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Elections and Tasks of the Left in South Africa



Public sector workers on strike in 2022 (Guardian)

29 May offers no prospect for change for the working class and poor in South Africa exactly 30 years after formal political independence. Several political developments have taken place in the lead up to the elections key among them being the formation of the reactionary “Moonshoot” Multi Party Charter led by the Democratic Alliance (DA), the formation of the Mkonto WeSizwe party (MKP) by former president, Jacob Zuma, at the head of remnants of the Radical Economic Transformation (RET) faction of the ruling African National Congress (ANC) and, significantly, the formation by AMCU of a Labour Party (LP).

The Revolutionary Socialist Workers Party (RSWP) is not participating in the forthcoming elections. Bureaucratic strangling and undemocratic methods ensured a still-birth for a party that had so much potential to champion the interests of the working class independent of mainstream parties and their imperialist masters. The anticipated Mass Working Class Assembly (MWCA) by the Organising Committee (OC) failed to take off leaving workers and poor masses with no alternative to advance their interests in the trenches and, if need be, on the ballot in order to utilise the elections as an organising tool.

The ANC has historically been an arena of contest between Pan Africanists and Stalinists, with liberal and reactionary tendencies hovering around. Post formal independence, Pan Africanists were replaced by liberals as the main protagonists vying for party and state control with the Stalinists. These factions clearly expressed themselves during the last years of

ZIMBABWE: ECONOMIC CRISIS, NEW CURRENCY AND URGENT TASKS



Striking workers at an Agro-processing company meeting to consolidate the strike in September 2021

INTRODUCTION

On the 5th of April the incoming governor of the central bank, Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe (RBZ), announced the annual Monetary Policy Statement (MPS) whose major highlight was the introduction of a new currency with immediate effect. The stated objective is to tame inflation and high prices of goods and services as well as the loss of value experienced by the previous local currency, RTGS/ZWL, against the US dollar (USD). Will the new monetary measures arrest inflationary tendencies and stabilise the exchange rate as anticipated by the monetary authorities? Will this anticipated stability result in an improved life for the working class and the poor masses reeling under the effects of an acute economic crisis? We intend to answer these questions from a working class point of view against the mainstream bourgeoisie and petit bourgeoisie superficial answers.

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Jacob Zuma's tenure as president, reflected by the pro-China and small capitalists dominated RET on one hand, and the pro-West and big national capitalists faction led by the current president, Cyril Ramaphosa on the other.

The state capture and corruption manoeuvres, however true, were utilised to thwart the pro-China trajectory of the party at the expense of the US and its western allies. The 2019 congress split the party between the pro-China and pro US factions with the latter assuming formal control of the party against a strong pro-China tendency that has now morphed around the MKP in a deadly fight to reverse pro US movement. The open declaration by Zuma that he will not vote for the ANC, urging fellow ANC members to do the same and using the revered name of the armed wing testifies to the escalation and what is at stake.

The ruling party is the primary arena of conflict between the two blocs of imperialism, the rising China/Russia bloc against the declining US/west bloc. Beyond the ANC imperialism has permeated the trade union bureaucracy, opposition parties and civic groups in a deadly fight for the exploitation of natural and human resources of the country. The official opposition, DA, is an unashamed US tool and along with parties in the alliance it leads prepares a "colour revolution", whilst the Economic Freedom Fighters (EFF) is a pro-China party with a working alliance with the RET faction/MKP. So it is clear that 29 May will, to an extent, resolve the question of which imperialist bloc is dominant in SA.

The absence of the SRWP on the ballot, manoeuvres to bar the Labour Party and failure by the OC project to take off ensures the continued dominance of trade union leaders and bu-

reaucrats over any left movement and initiative. The few left organisations and social movements are either too tiny and or not oriented towards independent working class mobilisation and agitation. The main trade union federations, Congress of South African Trade Unions (COSATU) and South African Federation of Trade Unions (SAFTU) are split over their alliances, or those of key leaders, with the rival imperialist blocs. COSATU, under the influence of SACP, is inclined towards China, and SAFTU is predominantly pursuing a social democratic agenda whose intention is to camouflage its support for the US and the west whilst balancing precariously between the ANC and EFF. Leaders of both federations use their positions as transmission belts to mainstream politics mainly via the ANC.

Any alliance, in the likely event that the ANC fails to garner over 50%, will be determined by imperialism, especially the backers of the main partner. Both imperialist camps and their local capitalist allies are pouring lots of money to their preferred parties as they fight to tie the masses to their programmes. The possibility that the ANC can enter into an alliance with either the pro-China EFF or pro-US/west DA testifies to the volatile political and ideological makeup of the ruling party which has been exacerbated by the Ukrainian war and Zionist genocide in Gaza, splitting the party. The US and DA are on a back foot in SA hence blackmailing manoeuvres calling for Western Cape succession, proposed trade sanctions and an invitation by DA to the US to interfere in elections to counter alleged Chinese involvement.

The main former African colonial masters, Britain and France, now play second fiddle to US imperialism which in turn has been muscled out by China and to a lesser extent, Russia. The continued scramble for natural resources in Africa and other semi and neo colonial countries intensifies with the chronic degeneration of imperialism. What choice would workers and poor masses have in this election? Workers clearly have no choice as all the parties and candidates contesting are there to serve the interests of either bloc of imperialism through unleashing and deepening attacks on the working class and poor masses who continue to bear the brunt of the economic crisis.

What then should be the attitude of the left, workers and poor masses to this election? It is quite evident the election is a decisive one for imperialism and capital, both local and foreign. The SRWP, formed by NUMSA, suffered from the bureaucratic and ideological deficiencies of its main sponsor and midwife, NUMSA bureaucrats. We witnessed the purging of vocal and honest comrades and workers from the party as well as the trade union for daring to challenge the bureaucratic manoeuvres and lack of democracy in the party. An open letter by Cape Town's Shaun Magmoed branch of the SRWP brought to the fore the challenges facing the party and steps to be taken to rectify the same, albeit in a limited and impractical manner.

Apart from the bureaucratic methods the party (SRWP) also suffered from its pro-China/Russia orientation that views China as a progressive ally of the poor masses and former colonies in fighting against imperialism. This is a result of a methodological and political failure to view China and Russia as emerging imperialist powers competing with the traditional western imperialists for resources and labour of the

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semi and neo colonial states. The result is an international popular front of labour with Maoism/Stalinism that is intent on buying unions and leaders to the side of Chinese imperialism as is happening through Roy Singham who is pouring lots of money in ostensible radical and leftist organisations.

It is clear that the announcement by Zuma and subsequent formation/resuscitation of MKP is not a progressive or beneficial move for the working masses. It is a result of imperialist tussles as well as fights between the local small capitalists and the established big ones based in the imperial centres. All to ensure continued plunder and dominance over local natural resources and labour. It is worth noting that the economic crisis and growing inequality has led to xenophobic sentiments by a backward and politically susceptible layer of the local population which is being propped up by opportunist politicians from across the divide eager to shift the blame to foreigners and maintain their grip on the working and poor masses. Even if Operation Dudula, the rabid anti-immigrants organisation, is not participating in the national elections, its message forms key considerations by the mainstream parties.

Our orientation should be towards the ordinary workers and lower to middle rung layer of trade union leaders across the sectors bearing the brunt of capitalist crisis and semi and neo colonial extraction and exploitation by the historic traditional imperialists/colonisers as well as the new imperialist powers whose “win win” strategy only benefits imperialism and their agents in parties and unions. Our message should focus on exposing the bourgeois nature of the main contenting parties as well as their subservience to imperialism against the interests of the working class, unemployed and poor peasants.

Is there any party worthy of critical support on the ballot?

What is the geopolitical situation impacting on the elections? On the China/Russia side we see BRICS hugely empowered by US/EU warmongering in Ukraine and Gaza. The move by Iran shows how strong the BRICS is. Israel has become a pariah state and the US is suffering a massive loss of credibility. The ANC also gains massively from its key role in BRICS as showcased by its ICJ application. The response of the US is to double down on sanctions and low level hybrid wars. This is demonstrated in southern Africa in Zimbabwe to target the regime and build the opposition, and the threat of using the same method to sanction a new ANC government for regime change.

The point is that everything is speeding up and intensifying with the Gaza genocide marking a massive explosion in the contradiction between nature/forces of production and the humanity/relations of production. Our approach to the elections both in SA and the US is to use them only as a forum to mobilise an anti-war movement, for a new Zimmerwald and for a new global Proletarian Military Policy (PMP) against the rise of fascism and genocides everywhere. The Labour/Workers party fight then becomes a global United Front to expose electoralism and the creation of a fighting workers party based on a renewal of unions breaking from the bureaucracy as the voice of the organised proletariat, students and small farmers.

The Leninist tactic of critical support is based on the weakness of the communist party (at any given time) and the illusions the workers’ movement still have in the reformist workers (or bourgeois-workers) parties. We explain to the workers that the current leadership’s program and practice will not fight for socialism nor can it win and sustain reforms from capitalism in decay; but because you still believe they represent our class we will accompany you to the polls and cast our ballot with you. We do this in order to contrast the revolutionary transitional program and method to what the reformists or centrists offer you. As Lenin put it, our support is like that of the rope supporting the hanged man, we offer our critical support in order to prove we are for working class unity and that our class needs to replace the existing leaders with new militant leaders committed to the class struggle program for socialist revolution.

This would inevitably force us to take a closer look at the EFF and the recently launched Labour Party (LP), sponsored by the Association of Mineworkers and Construction Union (AMCU). Abahlali BaseMjondolo (ABM) produced a list of twenty “People’s Demands” that it would use as a criteria to offer support to any party other than the ANC. The demands represent a list of radical demands that are to all intents and purposes directed at the EFF, on condition that it renounces any coalition with the ANC. The EFF, a radical and populist petit bourgeoisie reformist party aligned to China and that has no formal or organised support of workers, produced a fancy Manifesto that speaks to key radical demands such as nationalisation of mines and key industries, giving land to the landless, free education and health care, among others. It is populist and opportunistic because no working class methods are advanced to implement these measures instead they advocate copying the Chinese model of building a strong state presence in the economy. It is even prepared to opportunistically go into an alliance with the ANC to stabilise capitalist plunder hiding behind radical rhetoric as it has done in local authorities.

On the other hand, the LP, with a strong base in organised workers offers a programme to the right of the EFF. It is important to state that we support the legal recourse by the LP to be on the ballot and condemn the bourgeoisie tactics entrenching the exclusion of workers and the poor from political activity. We also call on working class organisations, especially SAFTU, to support this appeal. The LP programme is a non-class, individualist and religious platform designed to appeal to everyone thereby separating itself from its radical union founder, AMCU.

Because of these reasons we cannot call on workers to vote for either the EFF or LP as this would be tantamount to tying workers to the pro-China international popular front in respect of the EFF and subjecting them to the opportunistic takeover of labour parties by liberalism in respect of the LP. We call on workers to boycott the election which offers no working class alternative. Further, we call for the formation of a Workers Party based on the militant unions and advancing a programme independent of contesting wings of imperialism. In this we support the call by the Marxist Workers Party (MWP) but stating that the AMCU Labour Party in its present form does not embody such a party.

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- **Boycott the poll! No party is worthy of workers' votes!**
- **For a Workers Party to advance the interests of workers and the poor masses!**
- **Workers break with the ANC Tripartite Alliance and petit bourgeoisie opposition parties!**
- **No to US and Chinese led imperialism fronted by mainstream parties!**
- **Workers form workers' defence guards for defence against state and corporate violence!**
- **For a living Wage! Workers fight for a living wage and better working conditions through mass action controlled by ordinary workers!**
- **Against unemployment and destitution we demand a sliding scale of working hours to provide decent jobs for all through massive public works programs to provide housing, education and medical care for all!**
- **Nationalisation of all companies without indemnification to the big shareholders under workers control!**
- **Land to be distributed to the landless and small farmers together with a state bank to provide inputs to all small farmers!**
- **Organise the unorganised! Form unions of the unemployed as fully affiliated unions!**
- **Workers take back your unions from collaborationist leaders and bureaucrats!**
- **Militant workers form class struggle caucuses in the unions to fight for this program!**
- **Workers form strike committees to lead the resistance to the growing attacks on the wages and working conditions and the livelihood of the majority poor!**
- **For a workers' government on the basis of the armed people to implement decisions that benefit the workers and the poor!**
- **A workers' state that defends workers, poor farmers and poor masses against local and foreign capitalists!**
- **For an African socialist revolution as part of the international revolution that alone can guarantee a better life for all!**
- **A new World Party of socialist revolution based on the Transitional Program to lead the revolution to end capitalism and open the road to socialism!**

Cont. from pg. 1 Zimbabwe economic crisis....

STATE OF ECONOMY

Formally and politically independent Zimbabwe inherited an economy enmeshed into the global imperialist system as a semi colony whose main role was the uninterrupted supply of raw materials at very cheap prices and being a market for processed and manufactured goods at exorbitant prices. The dependent nature of the economy relative to imperialist countries and the unequal world trade and market could not be solved by the national liberation struggle that accepted the right of capitalism to survive in the country, thereby failing to solve the fundamental objective of the national democratic revolution, the agrarian/land question through the distribution of land to the peasantry, which up to today remains only partially resolved.

Permanent revolution was substituted by permanent subjugation! As a result of the aborted permanent revolution national liberation was never fully achieved. With formal independence in 1980 the national political economy inherited semi-colonial economic dependency. The stalled revolution could not resist the consequences of the acute downturn in the prices of commodities in the 1980s. The IMF/World Bank imposed its neoliberal Economic Structural Adjustment Programme(ESAP) and its austerities were compounded by the costs of the DRC war, lump sum payments to veterans of the liberation struggle, unsupported and limited land reform, populist indigenisation policy, money printing, quasi fiscal activities by the central bank and regular droughts.

The combined effect of the above factors show how a dependent economy has its production of value extracted by imperialism, resulting in the futile attempts by the national ruling class to resolve the crisis in the confines of the capitalist system. The dominant imperialist powers manipulate the exchange rate so that the national currency is inflated against the USD. Most important has been the economic sanctions imposed by the US over the last two decades to bring about regime change, and the terminal decline of global capitalism since the start of the new millennium especially around the 2008 Global Financial Crisis (GFC), known as the 'long depression' causing a stagnating world economy.

At the same time, the emergence of China, and to a lesser extent Russia, as imperialist countries signalled a change in the imperialist balance of power with other semi colonies shifting their dependency towards the new imperialist states. Today the world situation is defined by the economic rivalry of these two imperialist camps. The semi-colonial world, Africa in general and Southern Africa in particular are navigating this realignment of great powers. Despite the realignment with the east, workers and landless farmers still suffer economic subjugation globally. This can be seen clearly in the shift in Zimbabwe's dependence away from the US and towards China and Russia. As we will show, this is the context in which the MPS is understood as an instrument to try and ameliorate and resolve the stability of the currency by moving away from the USD to a basket of currencies developed by the BRICS Development Bank (BDB).

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MPS AND NEW CURRENCY

The MPS is a monetary tool intended to make the system work for the national capitalists with only a modicum of relief for the masses. It is a reformist tool which cannot resolve the fundamental contradictions of capitalist degeneration and crisis in a semi colony still reeling from the effects of punitive sanctions imposed by western imperialist states for almost two decades after the land reform exercise at the turn of the century. Mainstream bourgeoisie and petit bourgeoisie commentators and functionaries are obsessed with the superficial aspects of the crisis. Those who are pro regime argue that the backing of the new Zimbabwe Gold (ZiG) currency by the country's foreign currency reserves and minerals as well as pegging its value to the price of gold will result in a competitive and stable currency. The anti-regime petit bourgeoisie elements resort to superficial economic terms of supply and demand, lack of confidence, etc. as aspects militating against the new currency. Of course they do not consider the economy from the perspective of the working class's historic fight for socialism, rather they seek to make adjustments that will serve the comprador class interests in taking a share of the national wealth.

These two main positions deliberately evade the key aspects of capitalist production. A background first. Without understanding the motive of capitalist growth in the age of imperialism we are stuck in an unresolvable contradiction. Capitalism as a system of profit making through the exploitation of labour power subordinated to the law of value survives by increasing labour productivity and being competitive. In Zimbabwe's case ESAP crushed the few competitive local industries by exposing them to unfair competition from outside. Unfair in that labour productivity in the imperialist countries and some advanced semi colonies was more competitive in the sense of requiring less labour time to produce. The Fast Track Land Reform Programme (FTLRP) reduced productivity in the farms through the failure of the government to finance increased labour productivity through advanced machinery. Only mining and the service industry remained fairly intact but could not counter the deepening subjugation of the economy.

Any serious MPS should acknowledge the extra burden of relatively low productivity in the farms and industries in a semi colony as the basic problem that has to be corrected. Workers and poor farmers are now living in a highly informal and dollarised economy as a result of ESAP induced attacks on industries and the super-exploitation of labour productivity in agriculture and mining, the mainstays of the semi colonial economy. The only viable solution would be re-industrialisation and massive support for the resettled farmers, something the national bourgeoisie regime under the dictates of imperialism cannot do. Instead they have resolved to compensate former white displaced farmers and not enhance productivity through financial and technical support to small farmers. New mines and industries are being given to the Chinese and Russians engaged in primitive accumulation methods that ignore labour and environmental rights, as they rush to catch up and overtake Western imperialists.

The objective economic challenges have been compounded by primitive and crude accumulation by the corrupt com-

prador capitalists and their allies through looting of national resources. The traditional capitalists, together with the comprador and national capitalists are engaged in externalisation of profits and foreign currency, manipulation of books of accounts, etc. This has made a bad situation worse leaving the working class, vendors, poor farmers and poor masses worse off. What the MPS has achieved in the short term is the theft of value on incomes, savings and pensions through the manipulated exchange rates heaping the burden of economic stability on the already suffering working and poor masses. Without an attempt to resolve the issue of productivity and production it is impossible that the stability of the local currency will improve to result in consolidation of value and competitiveness. Is the regime not aware of this fact, or are they banking on the BRICS?

CASE FOR BRICS

Is it no coincidence that talk of a structured currency started at a time when the country had applied to be a member of the BDB? Again, it is no coincidence that a few days before the launch of the new currency, the main pro-government paper announced that the country is set to be admitted as a member of the BDB? China has made significant inroads into the national economy since the turn of the century taking advantage of retreating western states under the US led economic sanctions and its emergence as an imperialist nation in its own right. It has now become a major trading partner with interests in mining, agriculture and manufacturing. The relationship, as with other imperialist powers, is an unequal one with China exploiting the resources and labour of the nation in exchange for infrastructure development and geopolitical protection. The increasing economic dominance of China on the national scene together with the global trend towards reducing reliance on the USD therefore makes it highly probable that the MPS is centrally premised on the imminent admission of the country into the BDB.

WORKERS INTERESTS

Which class will pay for the continued crisis that expresses itself as hyperinflation? It is the workers and poor farmers who produce the labour value who are faced with a decline in the value of their own labour power. This is the same as the rate of exploitation increasing. It is not the capitalist class together with their middle class hangers who own assets which do not devalue like workers wages. **The MPS is a weapon used by the ruling regime on behalf of the capitalist class to put on the shoulders of the working class the burden of stabilising the local currency and the economy through devaluation of incomes, pensions and savings as well as price hikes.**

The existing multi-currency policy has served the regime and the commercial comprador fraction of the capitalist class well in that nearly all services and goods are priced or pegged in USD whilst incomes are still payable in the devalued local currency. However this arrangement is now threatened by 'de-dollarisation' as the USD is coming under threat from the rise of the BRICS and its trading bloc. The US facing the rise of Russia and China in Africa, recognises that the USD is under threat from the BRICS which has expanded at its expense over the last 20 years and is now rapidly growing as a result of

Cont. from pg. 5 Zimbabwe economic crisis....

its proxy war in Ukraine. This is why the US recently lifted its economic sanctions on Zimbabwe to free up Western FDI to compete with its main rivals while at the same time continuing to target sanctions on the Mnangagwa regime in an attempt to bring about a regime change favouring the collective West.

Feeling the heat of a devalued local currency against the USD in trade, the dominant state monopoly fraction of the capitalist class linked to the regime is opting for full de-dollarisation in order to gain regional and international competitiveness. But while the world capitalist economy is still in place, the only way this can be delivered is by the BRICS who are substituting for the USD a new financial system based on a trading bloc of countries comprising a basket of currencies representing the value of commodities produced by its member states including gold. The BDB will provide loans to member states backed by the value of the commodities produced and traded, measured by the value of the labour time required to produce them, and reflected in the value of their national currency.

In this way the member states will be able to avoid the USD and potentially realise more of the value of the commodities they produce. However, Chinese and Russian imperialism will extract their super-profits from the surplus value produced by workers and farmers who will not see their full share of their labour value any more under the BRICS currency swaps than the USD. There is no such thing as 'fair trade' for those who produce the value. So long as capitalists rule they will expropriate their profits at the expense of workers and working farmers.

Therefore, workers and poor farmers do not benefit from these pro-business and capitalist machinations whose main effect is maximising their exploitation but cutting the value of their wages. Workers cannot win a living wage within a capitalist system, worse still a compliant semi colony. Neither can they enjoy improved working conditions when the law of the Tendency of the Rate of Profit to Fall (LTRPF) demands increased exploitation of labour power as the only way to save the national economy and global capitalism under crisis. All attempts at winning piecemeal reforms are bound to fail given the acute nature of the crisis and the rising Russia and China committed to smashing workers rights to enable global domination. For workers and poor farmers too survive capitalism and imperialism must die!

WAY FORWARD

We have no class interest in propping up imperialism! Our task is to change our situation regardless of the MPS which is but the latest trick in a long history of anti-working class strategies aimed at placing the burden of the economic crisis on the working class. Above all workers must fight for class political independence. We need our own working class party to put our class's historic program on the agenda. Our task is to organise a new militant working class leadership in the unions across all industries, at plants, factories, farms and neighbourhoods level for class struggle actions guided by lessons learnt in combat nationally and internationally. Collaborationist union leaders, bureaucrats and phony labour aristocrats must be sidestepped by ordinary workers organised in action/strike committees ready to fight for political class independence in order to win a living wage and guided by this program:

Sliding scale of wages and prices and employment for all who can work; working conditions should improve for all workers!

Introduction of state projects to employ all the unemployed; Central and local government must stop the attacks on vendors!

Land must be distributed to all poor peasants together with a state bank to provide inputs to all small farmers!

Jobs for all with a reduction in working hours until all who want to work can find a job!

To provide jobs for all big and imperialist assets must be nationalised and put under workers control and self-management!

Workers form action committees to lead the resistance to the growing attacks on wages and working conditions of the poor and the livelihood of the majority poor!

Free and quality health care, Housing and Education for all!

Workers break with the mainstream bourgeoisie parties and form a worker's party that truly champions the interests of the workers and the poor masses!

Workers form rank and file bodies to lead action in all unions and break with the reformist and collaborationist trade union leadership and bureaucracy!

Build a revolutionary workers party that fights for the workers government!

For a workers state that defends workers and peasants against the local and foreign capitalists!

No to US and Chinese imperialism fronted by the main opposition and ruling parties respectively!

For a workers and peasants' government on the basis of the armed people to implement decisions that benefit the workers and the poor!

For a federation of socialist southern African workers states!

For an African socialist revolution as part of the international revolution that alone can guarantee a better life for all!

For a new World Party of socialist revolution based on the Transitional Program to lead the revolution to end capitalism and open the road to socialism!

Zimbabwe: Imperialist Primitive Accumulation vs The Rural Poor



Today the compradore state is chasing people off the land and street vendors off the streets who can use the land, not just the decorated fighters from the Bush Wars (liberation struggle or second Chimurenga/Umvukela), but it is the international imperialists who get land at the expense of the rural and urban poor. This is an ongoing assault on the masses, extracting the price of imperialism's crisis from their lives! The Zimbabwe case and the robbery mechanisms and ploys are a forecast and blueprint of finance capital's plan for the masses of the global south.

Forty-five years after the defeat of the Ian Smith racist regime we are still watching national liberation go no place! Instead we witnessed the last of the 1960-61 "national independence" victories of another variety of Pan-Africanism, and like all the others this held the masses back and away from socialist revolution, from taking power in their own hands and keeping it!

Today some 70% of the population is still involved in subsistence farming. Much of this is based on communal land administration by indigenous groups. This is a reflection of the under-development of productive forces in the semi-colonies. Of course capitalism develops the productive forces but in the semi-colonies the productive forces are developed to maximise the extraction economy, mining gold, nickel, diamond and mono-cropping of raw tobacco for export. Manufacturing for local use is not developed to the extent needed to employ the population and create a vibrant economy sufficient to elevate the population economically. While official numbers of unemployment hovered between [7.3 and 9.25 from 2019-2022](#), levels such as these were tolerated in the imperialist centers during the covid recession, but in places

like Zimbabwe these numbers belie the actual conditions of working people.

First off the GDP is \$6,241 per capita. Second, most subsistence farming is hand to mouth farming centuries out of date. The crony capitalist "land reform" of 2000 did nothing like raise the material well-being level of the wider population. We recall how ZANU-PF was supposed to be a socialist party. Of course socialism is understood to be an internationalist movement and world-view, not a peaceful coexistence with imperialism, nor acquiescence in the nation-state models and the borders on the maps that are imperialism's legacy! But then, that's Stalinism.

The numbers tell the story

The [World Bank reports](#) that 70% derive their income from farming yet only 9% of the GDP is derived from agriculture. This is a formula for extreme poverty. A socialist regime would have raised the poor farmers up with subsidised communal farming with technological means, but after 1978 the tasks of the national-democratic revolution were deferred, and they remain deferred!

Zimbabwe agriculture is underdeveloped; consider that per arable 100 km² of land France has 640 tractors, the USA has 271 while Zimbabwe has 64 (per arable 100 km².) This reflects the low level of technique and corresponding output. No doubt the highest concentration of farm machinery is located at the former white owned big holdings and tobacco farms.

Cont. from pg. 7 Zimbabwe rural poor...

The imperialist EV (Electric vehicle) revolution is digging the graves of youth in artisanal mining operations!

Zimbabwe is lithium rich yet remains impoverished. Young workers are driven by poverty to artisanal mining and suffer the deadly consequences of Silicosis. The [NIH study](#), “The Triple Burden of Tuberculosis, Human Immunodeficiency Virus and Silicosis among Artisanal and Small-Scale Miners in Zimbabwe” (2023) reported a 19% prevalence of silicosis among 3,821 ASMs (Artisanal miners.)

The NIH reported in 2022 that there are 500,000 artisanal and small mine workers in Zimbabwe. Silica dust, noise and workplace violence top the list of hazards identified in this damning report which recommends that standard industrial hygiene hierarchy of controls be implemented.

In November, 2023 [Geopolitical Monitor](#) reported that, “*The People’s Republic of China has announced a massive USD 2.79 billion investment in its lithium mining operations in Zimbabwe.*” [Reuters](#) reported that “*Chinese firms, including Zhejiang Huayou Cobalt, Sinomine Resource Group, Chengxin Lithium Group, Yahua Group and Canmax Technologies, have spent more than \$1 billion over the past two years to acquire and develop lithium projects in Zimbabwe.*”

The November, 2023 [IPIS report ZELA Zimbabwe Environmental Law Association](#) confirms that:

“... there are more than seven lithium exploration and mining projects at different development stages, with Chinese companies leading the race. ... Local communities and villagers in lithium rich areas ... are participating in lithium mining and trading activities, **attracted by quick money and forced by limited (formal) job opportunities in the country.** (editors bold) ... reports indicated that an estimated 5,000 artisanal miners, fortune seekers and foreigners were involved in mining and trading lithium at [Sandawana Mine](#). Additionally, ZELA identified [artisanal miners](#) in Mutoko, Chiredzi, Goromonzi, Mberengwa and parts of Buhera districts. [Artisanal miners](#) use picks, hammers and shovels to dig and break lithium ore and load it onto wheelbarrows and trucks for export by Chinese, South African or Indian buyers. ... Artisanally mined lithium is being sold at a pittance to Chinese buyers with prices ranging between \$100-\$150 per ton. Moreover, smuggling and leakages of lithium across the border into South Africa or Mozambique were reported by [various actors](#) and [media reports](#), raising the specter of corruption, illicit mineral and financial flows.”

Recall that this has already cost young lives in a [mine collapse](#), robberies of miners by ZANU-PF regime players, and gunplay between competing imperialist firms! See the linked article; the details will knock your socks off!

Big player investments

The [Zida Investment 2023](#) (Zimbabwe Investment Development Agency) report stated:

“We recognize the importance of sustainable developments through responsible investments, hence a renewed emphasis

to attract socially responsible investors in line with regional and global trends.”

The report displays the extent of economic dependency with a graph showing that Foreign Direct investment vs Domestic investment is in the ratio of approximately \$490.66mn/\$1mn, which tells it all. (pg 22)

New Investment licenses by country are indicative of the new alignment of world powers. Australia 4, Britain 4, Canada 1, China 81, India 15, Mauritius 6, South Africa 7, USA 1 (anomalously), Zimbabwe 7. The largest number of investors and the largest number projected value of projects is China. (see pg. 27.)

Imperialist parasitism eats the forests and calls it ecology! (The Carbon Credits Gag)

The Carbon Credit offsets in Zimbabwe are a scandal that expose the nature of the entire global scheme! One might presume carbon offset credits are issued for projects such as the allocation of forest land to national parks, the replanting of deforested lands, restoration of wetlands, planting fast growing CO² sinks, but this is not the case. Rather across the global south credits are being issued on the ‘spread’ not unlike an options trader selling calls and buying puts to cover!

The Kariba REDD+ project, one of the largest ‘eco-projects’ in the world and considered a “major conservation project” in Zimbabwe is based on the [Verra VM0009 methodology](#), which ultimately exposes **capitalism as having no intention to “save the planet” let alone this forest.** Get this! [Bloomberg](#), reporting on how the South Pole carbon offset dealer speculates on deforestation:

“Simply put: When the project is planned, it predicts a deforestation rate (based on 10 year historic deforestation data) and uses this to calculate the issuance of credits. This predicted deforestation rate – or ‘baseline’ as it is called – is re-evaluated (or ‘validated’) after 10 years. Should the real deforestation rate prove to be lower or higher than initially modeled, the methodology demands that fewer or more credits will be issued in the following 10 year crediting period. This ensures that over the full lifecycle of a project, the volume of issued credits corresponds to actual emissions reduced.”

[Reuters reported](#) that South Pole, the Swiss carbon offset dealer, backed out of the project last October stating, “...it was not confident the Kariba REDD+ project – owned and developed by Carbon Green Investments (CGI) – met the standards it expected from its partners.”

Just as South Pole was running from the failing project the ZANU-PF comprador regime sweetened the pot for the speculators as reported last September at [Carbon Credits .com](#), “... Zimbabwe amended its new carbon law governing carbon credit projects, dropping the initial plan to give 25% of the revenue to local communities to allow developers to keep a greater share of the profits.” The state will take 50% of the profits, 30% to the outside contractors and only 20% to the host communities. Considering the level of corruption of the ZANU-PF the shift of profit flow is a boon to the comprador bourgeoisie and its cronies.

Cont. pg. 9

Cont. from pg. 8 Zimbabwe rural poor...

How did we get here?

The semi-colonial world, that part of the world historically exploited by imperialist capital, never achieved *economic* independence. The masses of Zimbabwe, like those of other semi-colonies revolted during the post WWII period against the colonial settler state. Rhodesia, as Zimbabwe was then known, named for Cecil Rhodes, whose British South Africa Company chartered by the British monarch in 1898 in the wake of the defeat of the Dutch in the Boer war was an [herrenvolk democracy](#) (democracy for the minority white population-disenfranchisement for the majority Black population.) From 1964-1978 the masses conducted an anti-colonial war and the ethno-British were militarily and politically defeated by a coalition of resistance forces which all self-identified as socialist. The settler-colonial regime attempted to keep power in 1977, conceding to elections, the result of which was a Black-led government. But it was merely a puppet administering over a colonialist state apparatus, the military and police and state bureaucracy were still loyal to the Crown.

During the course of the revolutionary wars of southern Africa and by no small coincidence in time with the defeat of US imperialism in Vietnam, the defeat of the Gaetano dictatorship in Portugal, the post WWII economic boom ended. Imperialism could no longer afford to rule in the old way. The 'decolonised' states gained power at the start of a major global recessionary downturn, consequence of the combined effects of the tendency of the rate of profit to fall and the national democratic revolutions sapping the super-profits colonisation afforded to offset the Tendency of the Rate of Profit to Fall (TRPF). In other words, in Zimbabwe and across the decolonising south, new regimes got power as the colonial economic ship was already under water.

Either workers and small farmers would push their revolutions through to socialism by defeating imperialism, not just militarily on the home front but by expropriating its foreign investment stock and productive facilities and realigning production according to the workers own planning, OR the imperialists would contain the permanent revolution and limit the national democratic revolutions from going over to socialist revolution, even so far as to prevent any carrying out of national-democratic revolutionary tasks! Though in retreat and licking wounds on the home front, the major imperialist powers still had economic and military power to squeeze every nation it had investments in. And do they ever!

To win full legal national independence the old colonial settler state had to be smashed. The opposition by the armed resistance to the legacy puppet regime forced a second election and the ZANU victory created a new state based on the victorious military resistance. A formally independent Zimbabwe was born. The nation was, by bourgeoisie standards, liberated, but the workers and poor farmers did not have power. The shackles of legacy imperialist capital and colonial settler capital remained to be administered by the popular front regime. This is the scenario, which in the most general terms, was repeated in every nation which gained its liberation in the post WWII wave of decolonisation, with the exception of the countries which carried out social revolutions smashing the

capitalist state and implemented transitional tasks towards socialism, including the nationalisation of foreign capitalist holdings, nationalisation of the land, the renunciation of foreign debt, the nationalisation of big national capital and the institution of a central economic plan including the monopoly of foreign trade. Those countries, such as China, DPRK, Cuba, Vietnam, and Laos incurred the wrath of the west with sanctions, boycotts, blockades, military and covert incursions and invasions to make counter-revolutions, restore capitalism and make the countries safe for imperialist investment.

The revolutionary forces that defeated the British did so under the banner of socialism; Maoists, Stalinists, Pan Africanists and social democrats made the revolution. Yet, despite the socialist rhetoric of the revolutionary movement, once in power the ZANU(PF) never carried out a socialist program. Unprepared for the tasks of permanent revolution and ideologically under the sway of international Stalinism, the revolution stagnated for the following reasons: It did not mobilise the working class for the tasks of self-management, nationalisations, land reform, central planning and remaking the Pan-Africanist movement explicitly socialist internationalist in word and deed. In short, trained by the Stalinists and social democrats the revolutionary forces could not provide the necessary working class leadership to carry the revolution across the borders and turn the 'Bush Wars' into a region-wide socialist revolution. Rather, the Pan-Africanist ideology was the back door for the comprador bourgeoisie to disarm the workers and poor farmers revolution under the banner of National Unity and Pan-Africanism.

The Stalinist and Menshevik Popular Front was victorious at arresting the masses' drive toward socialism. Their stagist method argues that semi-colonies cannot 'go over' to socialism without first traversing capitalism in order to develop their forces of production. This is the historic aberration of Stalin's theory of "Socialism in One Country". The theory developed to assuage imperialism and cement the power of the bureaucratic caste developing in the young USSR over the working class, against the program of the first four congresses of the Third International's perspective of world revolution, the transitional method of revolutionary Bolshevism united in Lenin's [April Theses](#) and Trotsky's [Permanent Revolution](#).

The RWG of Zimbabwe brings this transitional program to the masses and hones it for every developing struggle:

LAND FOR THE LANDLESS! & JOBS FOR ALL! EMPLOY THE UNEMPLOYED!

Stop all the evictions, demolitions, persecution of poor peasants and the landless urban poor! Land must be distributed to all poor peasants and landless urban poor!

SMASH DEBT PEONAGE! For state bank fair credits to provide inputs for small farmers!

STOP central and local government attacks on street vendors!

STOP government theft and confiscation of artisanal miners' work products!

Cont. pg. 10

Cont. from pg. 9 Zimbabwe rural poor...

WE DEMAND: Billions for public works projects NOW! Fund essential state projects that employ the unemployed!

WE DEMAND: free and quality health care and Education for All!

Build quality housing, schools, hospitals, modern infrastructure and provide free public transportation at union wages!

State funding for workers compensation for workplace injury and illness!

END SILICOSIS, TB AND WORKPLACE VIOLENCE!

OPEN THE BOOKS! NO CRONYISM NO SKIMMING! For workers' oversight of state projects, land distribution, banking and credit!

FOR CLASS STRUGGLE UNIONS! ORGANISE THE UNORGANISED!

Bring the unemployed, the street vendors, artisanal miners and landless farmers into the unions!

SHARE THE WORK: Thirty hours work for forty hours pay to ensure employment for all who can work!

TO DEFEAT INFLATION: We fight for a sliding scale of wages and prices enforced by worker/community price and wage committees!

Build workers' health and safety committees to enforce safe and healthy worksites for all formal and informal workers!

Workers form action committees to lead the resistance to the growing attacks on the wages and working conditions of workers and the livelihood of the majority poor!

We call on workers and oppressed groups to convene a congress of delegates from the working people, peasants, urban poor, youth and soldiers to come up with a constitution that guarantees a good life for all!

Workers break with the CCC and ZANU (PF) and form a worker's party that truly champions the interests of workers and poor masses!

Workers form rank and file bodies to lead action in all unions and break with the reformist and compromised trade union leadership!

Build workers self defense guards for all workers and oppressed in the struggle!

TO WIN: To provide jobs and a decent life for all, big native capitalist and imperialist assets must be nationalised and put under workers control and worker's self-management!

For a workers state that defends workers and peasants against the local and foreign capitalists!

No to US and Chinese imperialisms fronted by mainstream bourgeoisie parties!

No to reformism and Stalinism, build a fighting socialist party!

For a workers and peasants' government on the basis of the armed people to implement decisions that benefit workers and the poor!

For a socialist federation of Southern African workers states!

For an African socialist revolution as part of the international revolution that alone can guarantee a better life for all!

For a new WORLD PARTY of socialist revolution based on the method of the TRANSITIONAL PROGRAM of 1938 to lead the revolution to end capitalism and open the road to socialism!

For further reading:

[BRICS IN AFRICA AND TASKS OF THE REVOLUTIONARY LEFT](#)

[ZIMBABWE: ECONOMIC CRISIS, STATE OF THE WORKING CLASS, FORTHCOMING ELECTIONS AND URGENT TASKS](#)

“Under the menace of its own disintegration, the proletariat cannot permit the transformation of an increasing section of the workers into chronically unemployed paupers, living off the slops of a crumbling society. The right to employment is the only serious right left to the worker in a society based upon exploitation. This right today is left to the worker in a society based upon exploitation. This right today is being shorn from him at every step. Against unemployment, “structural” as well as “conjunctural,” the time is ripe to advance along with the slogan of public works, the slogan of a sliding scale of working hours. Trade unions and other mass organizations should bind the workers and the unemployed together in the solidarity of mutual responsibility. On this basis all the work on hand would then be divided among all existing workers in accordance with how the extent of the working week is defined. The average wage of every worker remains the same as it was under the old working week. Wages, under a strictly guaranteed minimum, would follow the movement of prices. It is impossible to accept any other program for the present catastrophic period.” - Leon Trotsky

May Day: Facing the Crises of Genocide, Global War and the Destruction of Our Planet!



Walking in Khan Younis, in the southern Gaza Strip, on April 16. Agence France-Presse

The Gaza genocide, unlike past genocides like that of the Congo, is being watched on smart phones around the world. The Zionist propaganda machine reveals itself as ‘white washing’ the colonial settler state and its 75 year project of Palestinian expulsion. The Zionists claim that any criticism of the Zionist state is anti-semitic and based on Jew hatred. This lie has been exposed in the streets in ten thousand demonstrations around the world where anti-Zionist Jews join arm in arm with Palestinians and their millions of supporters to oppose the genocide. The Western world bourgeois regimes have lined up behind the genocidal strategy, while the rest of the world is screaming its support for the Palestinian bourgeois democratic right to self-determination. The means to fight genocide is limited only by the fact that workers lack a world party of socialist revolution which turns Palestinian national liberation into the cause for the global overthrow of the rotten and corrupt capitalist system which can survive only by means of genocide. The crisis of the survival of humanity as a whole comes down to the crisis of revolutionary leadership of the working class, ending capitalism and creating a socialist world.

In Israel, the U.S. and Germany, traditionally protected democratic rights to protest and speak out are being denied to students, academics and activists. Academics with tenure have been fired, suspended and hounded out of the profession. Student protesters are arrested and suspended from schools and universities and solidarity activists are targeted by the state and denied the right to speak to public forums.

Sustained protests for the duration of the genocide is radicalizing youth, many of whom were already politicized during the Black Lives Matter uprising and the strike wave that followed the end of the lockdown. This generation has already witnessed the false hope of the Democratic Socialists of America corraling activists as a left fringe of the imperialist Democratic Party. Kim Moody of *Labor Notes* writes in [New Politics](#) the electoral enthusiasm around Sanders and the Squad has faded as measured in hard currency contributions of small donors! It is past time to break with the capitalist parties of war, racism, sexism and strikebreaking!

As Marxists, we reject bourgeois pragmatism which began with genocide in the 16th century on the basis of racism and sexism. We reject electoralism which cannot cover up for genocide in Ukraine and Palestine. We defend the fundamental democratic right of youth to take to the streets and we recruit them to our PMP (proletarian military policy) alongside the ranks of the unions who need to organize self-defense militias against the state forces of imperialist powers of a system that is in its death agony. We know that class consciousness cannot blossom short of the lived experience of workers in struggle. And for that they need a political party that unites them on the basis of their common interest as workers creating the wealth, against racism, sexism and nationalism which the ruling class uses to divide and destroy **our** class.

Cont. from pg. 11 May Day...

By organizing our class in fighting labor parties we will destroy the hold of pragmatism, electoralism and divisions in our ranks and build a revolutionary movement. One capable of smashing the imperialist states and their proxies to raise up workers' governments around the world that will expropriate the centuries of stolen wealth to build a socialist society. An egalitarian society which restores the harmony between humans and nature and creates the conditions for the survival of our planet.

Only fatalists think it will happen by itself! Even the capitalists' spy agencies know better; that's why they target the organizers of the workers and oppressed. We need an army of such organizers and leaders, a party to train them, and a class struggle that demonstrates its own power, independent and based on workers' democracy! To begin, in the Unions we need class struggle caucuses that redirect the memberships' thought and action away from class collaboration and to actions implementing a transitional program. These caucuses will fight to replace the class collaborators with ever more militant vanguard layers.

Only [Trotsky's Transitional Program for Permanent Revolution](#) can arm the international working class to resolve the accelerating global terminal crisis of capitalism in decay. Unable to reverse the system in its terminal decline, the capitalist rulers have blown through every global warning marker. Oceans are warming, the poles are melting, reefs are dying, fisheries are depleted, climate systems change faster than the infrastructure designed for the 19th-20th centuries can be patched up by the capitalist grafters. The contending imperialist powers have turned trade wars into proxy wars over control of resources, markets and for strategic advantage. No surprise these rivalries are catastrophic for populations who find themselves in the way.

The Ukraine, Taiwan and Israeli regimes are wholly dependent on U.S.A. funding. The NATO encirclement of Russia is backfiring as the Ukrainian proxy regime is running short of ammunition and troops. Troops are mutinying, swimming across the Dnieper to safety. 'Slava Ukraine' is close to collapse as more men escape abroad rather than die in the meat grinder. Israel's fragility is exposed; it is dependent on the U.S.A./UE (European Union) and NATO for both arms and defense. It cannot get away with its genocide of Palestine without the collaboration of the U.S.A. and the UE. Taiwan, despite its recognition as part of China, has been taken over and militarily occupied by the U.S. as a new proxy for the coming war: with China, Korea, Japan, the Philippines and the AUKUS partners mobilizing for war, coming perhaps as soon as next year.

In the imperialist nations vital resources are channeled away from social programs and into military production. In the U.S.A. the equivalent amount of the entire national debt has been spent on the military budget since 2000. Despite the enormous outlay, Russia has fought the US/NATO proxy Ukraine to a standstill in what is an inter-imperialist conflict. The \$95 billion just allotted for wars in Ukraine, Israel and Taiwan by the bi-partisan neocon cabal in Washington can't match Russian missile production, let alone sustain Israel in a regional war. Those billions will never be more than a digital

blip on Ukraine or Israel's financial radar; [the profits](#) will go to [Raytheon](#), Boeing, Rand, GE and the military industrial complex.

In the semi-colonies a national bourgeois comprador class participates in the imperialist parasitism perilously navigating between the declining USA/EU bloc and the rising China/Russia bloc. To the imperialists they offer the resources of the nation and the working class chained to the factory floor and broken by their ideological servants in media, academia, the union leaderships and the reformist and centrist parties. The economic crisis and imperialist competition expresses itself acutely in semi colonies. The burden of the capitalist system failing to counteract the Law of Tendency of the Rate of Profit to Fall (LTRPTF) compounded by the necessary imperialist dynamic to dump the burden of the crisis on semi-colonies makes the working class in these countries super exploited.

South Africa, is threatened with sanctions for exposing the Gaza genocide to the world at the International Court of Justice. The sanctions only drive South Africa deeper into the China camp. The ANC and its left flank are hoping to attract Chinese investments which they then sell as 'win-win' deals to the masses as a path to a progressive form of state socialism modeled on China. U.S. imperialism responds by preparing for a 'color revolution' ([HR 7256](#)) backing the Democratic Alliance Party. Across the globe the workers, small farmers and oppressed are caught in a tug of war between these great powers!

In Zimbabwe, the state is attacking workers through capturing the dominant faction of the main trade union federation by enacting a Labour Amendment Act that criminalizes calling for and organizing collective job action. The state is maintaining a multi-currency system that they, together with business, manipulate to pay slave wages, giving the Chinese license and encouragement to disregard labor and environmental rights. Now they are introducing a new currency based on the theft of the value of workers incomes and savings. This goes along with the continued crackdown on basic worker rights to organize and strike and increased authoritarianism in defense of capitalist production with looting and corruption by the comprador bourgeoisie.

The rise of China as an imperialist state has found expression in the southern African region through fake anti-imperialist stances camouflaging the ongoing exploitation of labor power and the environment. Workers in the region must organize independently of both wings of imperialism and move beyond the collaborationist union leaders and bureaucrats through building shop floor controlled action bodies prepared to utilize tried and tested working class methods.

Imperialism is a death sentence for the workers of the world and only we can stop it! To do so we need our own political party, one based on working class political independence, based on our class experience of how labor is exploited by capitalism and how only class struggle and a transitional political program can resolve the crisis by building worker organizations to smash the capitalist state and create workers' governments. Now is the moment to build a fighting workers-labor party and the revolutionary workers international needed to lead and coordinate the class struggle.

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Cont. from pg. 12 May Day...

Our transitional program rejects the ideologies of pragmatism, patriarchy and post-modernism as the decadent genocidal culture of a dying capitalism throwing up and turbocharging all the old crap of past crimes against humanity. We reject racism, sexism and national chauvinism and denounce it as counter revolutionary. We affirm the positions of the Bolsheviks; down with Eurocentric white supremacy, national chauvinism of all shades, and the historic oppression of women. We build on the rich legacy of the historic collectivist struggles of slaves, women, peasants and workers in our struggle today. Workers and oppressed everywhere have the power and the will to resist and fight back.

The horror of the Zionist Israeli state violence against the Palestinian people cannot be stopped through moralist appeals to the parasitic exploiter class or their politicians! We need coordinated international actions: mass protests and worker actions such as labor political strikes, hot-cargoing of imperialist war goods to Israel, and sit-down strikes in the war industries. Workers parties, as part of a new Workers International, would organize and coordinate these actions on a world scale. But first we need to build our own mass revolutionary workers parties in every country to marshal the resources of the working class and poor farmers as one fist rather than atomized, decentralized, and apolitical protests sucked into single-issue dead ends and diversions in election years.

Independent workers parties and a workers' international are needed that will take the rich historical lessons of the workers movement and encapsulate these lessons into a political program of transitional demands based on the method of Trotsky's Fourth International that recognises the necessity for socialist revolution to halt the rush to extinction. ***For our class and species, we demand a future! For workers to live, imperialism must die!***

Free Palestine!

Victory to Palestine! Defend the Palestinians! Drop all charges and free all Palestinian solidarity protesters! Down with Israel and theocracy! For a Socialist, federated West Asia!

We need to convene a new Zimmerwald to build a revolutionary opposition to inter-imperialist wars such as Ukraine and to agitate for dual defeatism to turn these wars into class wars at home against our "own" imperialist and proxy ruling classes.

Not one person, not one penny for the imperialist militaries! Billions for public works! Jobs for all through a 30 hour workweek at 40 hours pay! For a 100% cost of living increase linked to inflation!

For free quality healthcare, childcare, housing and education! For free abortion on demand! For women's liberation through socialism!

The capitalists will only ever offer exploitation, war, racism, poverty, climate catastrophe...and fascism as their last line of defense.

We need a Workers' Government based on workers councils and defended by a workers militia to smash capitalism and carry out the tasks of building a socialist future.

For the nationalization without indemnification of the commanding heights of industry under democratic workers control as part of a centralized, planned world socialist economy.

Build Revolutionary Workers Parties and a new Revolutionary Workers International! For the World Socialist Revolution! Workers of the World Unite!

International Leninist Trotskyist Tendency (ILTT), 04/25/2024

How to defeat Zionism

By necessity our party and program is international. For socialism the national program is insufficient.

Our program must call for building the multi-ethnic revolutionary workers party uniting Hebrew and Arabic speaking workers inside the Green Line and in the occupied territories.

Our party exposes the fallacies of Zionist nationalist program and the limits of Arab nationalism's programs in liberating the region from the dominant and competing imperialist powers.

Our party unites the Jewish and Arab workers against becoming proxies in Great Power politics by bringing the politics of Permanent Revolution to the front of all workers struggles and struggles of the oppressed. We fight species extinction and against Capitalism and its offspring wars, climate catastrophe and economic depressions. Today to secure democratic reforms of society only the self-organized productive class in society can deliver!

- "Zionism: Pro-Imperialist, Anti-Bolshevik and Proto-Fascist", ILTT, 12/05/2023

US Hands off Haiti!

For a Socialist Republic in a Federation of Socialist Republics of the Americas

The following is translated from our Brazilian comrades of the [Grupo de Trabalhadores Revolucionários do Brasil \(GTR-BR\)](#)

Haiti is experiencing yet another moment of great instability as state power is disintegrating. Hunger and misery plague the country and armed gangs are spread across the capital, blocking roads and taking over public buildings. A consequence of [centuries of control](#) and exploitation by French and later US imperialism of the country.

Haiti had the only successful slave revolution. Its military defeat of France in 1804 sparked the wave of national independence across Latin America led by Simon Bolivar who began his struggle to 'liberate' Latin America from the European powers from an already liberated Haiti.

Yet Bolivar refused to come to the aid of Haiti fearing that it might inspire workers and peasants to overthrow the Latin American bourgeoisies. Isolated without support from the Bolivariains, Haiti was re-colonised by France and Napoleon forced the free slaves to pay the price of their freedom as part of the national debt well into the 20th century.

Imperialism and the Latin American bourgeoisies never accepted Haiti's freedom because it stood out as the only example of a national liberation struggle led by slaves. Since that time it has suffered countless occupations and interventions by American imperialism which regarded it as the poor child on its back door step, either occupying or creating puppet governments for more than a century until the election of Aristide in 1991. The populist priest [Aristide](#) was elected President in 1991 but ousted by a US backed military coup that same year. Another US military occupation followed and Aristide returned in 1994 to complete his term of office. Aristide was re-elected in 2000 but fell out with the US and its neoliberal policies and was forced out of the country in 2004 by a [US/French coup](#).

In 2004, MINUSTAH, a US intervention fronted by the UN, militarily occupied Haiti, which lasted until 2017. Under the pretext of taking care of security, it imposed terror on the population and ensured that American companies could control oil and other resources etc without risk of democratic intervention.

MINUSTAH was led by Brazil, which at the time was governed by Lula, a Popular Front government that served the interests of imperialism, whether at home or abroad. The general that Lula sent to command MINUSTAH in Haiti was the general who later became Bolsonaro's right-hand man in his government.

Haiti is the historic expression of naked capitalist barbarism from colonisation in the 15th C to its terminal crisis today. It turns the imperialist narrative of the civilizing mission



Toussaint Louverture, leader of the Haitian Revolution

on its head when slaves were the only exploited class to win freedom from bourgeois rule. In a time of decadence in American imperialism, which is in dispute with rising Chinese imperialism, the USA intends to hold on to Haiti at all costs. Through the UN, it is trying to create a security force in Haiti that appears to be independent of the hated US and UN occupations. Its attempt to use Kenyan police officers is opposed both in Kenya and in the Global South. In Haiti, the rebels have rejected all external intervention outright.

In the face of all imperialist exploitation and attacks, workers and poor people in Haiti have always resisted. Today, many of the gangs that the media demonizes are organizations that were formed in neighborhoods for self-defense against state abuse and crime. One of those who is recognized as the main leader of the popular revolution, [Jimmy Cherizier](#), who has united a number of territorial 'gangs' into the G6 which fights corruption and crime and seeks to organise all the working masses in an armed struggle.

Cherizier makes it clear that he is fighting against the foreign intervention that has led the country to misery and chaos for decades. Tired of government leaders who are just puppets of imperialism, he demanded the departure of the US favoured Prime Minister Ariel Henry and prevented his return to Haiti. He is now fighting the installation by the US of a Presidential Transition Council that is not elected by the people and does not represent them.

We support the rebels who take up arms and resist imperialist domination and the national bourgeoisie who only follow orders from their international leaders. It is a basic democratic right to rebel against hunger, famine,

Cont. from pg. 14 Haiti....

poverty, lack of infrastructure and corruption that plague the country.

We strongly oppose the demonisation of working class rebels like Cherizier as ‘criminals’ and ‘terrorists’ on the part of the bourgeoisie and the fake Left. It is patronizing and racist to label the descendants of revolutionary slaves as doomed to fight among themselves and incapable of resisting their oppressors. The duty of the revolutionary left is to come to the aid of such incipient armed anti-imperialist rebellions and fight for their national self-determination.

It is also the duty of the revolutionary left to win the resistance to the permanent revolution for a socialist republic and prevent the revolution being overwhelmed by the bourgeois counter-revolution. Haiti was betrayed by the first Bolivarian revolution and now by the second of Castro/Chavez. The G6 led by Cherizier needs to advance towards the organization of workers and poor peasants into armed committees who make this fight in an organized and classist way. Haiti has no way out of the barbarism it finds itself in without the seizure of power, the expropriation of the bourgeoisie and the expulsion of imperialism.

It is necessary to build a party of world revolution that guides workers in this moment of instability that affects countries around the world, especially in the global south. The so-called global south means the semi-colonial countries exploited and controlled by imperialism and which today are suffering the instability of a world order in which the decadence of the USA puts it directly in dispute with the ascending imperialisms of China and Russia, transmitted to the semi-colonies and moving towards a new world war.

We are for a new Zimmerwald to bring together a revolutionary left and build a program of transition to socialism for the working and poor masses in the struggle for the world revolution. A revolutionary leadership that fights Castro-Chavism as a counter-revolutionary force that prevents class independence and leads workers to an International Popular Front with the Chinese imperialist bloc and to die in inter-imperialist wars.

For class independence, for the World Party of Socialist Revolution based on Trotsky’s Transitional Program! For Permanent Revolution!

Hands Off the Palestinian Resistance!

Defend the RCIT! Free all Palestinian prisoners in Israeli jails! Down with the occupation! Stop the war on Gaza! End West Bank Apartheid and Mass Murder!

Drop the charges against Michael Pröbsting and the RCIT (Revolutionary International Communist Tendency)! For the right to freedom of speech and the right to resist colonial oppression!

The Austrian state, a small-scale imperialist power, is a plaything of U.S. imperialism that has gone after the RCIT for distributing literature opposing Israel’s genocidal war on the Palestinian people. A criminal complaint has been filed for “*suspicion of incitement to commit terrorist offenses and approval of terrorist offenses...*”. **SUSPICION!**

The RCIT stated, and justly so, “*that as long as the Zionist state exists, the Palestinians will continue suffering from state terrorism! This is why we stand for the socialist perspective of a democratic and red Palestine. We support the struggle for the destruction of the Zionist state and the right to return for all Palestinian refugees.*”

This is *not* “terrorism”, but international working class defense of the Palestinian people along with a call for a democratic-socialist Palestine.

We oppose the Zionist State project. Trotskyists have opposed the Zionist state as it could never exist except as an outpost of imperialism. The oil in the surrounding states and the anti-communist needs of the Truman Doctrine converged as the U.S. took on the Zionist settler state project as a fixture of postwar policy. It is not just the policy that must be replaced but the state that developed it. **Down with the U.S. imperialist state! U.S. out of West Asia!**

The ensuing Nakba, the Palestinian national tragedy, has never stopped, and this is exactly and sometimes only due to U.S. support. Zionism rests on the concept of an anti-semitic surrounding world and depends for its supply of colonists on it. The ‘Zionism’ of Biden and the U.S. ruling class is anti-Semitic. So also is the Austrian capitalists’ support for Israel, and the prosecution of the RCIT merely serves to camouflage this fact.

We stand shoulder to shoulder with all those who resist the ongoing Nakba and all who stand against the Zionist project and its ongoing genocidal war. We defend Michael Pröbsting and the RCIT against these outrageous repressions which only show the subservience of the Austrian state and its politicians to the U.S. imperialist bloc and its creation and fortification of the Zionist settler colonial regime. Behind the U.S. and Austrian support for the Zionist Regime is the dictate of big oil and the fear that the unfinished tasks of the Arab nation revolution will be taken up as the permanent and socialist revolution.

We do not share the characterization of Israel as an imperialist state, but it is a henchman and outpost of U.S. imperialism. The tail does not wag the dog. The genocide is made in the U.S.

Victory to the Palestinian Resistance! Defeat the Zionist Assault on Gaza and the West Bank!

– *International Leninist Trotskyist Tendency (ILTT), 03/16/2024*

Link to RCIT article calling for International Working Class Defense: [Austria: Pro-Israel Forces Lay Criminal Complaint against Michael Pröbsting](#)

Smash the Genocidal Zionist state! U.S.A. Hands off Iran! U.S. Imperialists Out of West Asia, Now!

The tail does not wag the dog! Stop funding Israel! Zionists Out of Gaza and the West Bank Now!



An MH-60S Sea Hawk helicopter lifts off from the flight deck of the aircraft carrier USS Abraham Lincoln as it transits the Strait of Hormuz off the waters of Iran [File: US Navy/Reuters]

Netanyahu has been trying to drag the U.S. into its ongoing ‘shadow war’ against Iran for decades. The [U.S. wants its war with Iran](#) but on its own terms, economic isolation, limited proxy engagements, shots across the bow, tepid challenges for sea lanes. None but the most flagrant neocons want tit-for-tat sparring to escalate to full blown and potentially nuclear warfare. Yet today sectors of the Israeli establishment seriously consider the [Samson Option](#). The west holds its breath as Netanyahu’s war cabinet considers its options.

The working class needs its own intervention to stop the escalation towards WWII! The UN and International Court of Justice have proven themselves as feckless talk shops of the imperialist dominated by ‘world order’ which negate any independent action of the Global South. ***Today workers and oppressed people need a New Zimmerwald to organize an internationalist class struggle against war and the root cause of war today—capitalist exploitation at home and imperialist oppression abroad.***

By bombing the Iranian embassy in Syria and killing General Mohammad Reza Zahedi, Israel provoked Iran in hopes of a retaliation of measured proportion which would stiffen the U.S. resolve. Losing the media war, Israel needs to turn world attention away from the genocide in Gaza and to reassert its role as the primary victim of irrational international anti-semitism. Zionism’s war has exposed its character as the bulldog of western imperialism so it needs to change the world’s conversation from its attempt to drive Palestinians from Gaza and the West Bank, to the Iranian response. Never mind the fact that bombing the embassy violated the [Vienna](#)

[Convention on Diplomatic Relations](#) article 22, which made the premises of foreign missions inviolable.

Invoking [Article 51](#), Iran responded on April 13,th 2024 by hitting Israel with dozens of drone and missile strikes targeting military installations, emphasizing their adherence to rules of engagement by not targeting civilian populations. The U.S. and UK responded as could be expected placing the blame on Iran and employing its resources to shield Israel from the incoming. This of course stands in stark contrast to the fact that they not only stood by failing to protect the civilians of Gaza while Israel bombed them, but continued to provide arms and logistical support to the Zionist aggressors even after having been exposed in the international court of Justice.

Western media brushes aside the provocation attempting to rally international outrage at Iran—as if history started yesterday! This won’t work in the Global South! The masses are applauding Iran’s action and have been hoping someone would intervene on behalf of the Palestinians! Of course, Iran will not press on to liberate Palestine, citing violations of their sovereignty as cause. In an alignment of forces even the Arab theocracies which are today navigating the space between the Chinese and U.S. imperialisms do not speak for their own people while they close their air space to Iranian overflights, distancing themselves from the Iranian action.

The hawkish Democratic Party, dominated by the neocons in

Cont. from pg. 16 Iran....

Washington, are committed to the defense of Israel regardless of the 34,000 dead in Gaza. Arms keep flowing despite the feigned outrage at the deaths of a few aid workers! Biden feels the pressure on the campaign trail as Democratic party events are being disrupted by Palestine Solidarity activists and his government stands accused of participation in the genocide by arming the Zionist settler state. Netanyahu, observing the backpedaling of the U.S., has been stoking the fires of regional war, cashing in on the U.S. promise of unconditional defense and catching Biden in the crosshairs. Trump, sniping from the sidelines, claims this would never have happened on his watch.

Biden, losing in the polls, has made gestures to counter the Arab American community's campaigns of withholding votes in the Democratic primary. Netanyahu also wants to stay in office to stay out of jail and could not let Biden play big daddy and broker an unwanted peace. Provoking war with Iran is a gambit to pull Biden off the fence. But the U.S. does not want nuclear war and knows the unhinged Netanyahu with fantasies of Biblical proportions could cross that trip wire. No doubt after Iran took its shot, Biden was on the horn with Netanyahu trying to calm the whole affair down. Biden lost Afghanistan, or so the story goes....he does not want to lose Israel, at least before the election. The next few hours will be a walk back from the brink. But the masses in the streets want a resolution that ends the genocide in Gaza and the accelerating pogroms and occupations in the West Bank. So neither Biden nor Netanyahu can resolve the contradictions that are foremost in front of the world today. The Zionist colonial settler state must be smashed. **For workers revolution and a socialist Palestine! For a Socialist Federation of West Asia!**

The terminal decline of capitalism offers up a cesspool of the most reactionary ideas. Ideas which the 'forward thinking' intelligentsia presumed were shadows of a long buried past are today normalized in the rantings of Netanyahu, Ben-Gvir, Trump and even many old fashioned liberal Democrats. They dehumanize oppressed people from Haiti to Gaza as pests, gangsters and terrorists. This is awkwardly reminiscent of how every oppressor throughout history has demonized the oppressed!

Zionism is losing the propaganda war because the mainstream media is rigged by its corporate owners in favor of imperialism, and everyone knows it, so they can no longer maintain the hypocrisy that white supremacist colonialist regimes are forces of democracy!

Israel is a puppet state which cannot survive without the U.S. backing. The U.S. won't swat them down because it is the U.S. aircraft carrier on land in the region. It stands as a bulwark against the regional powers and serves to divide the Arab nations and their Iranian neighbors. Israel serves to keep the national bourgeoisie of the neighboring nations tied to imperialism and committed to stopping the masses from advancing the permanent revolution and winning socialism by defeating imperialism.

Israel is an occupier founded upon the mutual interest of Western Imperialist intention to control Arab oil and Jewish

capitalists' class interests.

Palestine is the last of the 20thC. settler colonial states in struggle for its liberation. 75 years of determined struggle hardened ideological lines on both sides.

So we need an international proletarian military policy to turn war in Palestine into war against the actual puppet master, the U.S. ruling class, and all the other imperialist governments who support the Zionist Israeli state. In the unfolding war between the U.S. proxy Israel and Iran we stand for the unconditional military defense of Iran without giving any political support to its theocratic capitalist regime.

Build the mass actions in solidarity with Palestine and Iran up into labor struggles internationally against the imperialist backers of Israel (USA, UK, France, Germany and their proxies Ukraine etc). Create teach-ins at every labor council, to debate Palestine in front of the working class. Fight for the political independence of the working class! Give no votes to capitalist and popular front parties!

Win the workers movement to political strikes in defense of the Palestinians, against the arming of Israel and against all Israeli and imperialist military actions. Block military shipments. Dockers must initiate strikes to refuse loading Israeli commercial ships and hot cargo and divert military and humanitarian aid to the Palestinians. This is how anti-imperialist workers must turn the imperialist proxy war into a class war at home!

Propagandize the soldiers, sailors and airmen; show them the facts that they are to be used for genocide in order to hold back the working masses and keep oil profits flowing between the comprador bourgeois oil barrons and big western oil interests.

Victory to the Palestine Resistance! Defeat the IDF! Defend Iran! Build revolutionary workers' parties in the imperialist nations and throughout West Asia! For a new Zimmerwald to organize against imperialist wars! For a new Workers International, the World Party of Socialist Revolution!

**International Leninist Trotskyist Tendency (ILTT),
04/14/2024**



Federation of Zimbabwe Educators Unions (FOZEU) May Day

We publish these resolutions by FOZEU, a radical federation of militant teachers' unions in Zimbabwe. We support their call for collective job action as the only tool to win; building of an independent federation not controlled by US or Chinese imperialism through their proxies and the urgent necessity to form a Workers Party to advance the interests of the working class. For collective job action to be successful, independent federation to be effective and Workers Party to work there should be working class democracy including workers control of leaders through recalls. Revolutionary workers say such a party can only be built by a new class struggle leadership committed to building a class independent united front. A United Front built in the unions and community struggles advancing the workers' programme of socialist solutions puts before our class the question of how to take power.

We must qualify the teachers' call for unity of the workers and 'progressives' in building the workers party. Progressive allies of the working class may include landless and poor farmers, street vendors and small shop owners as well as intellectuals. Of course many self identified progressives have their own class interests which do not include as their goal the working class taking power, expropriating the commanding heights of the economy and running them under worker's democratic central planning for social need not profit. The working class is inherently progressive because of its role in production, as the producer of surplus values. Nationalist, and reformist leaders may claim progressive credentials yet as the terminal crisis of capitalism is downloaded on the semi-colonies imperialism cannot let our comprador bourgeoisie concede essential social and economic reforms. To survive we must have our workers party and our workers government in power to smash the capitalist state!

So let's join with the teachers and bring the task to the masses! Build district and regional strike solidarity committees for every strike and class struggle! Build Mass Assemblies of workers deputies to found a workers party committed to class struggle methods and socialist goals. For workers' democracy open and honest debate of all workers representatives and workers organizations! Build the right of recall of our delegates with any paid deputies salaries tied to the average workers wage. Around these basics we can unite workers mass assemblies to build our class program!

FOZEU MAY DAY RESOLUTIONS.

3 May 2024

The Federation of Zimbabwe Educators Unions, FOZEU hosted inaugural May Day Commemorations in Harare on the 1st of May 2024;

The Federation noted five urgent issues at the heart of the national crisis;

- 1.The government continues to blindly implement failed neoliberal policies which have been hurting the economy since the ESAP era and the recent TSP and NDS1 blue prints;

- 2.Corruption is bleeding the national economy;
- 3.Incompetence has taken root at all levels of governance;
- 4.Dictatorship is now entrenched to silence dissenting voices;
- 5.Vehicles for change have either been captured or paralysed.

It was noted that workers are now earning slave wages in a very repressive context. The Zig currency was introduced to once again rob workers of their incomes. Drought crisis is not being treated with the seriousness befitting a crisis of that magnitude.

The Federation therefore resolved as follows;

- 1.Reject the Zig currency and demand 100% USD salaries;
- 2.Executive luxuries including vehicles for Parliamentarians, Executive and Judiciary be suspended so that resources are channeled towards food relief;
- 3.Teachers to embark on a job action on schools opening demanding USD 1 260
4. FOZEU to fight for the alignment of labour laws in the public sector to the 2013 constitution;
- 5.Teachers to reject the badly done and politicized heritage based curriculum
- 6.There be a moratorium on payment for public services so that families may have resources for food security;
- 7.The National Joint Negotiating Council, NJNC be collapsed and be replaced by a genuine Collective Bargaining Council;
- 8.Politicisation of the teaching profession through partisan groupings like Teachers for ED be thwarted through both legal and political tactics;
- 9.The possibility of creating a radical left leaning labour center be explored;
10. A Workers' party be created in collaboration with other progressive forces.

The Federation will be hosting more May Day celebrations across the country during the month of May. The next celebrations are penciled for Bulawayo.

The Struggle Continues!

FOZEU FOREVER !

FOZEU Information department.

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Argentina in terminal crisis – for a Workers’ Government!



The crisis in Argentina is the necessary result of the terminal crisis of global capitalism in its death agony. We say the crisis is terminal because capitalism can no longer reproduce itself when it is destroying its conditions of existence in desperation to escape Marx’s basic law, the Tendency for the Rate of Profit to Fall (LTRPF). Yet there is no escape. The only way out for the imperialist powers is to download their crisis onto the semi-colonies which means the backs of the most exploited workers and poor farmers and force them to pay for the crisis.

The mounting escalation of global debt and stagnation of value creation gives no way out for capital other than attacking workers with extreme shock treatment – a forced depression in which jobs and living standards are destroyed along with the destruction of non-profitable industry and business. History has thrown up Milei as the executioner of the workers, and there is no way out but the fight to destroy capitalism before it destroys us. The alternative is either socialism or fascism. For workers to live, capitalism must die!

Milei can’t solve the bosses’ crisis

The terminal crisis has thrown up Milei in a desperate attempt to make the working masses pay for the bosses’ crisis. Climate change is unforgiving especially to capital intensive, mono-cropping agricultural models which leave entire regions vulnerable as production for the world market replaces production for local consumption. Over-extended in debt to the IMF, the finance fraction of Argentina’s ruling class has made a jump from the popular front to outright reactionary proto fascist solutions. This bloc of Argentina’s ruling class with its US masters can no longer depend on the Peronists to contain the masses and have opted for Melei to impose massive cutbacks in jobs and social spending to make the workers pay for the national debt. These conditions have been met by an upsurge in working class anger.

The US is pushing for a Bonaparte who can lead from above to impose austerity but maintain a balance of class forces. So far Trump and Bolsonaro have proven to be lumpen Bonapartes who cannot fulfill that task. Milei is already the most lumpen of all. Such is the terminal crisis he cannot even maintain a balance between the fractions of the national bourgeoisie. So far his edicts have blown up in his face. His anti-

communism, dollarisation and rejection of deals with China are facing resistance from the Peronist fraction which can offer de-dollarisation deals from China and the BRICS+ and to bring agribusiness and the union bureaucracy into a new popular front with China.

What about the Workers

On January 24th the masses showed they are willing and able to fight! The leadership of the workers movement however, while quick to unfurl their red flags, initiated the Day of Action as a “pressure relief valve” more than a workers uprising. The FITU and its 5 constituent self-identified Trotskyist parties, act to divert the mass upsurge in defense of workers’ rights into their electoral project, a throwback to Bernstein and Kautsky opposed to the revolutionary method of Luxemburg and Trotsky. They have squandered 10 years of Argentina’s workers’ fight to build mass organs of extra-parliamentary power. Today workers’ councils, modeled on soviets as the basis for dual power, are at the top of the agenda!

The vanguard workers supporting FITU and other left organizations must break the stranglehold of decomposing currents of Morenoism and Altamirism. The main strains of left reformism (PO, PST and the LIT-CI etc.) who still lay claim to the legacy of Trotskyism, **have long sold out to capitalist rule.** Altamira in 2017 cast the PST as “Podemos in diapers” which in turn called the PO propagandists. This rare moment of theoretical clarity did not alter the fact that both currents are drowning the masses in the Kautskyan marsh.

Cont. from pg. 19 Argentina...

The nature of the FITU ‘united front’ is an unprincipled agreement, burying its differences and betraying internationalism on every burning acid test! The FITU has no agreed position on the Russo-Ukrainian proxy war between the Western and Eastern imperialist blocs! Since the outbreak of war we have called for a NEW ZIMMERWALD drawing on the legacy of Lenin, Luxemburg and Liebknecht to fight against the inter-imperialist proxy war and for workers’ revolutions to end and prevent war.

Despite the infighting in FITU none of its adherents nor its electoral strategy remotely qualify as the United Front strategy of the 1923 congress of the Third International, or the 1938 Transitional Program of the Fourth International! Commanding tens of thousands of votes and a few parliamentarians, their Leninist pretensions are exposed as propping up electoral gains in a bourgeois parliament. Again electoral, national pacifist Kautskism!

A new party and a new revolutionary workers’ international to end the crisis of revolutionary leadership is the order of the day! That party has to be rooted historically in the Argentine experience with a fully developed revolutionary program integrated into an international transitional program. Only such a program can turn bankrupt reformist electoralism into the revolutionary rostrum of Liebknecht, Luxemburg, Lenin and Trotsky. Those who know this on the factory floor should begin organizing to take back your unions today! From that vantage you can see your revolutionary road to socialism and take it!

Enter China

The international crisis of capitalism, its terminal crisis, requires the balancing of the IMF debt and trade imbalances on the backs of the workers across the Global South. Loans and currency swaps from China were used to pay back IMF debt in Yuan and [IMF loans have been used to repay China!](#) Workers carry the gold of one imperialist master to the banks of the other and back again while they rape our soil and enslave us with debt! For the working class to eat we must defeat not just the Austerity but its root cause imperialism. China is making its play to use finance capital and trade deals to counter the IMF and the Dollar debt draining wealth to Wall Street banks.

China may win the ‘left’ wing of the Peronists and layers of the Trade union leadership and left organizations to its “progressive” pose as the fair players on the international economic stage. We say China is not an oppressed semi-colony. Rather it has emerged as a great imperialist power in a [bipolar world](#) challenging for supremacy in surplus value extraction from the Global South – Argentina included. Don’t fall for it!

Enough pressure relief “Days of Action” intended to pressure the left faction of the bourgeoisie against the right and ultra right! The bosses’ governments come and go, but all agree on one thing – make the workers and poor farmers pay for the crisis. We say vanguard workers must build our class’s revolutionary party armed with a transitional program. With these tools workers can create their own future based on a centrally planned economy, under workers self management

which exposes the bosses as obsolete and makes them pay!

The Transitional Program

To win, Argentine workers, [landless farmers and ranch hands](#), must build mass assemblies of the rank and file (base), form workers councils in every agricultural town, industrial center and working class neighborhood. Build workers’ self-defense guards to fight the fascists and defend the mass movement to expropriate foreign and national capitals; cancel the foreign debt and reorganize the economy under workers control! Build socialism by igniting regional revolution that unites the industrial, mineral and agricultural might of all of Latin America! Prepare the indefinite general strike which poses the question of which class rules creating the conditions for for a workers’ government to expropriate the expropriators. To win, it is necessary to build a revolutionary party and program able to guide workers in the struggle to seize state power!

Jobs for all and a living wage now!

For the Sliding Scale of Wages and Hours enforced by price and neighborhood committees committed to survival of our class, something the Federations present leaders never have done!

For class struggle caucuses to carry out the renovation of our unions with ever more militant class struggle leaderships and immediate recall of class betrayers.

Down with Milei and all the bourgeois politicians. They must all go, and not one remain!

For the Indefinite General Strike! Form strike committees in every factory town and workers neighborhood!

Build workers self defense squads, from armed pickets to increasingly coordinated workers militias against the fascists and the capitalist and state thugs.

Convene a national congress of the workers base to set up workers councils across the country!

For a workers’ government based on workers’ councils and workers’ power!

Abolish the Debt!

Expropriate Big Capital, Capitalist Firms national and international and run them under workers control!

Smash the Capitalist State, servant of the stock markets and imperialist powers!

For a socialist federation of South America!

For a new revolutionary workers party in Argentina integrated in a workers’ international – the united world party of revolution based on the method and program of Trotsky’s 1938 Transitional Program.

In Defence of the Labour Theory of Value

As soon as Marx made his critique of Ricardo as failing to understand capital exploitation attempts to disprove his conclusions began. They reverted to Ricardo claiming that value is not created in the process of production but in the process of exchange. Exploitation therefore occurs at the level of exchange and is open to resolution by reforming capitalism. Sustained attacks on Marx's labour theory of value continue today, notably the 'value form' theory of Michael Heinrich. Fred Moseley recently wrote a detailed rebuttal of Heinrich's misinterpretation of Chapter 1 of Capital Vol 1, "The Commodity". Marx's essential critique of Ricardo was that he failed to explain why labour-power was the only commodity that created more value than its own value. Hence, the purpose of capitalist production is the extraction of surplus value which is then realised, rather than created, in the process of exchange.

First let us consider the main arguments against Heinrich as presented by Moseley and Roberts in an interview with Michael Roberts.

Both reject Heinrich out of hand for substituting an ideological reading of Chapter 1 for a dialectical one. Heinrich is essentially saying that value is not created at the level of production, but at the level of exchange. This removes any need to recognise class struggle over surplus value as that which drives the revolutionary overthrow of capital.

Gone is Marx's theory of crisis as a result of the Law for the Tendency of the Rate of Profit to Fall (LTRPF). Gone is the historic specificity of Capital as destroying the conditions of its existence now vindicated totally in crises of overproduction that destroy rather than develop the forces of production. Essentially, they agree that Heinrich is a hostile bourgeois revisionist of Marx.

But what about Fetishism of Commodities

In our terms Heinrich is a neo-Ricardian who can't (or is ideologically not willing) to explain the source of value. Yes, he does not understand Marx's method. But why does he reject Marx's dialectics and his scientific critique of Ricardo? Strangely, in the interview, neither Roberts or Moseley mention Part 4 of Chapter 1 headed *The Fetishism of the Commodity and its Secret*.

In Part 4 Marx's explains that 'political economy' is prey to commodity fetishism which attributes value not to its source labour-power but as inherent in the commodity itself.

Here is the explanation for the inversion of social relations of production as social relations of exchange. Economic relations where workers exhaust their labour power is ideologically effaced by relations of exchange where commodities 'appear' to contain value determined by supply and demand.

Marx's discovery that the commodity labour-power has an internal contradiction between use value and an exchange value, where need is subordinated to profit, becomes 'dialectical' horseshit. The secret of the use-value of labour power able to produce more value than its own value, remains forever sealed. Exploitation becomes the subject of parliamentary struggle over income distribution by elites a la Piketty.

What Marx revealed generations before his various detractors or revisionists were born again as neo-Ricardians, was that use-value exists as congealed labour whether exchanged

or not. It is not brought into existence by its exchange, but because of its use value its exchange value – the socially necessary labour time required to produce a use-value – is realised in exchange.

If the capitalist does not realise value in exchange, that value is devalued even destroyed. Since that may lead to a reduction of the value of variable capital (the wage) the production of value involves the historically specific class struggle over the realisation of value of labour power.

Who needs Crises, Wars and Revolutions?

Failure to read Capital dialectically eliminates the contradiction between use-value and exchange-value and the class struggle over the production of value, relegating it to the neo-Ricardian struggle over the distribution of wealth expressed in reformist politics.

Heinrich cannot explain why Marx's most 'important' law, the LTRPF, is the main cause of crises, wars and revolutions. He will not tell us why purpose of crises is to devalue/destroy non-performing Constant (means of production which do not create new value e.g. raw materials and machines) and Variable (means of production that does create new value e.g. labour power) Capital to restore the rate of profit.

As capital reaches the limits to its life, this law must escalate into imperialist wars where rival powers seek to destroy one another's Constant and Variable capital to buy it cheap. The inevitability of war resulting from capital's failure to produce value becomes a conditional and voluntarist policy option to be solved by bourgeois democracy and contingent wars for this or that set of 'values'.

Heinrich fails in all of these aspects. Class struggle is reduced to the fetishised level of exchange which can be managed by the state. He therefore junks Lenin's characterisation of the epoch of imperialism as that of Crises, Wars and Revolutions.

For Heinrich, as all neo-Ricardians, crises are manageable, so it follows wars are negotiable, and revolutions against counter-revolutions, specifically fascism, are the power games of various elites.

Heinrich is oblivious to Marx's concept of capitalism necessarily destroying the conditions of its existence, namely the forces of production, and creating a terminal crisis, in which

Cont. from pg. 21 Labour Theory of Value....

the contradiction between labour and capital, relations and forces of production, use-value vs exchange value, or nature vs class society, must be resolved as either socialism or extinction.

Finally, it is clear that Heinrich ‘school’ is anti-Marxist at worst or ‘pre-Marxist’ at best. He is writing a series of biographies on Marx. We look forward to seeing if he is able to extract from Marx’s life story an account of how a Marx changed his mind about surplus value as the source of profits selling out his life’s work.

The law of value in China

Since we have established that Heinrich finds Crises, Wars and Revolutions as unnecessary and negotiable, how does a Marxist understanding of the labour theory of value translate to explaining imperialist reality? Yes, we must move from the abstraction of Chapter 1 of Capital 1, to the concrete real world of the ‘many determinations’ of Lenin’s method in *Imperialism: The Highest Stage of Capitalism*.

Not everyone who understands Lenin’s dialectical method can make that leap however. Michael Roberts for example, has difficulty in applying dialectics to China today. He mistakenly conflates the concept of state capitalism in China with that of Lenin’s Russia. He forgets that for Lenin ‘state capitalism’ was managed by a workers’ state that was forced by circumstances to cultivate capitalist production in order to reproduce workers property relations.

State capitalism in China is not the private sector controlled by a state sector in some form of hybrid workers’ state that reproduces workers’ property. Workers in both sectors have their labour power exploited in capitalist production relations where surplus value is expropriated and reproduced by a capitalist state.

As Trotsky predicted, the restoration of capitalism in degenerated or bureaucratic workers’ states would most likely take the form of state capitalism as the bureaucratic caste transforms itself into a collective capitalist class that invests in the production of surplus value.

Since 1992 prices in China have been determined by the law of value in which the socially necessary labour time of workers is exploited by both capitalist and state-owned enterprises. China is subject to the laws of motion of capital facing the LTRPF where its overproduced capital is exported to produce super-profits in the manner Lenin described. China is now an imperialist power that cannot escape the terminal crisis of capitalism short of socialist revolution.

Capitalism globally is now destroying the conditions for its own existence by exhausting nature and threatening human extinction. A socialist revolution in China in the near future would have the advantage of expropriating its vast productive forces under workers control, and planning production to lead world socialism against the total destruction of nature and humanity.

FOR PALESTINIAN LIBERATION BY PERMANENT REVOLUTION



The Hamas led uprising *was not* an unprovoked act of terror but a response to ongoing Israeli terrorism. Near [daily killings of Palestinians by settlers and the IDF](#) escalated this last month into [religio-fanatical Zionist attacks](#) on worshipers at the Al Asqa mosque. Since the [Deir Yassin](#) massacre and the [King David](#) hotel bombing the Zionists’ project has been militarily directed terror against civilians. It has always been a land grab by force of arms. To date every acquiescence, negotiated or under duress, has brought further encroachment.

Occupying Palestinian’s homes and farms, denying citizenship, and personhood, continues today with [unending displacement](#) backed by the full weight of the [US Navy](#). Resistance to the combined weight of the U.S. military and the U.S. funded IDF may appear futile, but it is not even a choice, it is a matter of survival.

The coincidence of the colonial settler project with the geo-strategic interests of the US is as undeniable as is the culpability for the decades long war on the Palestinians. The tail does not wag the dog! Zionism made its deal with Western imperialism in 1948 to be the militarized fortress against the Arab revolution in MENA, today an installment on that bill comes due; and Jewish and Arab workers pay the blood price!

This unresolved hotspot of the international class conflict has long been the U.S. directed Zionist outpost in MENA blocking the completion of the Arab national democratic revolution. Because the upsurge of the national democratic revolution in 2011 did not become the permanent socialist revolution to end imperialist control of the region, MENA is now in a tug of war between the declining hegemon the US/EU led imperialist bloc vs the rising arbiter of international relations the China/Russia imperialist bloc. On the ground suffering the consequences have been the dispossessed Palestinian people whose right to resist occupation is undeniable in any context except the world view of the oppressor states.

The 2016 UN security council resolution [2334](#) identified Israel’s settlement activity as a “flagrant violation” of international law.

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Cont. from pg. 22 *Palestinian Liberation*....

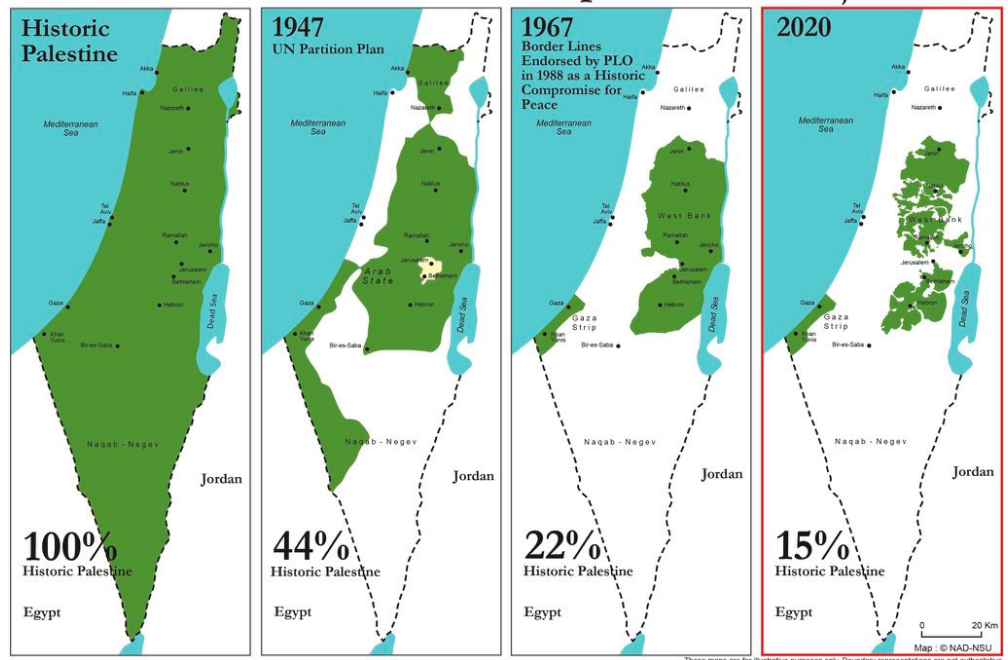
Not even the Washington Post [hit job on this map](#) can hide the theft of Palestinians land. No matter how the Zionist settler population portray themselves as victims, on the ground the walled off territories do not lie! Today there is no independent Palestine, the indigenous people are denied citizenship rights, and live as refugees at the largess of the occupier, corralled into ghettoized districts in perpetuity as mainstream Zionism [debates the final solution](#).

Zionists justify their right to colonize with the propagandistic slogan every Jewish child has been taught for 100 years claiming Palestine, "... is a land without people for a people without land." The Zionist assertion that Palestinians as a people, "do not exist" is a generally accepted fact in the United States, despite pro-Zionist historian [Benny Morris's](#) citation that the Muslim population of Palestine was 10x the Jewish population in 1914. The persistent justification of the [Nakba](#) by the Nazi Holocaust unites the imperialist Democrats with the Ultra MAGA Republicans today in a war they can both get behind. Never mind that the Christian Nationalist's leading MAGA are confirmed Jew haters whose commitment to Zion is based on the fanciful dreams of a second-coming and a Jew exclusive rapture when Jerusalem is returned to the Jewish people (thus Trump is the savior's assistant).

There has been no backing down from expanding the illegal settlements, as reported by AP settler violence [displaced 1,100 Palestinians since 2022](#). The fact that Israel can shut off water, food and power and extract collective punishment against an occupied population demonstrates beyond reasonable doubt who is the oppressor and who is the oppressed. For 75 years the Palestinians, generation after generation, have lived a refugee existence, ghettoized and denied self-determination. The international working class must stand with the oppressed against their oppressor.

In the war between the oppressor Israel, the semi-colonial military outpost of the US in MENA revolutionary workers stand with the oppressed Palestinians. To win, the working class needs its own politically independent mass workers party to lead the national liberation struggle in going over to become the socialist revolution. Only a revolutionary working class party and international can lead the oppressed masses past the pitfalls, roadblocks and divisions of sectarianism, chauvinism, racism and patriarchy. Today these forces, meager, isolated and disorganized as they are, find themselves in struggle alongside the Hamas militants. While the entire political project of the working class is counterposed to the program of Hamas, Hezbollah and the PLO, the US military backed onslaught by the IDF at this moment requires revolutionary workers to make a military bloc with Hamas fighters. And while we fight the U.S. military and IDF on every front,

The Palestinians Historic Compromise



The Washington Post fails to disprove this map!

we also conduct a political struggle to expose the tactical blunders, misguided strategic goals and ideologies of the nationalist leaders in order to win the working masses to build their vanguard party. The revolutionary workers participating in the armed uprising do not countenance rape and murder of innocents. Terrorism, worse than being morally repugnant and criminal, is counterproductive, it alienates hard won allies, pushes victory further into the future as the IDF reigns hell and fury in deadly bombardments. Anti-Zionists will support the war of national liberation against the IDF but do not tolerate Jew hating violence.

The IDF has long since ensured that even tactical non-violence is impossible. The U.S. corporate media erases history when the IDF kills American citizens. How and why [Rachel Corrie](#) was killed and how journalist [Shireen Abu Akleh's](#) murder is demonstrative of how the IDF treats non-violent resistance and reporting eradicates the arguments of the Gandhian whiners who blame victims for not turning the other cheek.

The failure of the nationalist leaders to complete the national democratic revolution is no accident. In the semi-colonies and colonies all the democratic tasks are now tied to the socialist revolution because the national bourgeoisies are creatures of a world dominated by imperialist power on which they are ultimately dependent. The long term failure by the nationalist leaders to stop the Zionist encroachment sows frustration among the masses and the youth. Only the workers revolution can defeat imperialism and that is not on the nationalists' agenda.

Hamas has no path to victory yet needs to dissipate the frustration of the masses who want their war of national liberation. To win this war the crisis of leadership must be resolved in the struggle for the proletarian party. To win the national

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democratic revolution the workers need to take control of the war and run it with the working classes' methods. These include strikes, occupations and struggles over surplus value, over which class controls production and which class takes state power into its own hands to fulfill its own program.

Palestinian self-determination can only be won by the working class taking the leadership of the national liberation struggle and turning it into a fight for socialist revolution. Hamas, like the capitalist nationalist leadership of the Irish Republican Army of the 20th c, has every right to conduct the war of national liberation as it sees fit; but just as the limited nationalist program of the IRA failed to defeat British Imperialism, [Hamas's class political program](#) is a capitalist theocratic anachronism which dooms those who place faith in their leadership to failure.

FOR THE ALL PALESTINE GENERAL STRIKE!

USA HANDS OFF PALESTINE!

IDF OUT OF GAZA AND OCCUPIED TERRITORIES!

FOR INTERNATIONAL WORKER ACTION TO STRIKE ISRAELI SHIPPING AT THE PORTS!

TO WIN NATIONAL INDEPENDENCE IMPERIALIST AND NATIONAL CAPITALS MUST BE EXPROPRIATED BY THE WORKING CLASS FOR ITS USE UNDER ITS PLAN!

FOR A SOCIALIST FEDERATION ACROSS MENA!

BUILD THE REVOLUTIONARY WORKERS INTERNATIONAL!

International Leninist Trotskyist Tendency (ILTT) October 10 2023 (revised 10/15/2023)



WHAT WE STAND FOR

The **Revolutionary Workers Group of Zimbabwe (RWG-ZIM)** is a revolutionary Trotskyist political organization of the working class and all the oppressed. The **RWG-ZIM** stands on the theory and practice of the revolutionary workers movement associated with the names of Marx, Engels, Lenin and Trotsky. We are part of the **International Leninist Trotskyist Tendency (ILTT)** together with the **Communist Workers Group of Aotearoa/New Zealand (CWG-A/NZ)**, the **Communist Workers Group of USA (CWG-USA)** and the **Revolutionary Workers Group of Brazil (RWG-BR)**.

We fight to eliminate the system of capitalism and replace it with a socialist collective at an international scale through a socialist revolution that necessarily must be characterized by armed insurrection and civil war against the capitalist class. We fight for the unity of all fighting and genuine organizations of the poor and the oppressed whilst keeping an eye to the dangerous policies of social democratic, pseudo-revolutionary and liberal groups bent on obstructing workers and the poor. Only with a revolutionary world socialist party fighting as the leadership of the workers can the working class and the poor win. We are fighting for the construction of such a party.

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Class War (Paper of the CWG-US)

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