blind faith than anything promised by the BRICS members-- Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa-- leftists nonetheless cobbled together an ideological construct called "multipolarity."

When radical political prospects appear dim, when the prospect of socialism seems remote, many on the left turn to the global chessboard, pretending that some chess pieces represent the social change that they long for in their own backyard. Frustrated with the long, hard road of winning the masses in their own country to a program serving working people, leftists in the US and EU invest vicariously in the actions of other governments that, for various reasons, are in opposition to the US and the EU governments.

This surrogate identification must not be confused unthinkingly with solidarity or internationalism. Both solidarity and internationalism emerge with sympathy for other peoples and their interests or with their governments only when those governments are serving the people. Solidarity with Cuba, for example, is grounded on the long-standing resistance of the people of Cuba to the demands, coercion, and aggression of the US and its allies. Since the government of Cuba organizes and supports that resistance, it, too, earns our solidarity.

The zeal for multipolarity arises from a fact and a hope. It is indeed a fact that the US government may have lost some of its ability to impose its will on the rest of the world and that global powers have risen to challenge US domination. This accounts for some of the increasing conflict and chaos in international relations.

But the multipolarity zealots interpret this as a setback to the system of imperialism when it is, at best, a setback for *US* imperialism. The fallacy is in assuming that the capitalist challengers are somehow benign and that they, magically, will restrain their interests in order to establish global harmony and peace. There is no basis in historical precedence or contemporary currency for this assumption, beyond mere hope.

Certainly, it is a radical misread of recent history and today's events. In just the last weeks, relations between the governments of Canada and India reached a boiling point, conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan broke out again, and two joined-at-the-hip reactionary governments, Poland and Ukraine sued and abused each other. All occurring without US government sponsorship. Venezuela's government- a strong proponent of the multipolarity ideology-- is itself in a bitter conflict with Guyana over 160,000 square kilometers of oil-rich territory, rejecting a "consultative referendum" proposed by the government of Guyana.

The presence of multipolarity's icons within BRICS hardly ensures that bringing down US hegemony will disable the imperialist system: members India and the PRC maintain festering relations that break out into open warfare from time to time. Brazil under Bolsonaro was openly hostile and confrontational with all the more progressive countries of Central and South America (which reminds us that imperialism is about governments and socio-economic systems and not simply countries), and Russia is hotly contesting with France over valuable resources in Central Africa.

And the new members of BRICS carry even more contradictory baggage. Egypt and Ethiopia have a long-standing water dispute that will not be resolved by BRICS. Iran and Saudi Arabia have an existential dispute carried on by proxy, notably in Yemen. The Saudis are prepared to recognize Israel in order to acquire nuclear technology to match Iran, an action hardly suggestive of peace and prosperity.

Is there a common progressive, anti-capitalist, or anti-imperialist interest uniting this formation? Or are they united merely for expediency in this or any other bloc that will have them? Modi's India, for example, accepts membership in nearly all international formations-- Western-oriented or otherwise.

It is magical thinking to believe that without the heavy hand of the US empire, imperialist predation and conflict will melt away. Lenin scoffed at Kautsky's notion that multipolar [harmony](#) (ultra-imperialism) would follow World War I, and events proved him right.

Moreover, the idealism invested in multipolarity and BRICS has fallen far short of what contemporary leftists have thought, as Patrick Bond and others have [shown](#) (despite his use of the unhelpful concept of "sub-imperialism"). BRICS sets a very low bar in reordering global relations, contrary to the wishes of many on the left.

Activists in Johannesburg, during the most recent BRICS meeting, organized a BRICS-from-below event. Though spawned by the center-left, social democratic Rosa Luxemburg Stiftung, the South African coordinator made a keen [observation](#):

Trevor Ngwane, said, "BRICS wants leverage. Instead of saying, 'We are capitalists fighting to be bigger capitalists', they want to get strong, they start pretending that if they get strong, life will get better for the working class. We know that there will be a question: Does this mean you favour America?"

"During the Struggle, there was a party that used to say, 'Neither Washington nor Moscow', so we must not be swayed and convinced to choose between these two; we must find our own way as socialists towards socialism.

"The problem with BRICS projects is that it's all top-down. It's something organised by governments."

Yes, BRICS is organized by governments, capitalist-oriented governments for the most part, as Trevor Ngwane is keenly aware.

But more importantly, he challenges how BRICS (and by implication, multipolarity) is in any way related to the goal of socialism. It is socialism that is missing from BRICS and the multipolarity discussion. A program offered to working people that merely shuffles the deck of capitalist powers is no answer at all.

In a recent [discussion](#) of BRICS and the Eastern Economic Forum among three leading exponents of multipolarity, there is not one word about socialism. There is talk of development, of startups, of public-private

partnerships, strategic priorities, and investments-- even of Russian hypersonic missiles-- but not one word about socialism.

One discussant claims to capture BRICS with this piece of sophistry: “So we’re dealing really not only with a geographic split, but with a split of economic structures, a mixed public-private economy, not like the Western public-private partnership, which you socialize the losses and privatize the profits, but something where the aim is really not to make a profit, but to make the overall economy grow.” Capitalism with a human face?

For sure, there are multipolarity advocates who believe that they see multipolarity as a step towards socialism. They recognize in the deepening economic, social, political, and ecological crises facing capitalism that socialism may be a solution. But as John Smith so frankly puts it in an [Interview](#): “Convincing people that socialism is necessary is not so difficult; what is much more difficult is to convince people that socialism is possible.”

We live in a time when, rather than joining with people, organizations, or parties that advocate, organize, and fight for socialism, many on our left have become observers of a chess game between capitalist governments, cheering any force that attempts to diminish US power. How this will or will not benefit the exploited masses of the world is of little count.

Smith, the author of a thoughtful [analysis](#) of twenty-first century imperialism, succinctly summarizes our challenge in the face of profound crises of capitalism:

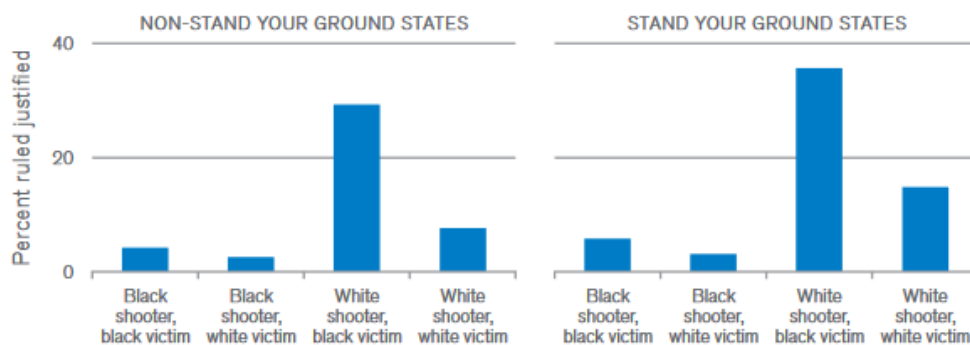
Wherever we are subjectively, objectively, the necessity to begin a transition towards communism is posed by this existential crisis. There is no other way out for humanity than this. Anything that distracts us from this, any sort of fantasy that some kind of a multipolar world will be better in any way, must be dispelled because we do not have any more time to waste.

<https://www.issuelab.org/resources/22713/22713.pdf>

National Task Force on Stand Your Ground Laws, September 2015, p. 12

Gun homicides ruled justified 2005–2010

Two strangers who are not law enforcement



Imperialism and Migration

Every day there is talk of the “migrant crisis” in New York City, with Democrats and Republicans, local and state officials and federal officials, blaming each other for not correctly dealing with this “crisis.” However, there is very little talk of the forces that push people to leave their homes, often walking hundreds or even thousands of miles, to come to the United States. At best they talk of people seeking the “American dream,” but not even what this means to people migrating. This is a brief view of what is behind this migration.

At the most basic level, migration is a consequence of imperialism. Stalin, in dealing with the main contradictions of imperialism, states that: “Imperialism is the most barefaced exploitation and the most inhuman oppression of hundreds of millions of people inhabiting vast colonies and dependent countries.” It is this oppression which makes a vast difference between the standard of living of people, even working people, in the imperialist countries and that of people in the oppressed and dependent countries. And as long as this difference exists, there will always be people from the dependent countries who will try to migrate to the imperialist countries to provide a better life for themselves and their families. Of course, if people had decent conditions in their home countries, why would they want to leave their home countries for the lowest wages in the imperialist countries.

Further, there are many times when the U.S. established reactionary or fascist dictatorships in the migrants’ home countries, forcing many people to come to this country as political refugees. This was true after the coup of the Shah of Iran in 1953, Pinochet’s coup in Chile in 1973, after the defeat of the April 1965 uprising in the Dominican Republic, and today after the imposition of a series of reactionary governments in Haiti.

This does not mean that until imperialism is overthrown that there is nothing we can do to ease the burden of migration, and particular to alleviate the conditions that push people to come to the United States.

For example, according to bourgeois figures, some 40% of the recent migrants to New York come from Venezuela. In this case, after Hugo Chavez came to power in 1999, forming a democratic government that carried out a series of reforms that went against the interests of US monopolies, the US government imposed severe sanctions on that country. These made it extremely difficult for Venezuelans to get many basic necessities, including food and medical supplies. If the US would drop the sanctions against Venezuela (and all other countries), this would greatly ease the situation of the people there, so many would stay home rather than come to the US.

In 1994, NAFTA (the North American Free Trade Agreement) was passed. Millions of Mexican peasants were forced off the land due to the importation of cheap, genetically-modified corn from the US monopoly Monsanto. Corn, or maize, is the main staple in the Mexican diet and Mexico’s major agricultural product. Millions of these displaced peasants came to the US to serve as underpaid, low-wage workers, whether in the service industries, as landscapers, agricultural workers, etc. The agreement was revised under Trump and is now called the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement or USMCA. The treaty should be abrogated so that Mexicans can find work in their own country.

The situation is similar in the countries of the European Union. Many companies there rely on cheap labor from North Africa and the Middle East. Let us also remember that, after the US-NATO bombing of Libya and the destruction of a stable government there, many Libyans fled the country.

The EU has also relied on migrants from Eastern Europe. For decades, Germany has made use of cheap labor from Yugoslavia, but also from Poland. Now, many Ukrainians, particularly since the war there, as well as others from Eastern Europe, have come not only to Europe but also to the US to serve as prostitutes.

We must fight for equal rights and equal wages for all migrants, but we must also support the struggles of the peoples of the oppressed countries against imperialism, so that they can enjoy a decent standard of living in their home countries.

Free Medical Care for All

Many forces in the U.S. put forward the call for “Free Medical Care for All.” This is an important demand, one that has been won in many of the major industrialized countries in the world. It was won in most countries in Western Europe (and Canada) after World War II, when many working people were looking towards the socialist Soviet Union and saw the advances that country had made in providing free health care for its citizens. The Western European governments put through this reform as a way of trying to distract people from socialism and the Communist Parties of their countries. It is an important democratic right for the people of the U.S.

Sometimes, however, this demand is mistakenly stated as “Medicare for All.” This is not correct, because as almost all senior citizens know, Medicare covers only 80% of hospital stays, and those without additional insurance still have to pay the extra 20%, which can be an insurmountable cost for even those who are hospitalized only for a short-term. Further, Medicare does not generally cover dental, vision, mental health and most so-called “alternative procedures.”

No to HMOs!

There is now a new gimmick called “Medicare Advantage” plans, which promise to cover some of the benefits that “traditional” Medicare does not cover. Basically, these plans are provided by HMOs (Health Maintenance Organizations), which are paid for by the government. Thus, the government is spending extra money to pay for the profits of the HMOs, while they could save money by simply declaring that “traditional” Medicare would cover these benefits directly, thus cutting out the HMOs and their profits. But the government is here to serve the interests of the monopoly capitalists, not of the working people. (See a related article in TMLU Vol. 4, No. 4 at <https://redstarpublishers.org/TMLUv4n4.pdf>.)

Another mistake is to call Medicare a form of “socialized medicine,” or even “socialist medicine.” But while Medicare (and Medicaid) is an important benefit for senior citizens (and low income and disabled people), there is nothing socialist about it.

For example, this writer is on Medicare and receives prescriptions for \$2 each from New York’s public Health and Hospital Corporation. This is of course of great benefit to the individual. However, it is the big pharmaceutical companies who make huge profits off this system. I had initially failed to renew my medical coverage, and was initially charged the full prescription price for my medications. Although I was able to get the prescription for the subsidized price of \$2, the actual price of the prescription for a 90-day supply of atorvastatin, a common medicine for high cholesterol, was the outrageous price of \$438.45. (See below.) This is an astronomical price for most senior citizens, who generally rely on meager social security checks for their income. The difference was of course paid by the hospital, which is funded by public moneys, that is by our tax dollars. One can not have “socialized medicine” in a capitalist society, where all products are produced for profit.

atorvastatin 10 MG tablet

Take 1 tablet (10 mg total) by mouth daily.

Bellevue Hospital

Rx#:

462 1st Ave, New York, NY 10016

Take 1 tablet (10 mg total) by mouth daily.

Filled: 10/2/2023 Qty: 90 tablets

CAUTION: Federal law prohibits the transfer of this drug to

Discard: 10/1/2024 ,

Coverage

None

Price: **\$438.45** Amount covered:

\$0.00

Amount due: **\$438.45**

We reprint this excerpt from Molotov's memoirs as an example of the fact that Soviet rank-and-file Party members in the factories had an important role to play in the fight of the Marxist-Leninists in the Party against revisionists such as Zinoviev. The latter had been the head of the Leningrad organization of the Party, but it was important to replace him with someone who supported the position of the Central Committee. However, he could only be replaced by election of the Party members in Leningrad. The passages below show how Kirov became head of the Leningrad organization until his assassination on December 1, 1934.

Felix Chev, *Molotov Remembers*, pp. 215-217

▪ Kirov ▪

At the XIVth Congress [held in December, 1925] a majority of the delegates of the Leningrad organization were against the Central Committee line, but a small minority were for it. In fact the Leningrad organization was in Zinoviev's hands. The cadres were handpicked by Zinoviev.

Zinoviev was guided by Kamenev. He was the leader of the Leningraders. In matters of theory Kamenev was more profound than Zinoviev.

The Leningrad organization against the CC of the Bolsheviks? Well, then a special delegation of CC members was formed. In this affair I was the head and organizer of the shock group, the "savage division," as it was dubbed by the Zinovievites. Kalinin, Kirov, Bukharin, Tomsy, Voroshilov, Andreev, and Schmidt were members. Immediately after the congress we went to the Leningrad organization to remove Zinoviev. When we arrived Zinoviev courteously invited us to his office: "Just say what explanations you need, and I will tell you. When do you begin work?" "We shall begin tomorrow." "What do you plan to do, perhaps you can tell me?" "We shall go the factories, deliver reports, carry out elections."

Well, the group fanned out to individual factories. The next day I spoke at the renowned Lenin shipyards. I don't remember the others. We removed Zinoviev. How? We went through all the factories, and everywhere they endorsed the resolution of the XIVth Congress that criticized the Leningrad group.

We could not afford to lose the major factories. To avoid this we first won over the smaller factories, as the Zinovievites still had powerful organizations in the big factories. They had a tight grip on the factory party committees. It was my responsibility that we not fail in this matter. Zinoviev asked, "Well, when will you go to the Putilov Works?"

I replied, "When the time comes. We are in no hurry."

The Putilov Works was their main base. All of Zinoviev's hopes rested on the Putilov Works. A delegation of Putilov workers came to me and asked, "Dear Comrade, why don't you visit us? We, the Putilovites, are workers too!" I said, "We will pay you a visit, a good visit to please you, all of us will pay you a visit. Just give us a chance to look into things at other factories."

It was important to encircle them. So we saved for last the two most important installations—the Triangle rubber works, a very large plant (it is no longer called Triangle, it is now called Red Triangle), we put off visiting this plant—and the Putilov Works, which were greatly under the influence of Zinoviev. But the moral pressure exerted by the workers of "Piter" [Petersburg] was turned on them. And we saved the Triangle plant for next to last. Almost our full group went there—Kalinin, and Tomsy. I do not recall whether Bukharin was there. Kirov was—he was precisely the one we would appoint to replace Zinoviev. We began the vote, for the moment on minor questions. Half for, half against. No way. They

were continually confusing the rank and file. Those for the CC line on the left; those for the Zinoviev line on the right. It was so difficult to explain. They confused our rank and file; a majority was taking shape for us, but it was not yet a sure thing. Uncertainty, confusion reigned; the mass was split right down the middle. Deadlock. The opposition, too, marshaled its best forces. Only Zinoviev made no appearance, but his most persuasive speakers were there. Our speakers were top leaders, and the Zinovievites were their top speakers. For a long time it was not clear just which side would win the majority. The assemblage was so chaotic! There the mass of the party members were women. They arranged all kinds of discussions. I finally said to Kalinin, "Get up on the table and shout that you are the chairman and in charge!" He got up on the table and said, "Dear Comrades! Those who are for the CC stand on the right; those who are for the Leningrad group, the opposition, stand on the left!" He had clambered up onto the table; they had given him a hand; they respected an authoritative person, a worker. The hall quieted down.

The opposition was in the minority, but they sowed confusion in the ranks and blocked a decision either at meetings in the plant or in the cafeteria. Afterward the question of endorsing the CC resolutions was finally put to a vote. I don't remember precisely whether we had a majority or whether it was split fifty-fifty; certainly we won no less than half. There was a newspaper, the Leningrad Pravda, it is still published. I dismissed the editor and replaced him with Skvortsov-Stepanov.

He perished in 1937?

No, no. He was the translator of Das Kapital, a prominent theoretician, a fervent Leninist, and a backer of Stalin. He wrote a splendid booklet on electrification. Lenin had commissioned him to write it. Ivan Ivanovich Skvortsov-Stepanov was a highly educated man and a very staunch, old Bolshevik.

As soon as the day ended I discussed with him what was to be printed the next day so as to strike the hardest blow first of all in the factories we needed most. He went along with this. Thus every morning we fired off a barrage. Day after day for a whole week we skinned the Zinovievites alive, surely for a week and a half, no less. The last factory was the Putilov. Again we marshaled our most effective forces, and we won a thumping majority there.

In a word, we did not concede the opposition a single factory. We triumphed everywhere. Only at the Triangle was it a split decision. It was difficult to ascertain who had the majority; well, fifty-fifty, in my view, was the result. That's the way it was published.

We decided to convene a Leningrad City Party Conference. I attended it with Bukharin. It probably took place in 1926. It was a foregone conclusion. All the delegates were our people; the opposition had almost ceased to exist. After the factories, the district conferences supported us. Two or three weeks after this rout of the opposition in the factories, the Leningrad Conference was convened. Kirov and I stayed at the Hotel Europa, or later we stayed at some flat. Bukharin and I spent the night in the same room, and he informed me about the conference.

Bukharin was the political *rapporteur*. We triumphed at the conference. Kirov became secretary of the Leningrad party organization. Zinoviev did not speak, but neither did he capitulate. A vain man, he did not wish to experience public defeat. He dropped out of sight. For a time. He remained chairman of the Comintern. He was removed from Leningrad. Then he was excluded from the Comintern. They made Bukharin first secretary of the Comintern. The post of chairman was abolished, and a secretariat was created with Bukharin as a member. He supported Stalin's line.

[12-4-73, 4-19-77]

The Struggles of the Workers are Developing and in Need of Solidarity

Earlier this month, the European regional meeting of the International Conference of Marxist-Leninist Parties and Organizations (ICMLPO) was held.

There were two main items on the agenda:

1. The further developments in the struggle of the workers' and people's movement, the work and experiences of the parties and organizations;
2. The practice carried out and the problems related to the development of the work among young people and the building of youth organizations.

The rich discussion allowed us to move forward collectively, to adopt two resolutions – on solidarity with the struggles of the workers, published here, and on the migration issue [printed below].

At the same time, decisions were taken regarding joint initiatives, to strengthen our parties and organizations and the ICMLPO.

The increase in the prices of food, housing, electricity, fuel, transport, etc. is impoverishing workers and peoples around the world, while the profits of the big monopolies are skyrocketing. 722 global monopolies amassed more than \$1 trillion in profits between 2021 and 2022.

In Europe, all the governments and the European Commission are applying a harsh neoliberal policy that attacks public health and education, dismantles social services and accelerates their privatization. Billions are spent on weapons, militarization and war, all at the expense of social needs. A special objective is the dismantling of public pensions, the privatization of workers' funds that are put in the hands of private banks and financial institutions.

The bosses and governments have declared that their economies are "at war" and want to enlist workers in the battle for greater productivity, which means intensive exploitation, repression against combative workers, politics of competition and division among workers, etc. They use the pretext of "green capitalism" to close factories, increase the number of unemployed workers, grab huge public investments at the expense of social budgets.

The struggles of the workers for higher wages, against the intensification of exploitation, against the layoffs are developing.

In all our countries, important sectors of the working class and working people simply cannot live with the current wage levels, when inflation is above 8% or reaches more than 10%. They fight for higher wages, in their factories, in their categories. This is the case in Italy, in factories of different sizes and especially in transport. In Germany, in sectors such as the postal service, in the retail trade, in the metal industry, among social workers, etc., workers have made strong demands for wage increases. They are regaining confidence in themselves, even though the bosses and union leaders have concluded agreements that fall short of their demands. In Turkey, where the "new" government is developing a ferocious anti-worker and anti-people policy, there are strikes; for example, in the textile industry (such as Sireci Textile, in Gazantep) the workers imposed their demands after a long and determined struggle, defined as "illegal". In Britain, strikes for better wages have continued since the beginning of 2023. In the northern countries (Denmark, Sweden, Norway), discontent is high among workers, who feel cheated by the bosses, governments and reformist trade union leaders. Some "illegal" spontaneous strikes have nevertheless taken place and anger is growing and are expressed in mobilizations and

strikes. In Greece, Belgium and many other countries the situation is the same, but everywhere the mainstream media are silencing the class struggles.

The recent strike in the large US auto manufacturers(Ford, GM, Stellantis), which extend their activity around the world, is focused on the issue of higher wages. This shows that the working class of the United States is fighting for the same demands as its class brothers and sisters in Europe and elsewhere, and the class struggle is developing even in the largest imperialist state.

Large sectors of the masses are also mobilizing against reactionary reforms that attack pensions, as we have seen in France with the powerful movement against pension reform. Even today, the vast majority of workers are "against 64 years old" and are expressing it in all the movements and demonstrations in progress. In Spain, pensioners and their families, active workers in the private and state sectors, are preparing for a day of demonstrations on October 28. In Italy, the most combative sectors of trade unionism are calling for October 20 to demonstrate and strike for wage increases and against the war in Ukraine. The unemployed are mobilizing against the abolition of the "citizenship income" decided by the government led by the fascist Meloni. Among the international initiatives is that of October 13. In several countries it will be a day of strikes and demonstrations called by the trade union confederations belonging to the European Trade Union Confederation.

To win, all these struggles need solidarity, both nationally and internationally.

We, the parties and organizations of Europe, members of the International Conference of Marxist-Leninist Parties and Organizations (ICMLPO), are mobilizing our forces to concretely support these struggles that defend the interests of the working class and peoples.

We work for their development in all sectors, to develop the balance of forces in favor of Labor, against Capital.

We work to develop solidarity in the workers' movement by spreading its struggles, organizing international solidarity. It is an important task, which helps to combat the politics of divisions, racism, anti-migrant and chauvinistic propaganda of governments and bosses who are "at war" against the workers and peoples.

We include this battle in the struggle against the capitalist-imperialist system, responsible for exploitation, general crisis, plunder and war.

October 1, 2023

Communist Party of the Workers of Denmark – APK

Communist Party of the Workers of France – PCOF

Organization for the Construction of a Communist Party of the Workers of Germany (Labor Future)

Communist Platform – for the Communist Party of the Proletariat of Italy

Marxist-Leninist Group Revolusjon – Norway

Communist Party of Spain (Marxist-Leninist) - PCEML

Party of Labor (EMEP) – Turkey

Excerpt from the resolution adopted at the recent European meeting of the ICMLPO. The full text with signatures (updated) is published on our website.

The problem is not refugees! We are threatened by war, inflation, unemployment, cuts in social spending, the destruction of the environment!

All over Europe, the media and politicians present refugees as the "biggest problem". For them, not imperialist war in Ukraine, nor inflation, nor crisis, nor growing unemployment, nor impoverishment, are a threat, but the refugees.

Facts don't matter

According to UNHCR, more than 110 million people worldwide are currently displaced. Most of them are internal refugees, that is, ones within poor and war-torn states. In general, the poorer countries are bearing the brunt. In 2023, around half a million refugees sought asylum in European countries. Compared to the weight of the poorest countries, this is a small number.

Causes of the displacement

By constantly treating refugees as "illegal" and therefore criminal, the causes of their displacement are hidden. These are, among others, the plundering of the dependent countries, especially of their raw materials; global warming, which affects poor countries more; has been caused by imperialist states through the growing hunger of the populations and the plundering of nature. Further reasons for displacement are the dictatorships supported by the imperialist states, whether they are USA, NATO, EU, Russia and China, and the wars and conflicts they nourish for their zones of influence. There is also the brain drain, the poaching of skilled and specialized workers previously trained by poor countries. In this way the imperialist countries of the EU save on high training costs and obtain cheap labor. This shows all the hypocrisy of the EU. On the one hand, they want to prevent the arrival in Europe of those who are ruined by their exploitation; on the other hand, they recruit cheap labor to extend exploitation. And they use this cheap labor to increase competition within the working class and try to divide the workers, to create hatred among them.

With this imperialist policy, the dependent countries are bled dry and poverty is permanently increasing....

The first thing to keep in mind is that immigrants are workers. They do not "make profits" but are super-exploited, because they do not have the same rights as other workers. The pandemic has openly demonstrated this: without them nothing would work.

Instead of fighting against our brothers in other countries, we must fight against capital, which is really responsible for all our problems. Divided by racism, hatred and nationalism, we are weak. United we are strong!

We demand: Stop the policy of the EU towards refugee!

Stop the agreements with Egypt, Tunisia and Turkey!

Stop the EU's "Common European Asylum System" and "Crisis Regulations"! All together against capital!

A New Military Intervention in Haiti

On October 2, the United Nations Security Council approved a resolution, with thirteen votes in favor and two abstentions, that would authorize the deployment of a multinational armed force led by Kenya in Haiti, in an effort to mitigate the profound violence that the country is experiencing due to gang fighting and the political crisis. Haitians and social activists repudiate the measure because they consider that it will only worsen the crisis that the country is experiencing.

Historically, the Haitian people have fought against colonial oppression and oppression by the ruling groups, always linked to foreign interests. Their struggle against slavery, against the Spanish crown and France, made Haiti the first country to abolish slavery in 1803 and subsequently proclaimed its independence on January 1, 1804. Since then, it has been the object of various actions by the ruling classes and economic powers to re-establish their power, sparing no resources to achieve this.

Haiti has an advantageous geographical location in the Atlantic Ocean and, because of its position, it can exert considerable control over the Caribbean. For this reason, imperialisms, such as those of the United States and France, have set their eyes – and their hands – to control this geographical area and its natural resources through military interventions, placing in power evil figures for the life of the people, such as François Duvalier, known as Papa Doc, from 1957 to 1971, and then his son Jean Claude Duvalier (Baby Doc) until 1986. They were bloody, corrupt dictatorships that supported the exploitation of resources and imposed violence as state policy, authoritarianism, abuse of power, nepotism, blackmail and corruption.

The UN has sponsored three interventions to "return to peace". In addition, the United States and France actively participated in the occupations, setting up – and deposing – governments as they pleased, all of them with the same characteristics of Duvalierism: subservient to the interests of imperialism and violence against the people. Undoubtedly, the ruling classes have only contested for their own interests, while the people have been left with less than the leftovers. This anti-popular policy has plunged Haiti into a deep crisis, with more than 90% of its population suffering from extreme poverty. In spite of this, the people are rising up, fighting against authoritarianism and seeking freedom to live in true peace.

President Ariel Henry has consistently urged the U.N. to provide assistance under the pretext of fighting the gangs that control Port-au-Prince, the Haitian capital, but he forgets that the long history of interventions has only led to the emergence of more inequality. Suffice it to recall that, from 2004 to 2017, the UN peacekeeping mission brought thousands of soldiers to Haiti to quell popular uprisings, but at the same time committed all kinds of crimes: sexual abuse, violence against civilians, robbery, blackmail and other crimes. In the aftermath of the 2010 earthquake, neglect of sanitation measures in the UN camps led to a cholera epidemic that killed nearly 10,000 people.

Military interventions have only meant the imposition of bloodthirsty dictatorships, which protect the interests of imperialism and leave the population to its fate. A new military intervention could prove disastrous. The only thing left for the Haitian people to do is to continue fighting to uphold their rights, to win their self-determination and sovereignty, to take the first steps towards peace with social justice.

Nueva intervención militar en Haití

El 2 de octubre, el Consejo de Seguridad de Naciones Unidas aprobó, con trece votos a favor y dos abstenciones, una resolución que facultaría el despliegue de una fuerza armada multinacional liderada por Kenia en Haití, con el afán de mitigar la profunda violencia que vive el país por la lucha entre pandillas y la crisis política. Los pobladores haitianos y activistas sociales repudian la medida por considerar que solo recrudecerá la crisis que vive el país.

Históricamente, el pueblo haitiano ha luchado contra la opresión colonial y de los grupos dominantes, siempre vinculados a intereses foráneos. Su lucha en contra del esclavismo, en contra de la corona española y Francia, logró convertir a Haití en el primer país que abolió la esclavitud en 1803 y, posteriormente, proclamó su independencia el 1 de enero de 1804. Desde ese momento, ha sido objeto de diversas acciones de las clases dominantes y de las potencias económicas para restablecer su poder, sin escatimar recursos para lograrlo.

Haití tiene una ubicación geográfica privilegiada en el océano Atlántico y, por su posición, puede ejercer un control notable sobre el Caribe. Por ello, los imperialismos, como Estados Unidos y Francia, han puesto sus ojos – y sus manos – para controlar este espacio geográfico y sus recursos naturales a través de intervenciones militares, colocando en el poder a figuras nefastas para la vida del pueblo, como François Duvalier, conocido como Papa Doc, desde 1957 hasta 1971, y luego su hijo Jean Claude Duvalier (Baby Doc) hasta 1986; fueron dictaduras sangrientas, corruptas, que favorecieron la explotación de recursos e impusieron la violencia como política de estado, el autoritarismo, el abuso de poder, el clientelismo, el chantaje y la corrupción.

La ONU ha patrocinado tres intervenciones para “retornar a la paz”; además, Estados Unidos y Francia participaron activamente de las ocupaciones poniendo – y deponiendo – gobiernos a su antojo, todos ellos con las mismas características del duvalierismo: serviles a los intereses del imperialismo y violentos con el pueblo. Sin lugar a dudas, las clases dominantes han disputado únicamente sus intereses, mientras que al pueblo le han dejado menos que las sobras. La política antipopular ha sumido en una profunda crisis a Haití, cuyas cifras hablan de una pobreza extrema en más del 90% de su población. Pese a ello, el pueblo se levanta, lucha en contra del autoritarismo y busca la libertad para vivir una verdadera paz.

El presidente Ariel Henry ha insistido permanentemente a la ONU para que se le otorgue asistencia con el pretexto de combatir a las pandillas que controlan Puerto Príncipe, la capital haitiana, pero olvida que la larga historia de intervenciones solo ha sido la causante de la aparición de más desigualdad. Basta recordar que, desde 2004 a 2017, la misión de paz de la ONU llevó a miles de militares a Haití para sofocar los levantamientos populares, pero que al mismo tiempo cometieron toda clase de delitos: abuso sexual, violencia en contra de civiles, robos, chantaje y otros delitos. Tras el terremoto de 2010, el descuido de las medidas de sanidad en campamentos de la ONU causó una epidemia de cólera que mató a casi 10.000 personas.

Las intervenciones militares solo han significado la imposición de dictaduras sanguinarias, que protegen los intereses del imperialismo y dejan abandonada a la población a su suerte. Una nueva intervención militar podría resultar desastrosa. Al pueblo haitiano solo le queda continuar luchando para sostener sus derechos, conquistar su autodeterminación y su soberanía, para dar los primeros pasos hacia una paz con justicia social.