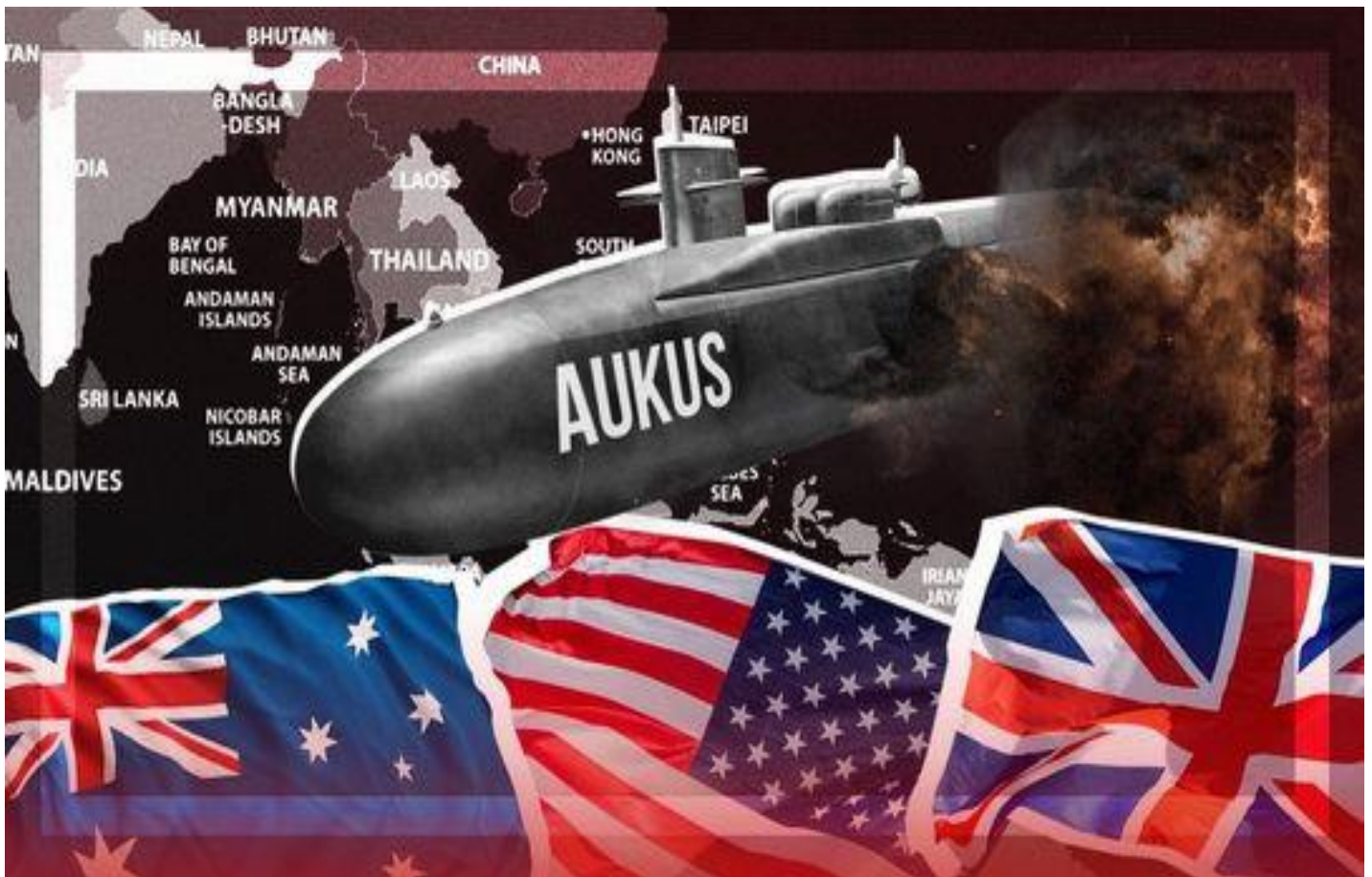


RED FIRE

ISSUE #31

\$2

WORKERS OF THE WORLD UNITE!



NO TO WAR - ABOLISH AUKUS!

20-03-2023: At Naval Base Point Loma in San Diego California, a bizarre press conference took place on the 13th of March. US President Joe Biden, UK Prime Minister Rishi Sunak and Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese announced a supposed breakthrough deal for the building of nuclear powered submarines in Australia...in the

2040s!! The Australian government will reportedly spend \$368 billion over 30 years, for three second-hand Virginia class US submarines which may arrive in the 2030s, with five "SSN-AUKUS" boats to arrive....in the 2050s.¹ Before this announcement, Albanese had claimed that the deal for nuclear powered submarines will create

¹ www.rnz.co.nz/news/world/485943/aukus-details-unveiled-australian-nuclear-submarine-programme-to-cost-up-to-394-point-5-billion (15-03-2023)

“20 000 jobs”² over the next 30 years. This is little more than hogwash, and it is unlikely that either the manufacture of submarines or the arrival of US submarines will ever happen. Former Australian Labor Party Prime Minister Paul Keating savaged the compact, labelling it the “worst deal in all history”. He stated that it was “deeply pathetic” for PM Albanese to rely on UK PM Rishi Sunak for protection, and rubbished claims that China has ever threatened or will threaten Australia.³

RED FIRE is the publication of the Workers League.

The Workers League is an organisation which seeks to build a vanguard party for working people, which can lead the struggle for socialism and a world without war.

We welcome all enquires and feedback, as well as applications to join. Contact us by:

Website: www.redfireonline.com

Email: workersleague@protonmail.com

Phone: 0421 408 692

The drums of war

The Kafkaesque press conference at San Diego was a living metaphor for a senile and declining Anglo/US Empire, but an ageing ruling class which does not wish to leave the stage of history can still be eminently dangerous. Joe Biden claimed that AUKUS has “one overriding objective, to enhance the stability of the Indo-Pacific amid rapidly shifting global dynamics.”⁴ In reality, the one overriding objective of AUKUS (Australia, the United Kingdom, the United States of America) is to wage war against the People’s Republic of China (PRC). Australia will likely be the “forward operating base” for the US and may be transferred

into a rotating repository for US military ships, battalions of troops, long range fighter-bombers and more. The US cannot wage war against China without even being geographically in the region, so Australia, Japan and the Philippines are likely to be the launching pads. AUKUS is an imperialist war alliance, a NATO of the so-called Indo-Pacific.

Working people of Australia, the United Kingdom and the United States must demand *the immediate abolition of AUKUS*, the withdrawal of all sanctions against individuals and entities in China, and the full restoration of all trade and commerce with the world’s largest manufacturing base. A nuclear war against China is insane, and even a conventional war will only end in disaster for the workers of the West even aside from tragically needless casualties that may result. Any Western sanctions applied on China in the midst of a hot war will only have the result of a near collapse of their own economies, with working people in the West suffering even more than they are currently. NATO is losing its proxy war on Russia via Ukraine, and the widely acknowledged ultimate target is China, as much as the ruling elite would like to Balkanise Russia. That is not going to happen, and neither can the West break up or overthrow the PRC. Nevertheless, war may be the only option for a decaying Western dominion.

Outshined

Why must the West wage war against China? One fact may indicate the scale of the issue. Even back in 2015, the Beijing based Industrial & Commercial Bank of China was the world’s largest, with assets valued at \$3.5 trillion. This is larger than the entire value of the British economy.⁵ However, as a result of the 1949 socialist revolution, all banks are state owned. Even if there are some small banks which

² www.abc.net.au/news/2023-03-13/aucus-submarine-deal-to-support-20000-jobs-next-30-years/102087324 (15-03-2023)

³ www.sbs.com.au/news/article/former-colonial-master-paul-keating-launches-astonishing-attack-on-labor-aucus-deal/we38qsi9s (15-03-2023)

⁴ www.upi.com/Top_News/US/2023/03/13/biden-announces-pact-with-Australia-Britain-on-nuclear-submarines/3771678710704/ (15-03-2023)

⁵ www.money.cnn.com/2015/08/04/investing/worlds-biggest-banks-china/index.html (15-03-2023)

are not entirely state owned, this is rather meaningless as all banks must conform to the PRC's five-year economic plans. The banks in China, even on their own, are arguably the very basis of its workers' state. Yet in addition, there are more than 150 000 State Owned Enterprises (SOEs), many of which are gigantic. In fact, by revenue and assets, three of the world's top five firms are Chinese state-owned firms: Sinopec Group, State Grid and China National Petroleum.⁶ Not only is the West being outshined by the sheer scale of the PRC's industry, the vast bulk of it does not operate solely on the basis of profit, and almost all of its earnings buttress a proletarian state which drives stupendous economic growth. Imperialism hates competition, but it can't stand socialism!



Granted, in the PRC exists a “socialism” where the working class does not hold the levers of decision making power. The circumstances of its 20 year peasant-based revolution meant that the state which emerged out of 1949 was bureaucratically deformed from its inception. Despite its revolutionary achievements, it was weighed down by the ultimately conservative Maoism and Stalinism of the Communist Party of China (CPC). A genuine Marxist political leadership would seek to consolidate its own revolution while calling on the workers of the world to join a struggle for the

final overthrow of capitalism worldwide. For this to occur, a political revolution resulting in workers' councils open to all political tendencies devoted to defending the PRC state and economy would need to arise. In short, the Marxism of Lenin and Trotsky would need to supersede the faux socialism of Mao and Stalin.

Despite this, Red China's largely nationalised and planned economy will soon surpass the capitalist West, if it hasn't done so already. Currently, the West cannot even produce enough ammunition for its proxy Nazi-infested forces in Ukraine fighting a horrific war for NATO against Russia, let alone produce basic quality goods and appliances for “their own” workers at home. Overwhelmingly, most of these goods are made in the PRC and then imported. Capitalism – the production of commodities for private profit – has long since ceased to provide a progressive drive for humanity. The extreme political repression enacted during “Covid” was the final indicator that this system is in a terminal crisis.

An imperialist war against the PRC by the Anglo/US powers will be accompanied by limitless anti-China and anti-socialist propaganda, which will exceed that which has saturated the Western corporate media over the last 10 years. It is in the interests of workers internationally to stare this down, and declare that they will not assist capitalism's war against China, and will stand for a real and genuine socialism as a solution to the now constant political repression, distinct lack of “democracy”, relentless cost-of-living increases, poverty and the threat of a global war. **NO TO WAR! ABOLISH AUKUS!**

(Article sourced from www.redfireonline.com)

⁶ news.cgtn.com/news/2021-06-14/Explainer-Why-China-has-so-many-state-owned-enterprises (15-03-2023)

BANKING CONTAGION IN THE WEST, BANKING STABILITY IN THE EAST



www.me.mashable.com

27-03-2023: The aphorism “safe as a bank” has long been out of date in the West, and none more so than today. Some 15 years after 2008, when the US government bailed out banks to prevent a society wide collapse, the Silicon Valley Bank (SVB) collapse could be a signal of more banking contagion to come. Silicon Valley Bank was the 16th largest bank in the US, and the largest bank to collapse since 2008. The bank was undercapitalized with its assets exposed to interest rate rises. The bank’s assets were worth \$210 billion while uninsured deposits sat at \$160 billion. To forestall a classic run on the banks – the mass withdrawal of deposits - the Federal Deposit

Insurance Corporation (FDIC) decided to extend interest rate protection to every dollar deposited.⁷ Although the bailout word was studiously avoided, in effect it was a bailout.

Cracks in the system

Days later, the crypto-friendly Signature Bank was closed down by regulators. In a joint statement, the US Treasury and the Federal Reserve affirmed that all depositors would be fully protected from losses, which is usually only available to those with deposits below \$250 000.⁸ Yet it wasn’t only banks in the US which fell from grace. Credit Suisse, a formerly prestigious 167-year-old Swiss bank⁹ was

⁷ www.nakedcapitalism.com/2023/03/svb-and-the-only-choice-we-have.html (22-03-2023)

⁸ www.businessinsider.com/signature-bank-shut-down-by-regulators-depositors-bailed-out-2023-3? (22-03-2023)

⁹ www.reuters.com/business/finance/ubs-take-over-credit-suisse-central-bank-2023-03-19/ (22-03-2023)

effectively ordered to merge with UBS by the Swiss National Bank (Switzerland's central bank), which aided the process by offering up to \$108 billion in liquidity assistance loans.¹⁰ The cracks in the West's banking system are showing, if they were not already. The question everyone wants to know is will the banking contagion spread to more Western banks, or will it be contained within a handful of financial institutions? No matter how much power Western governments have over the populace, which was demonstrated to a shocking degree during the fraudulent "Covid pandemic", the operation of the "free market" means they do not have the ultimate power to stop a total collapse.

The publication of **RED FIRE** involves considerable expense, but it is a task which is willingly undertaken to advance the struggle for socialism.

The Workers League welcomes any donations that all supporters of the workers' cause are able to contribute. Any donation, no matter how small, is greatly appreciated.

Please visit:

www.redfireonline.com/donate-to-red-fire/

Michael Hudson, the economic and financial critic of neoliberalism, and author of *Super Imperialism: The Economic Strategy of American Empire*¹¹, writes that the current banking crisis is more serious than the 2008-9 "global financial crisis". He states that the Obama Administration bailed out the banks with 15 years of Quantitative Easing (QE – or the printing of money) to re-inflate prices for

bank mortgages, along with housing and stock and bond prices. The so-called "fight against inflation" is actually government opposition to rising employment and wage levels.¹² He goes on to write that the problem goes beyond banking. The entire (US) economy is weighed down with debt deflation, even with asset-price inflation. In his view, the longer the government continues to save FIRE (Finance, Insurance, Real Estate) investors from taking losses, "the more violent the ultimate resolution must be".¹³ One doesn't have to have an extensive knowledge of economics to grasp the fact that the constant speculation with depositors' money by Western banks pushes them closer to the edge.

Eurasian banks remain strong

While banks in the West tiptoe on the edge of a precipice, Russian banks, despite the proxy war being waged against it by the NATO powers, remain stable. One reason is that Russia is now so cut off from the Western dominated global financial system due to massive Western sanctions imposed against it, they believe they will face no impact from the collapse of Silicon Valley Bank. Kremlin spokesperson Dmitry Peskov stated that Russia's banking system has some connections with some parts of the international financial system, but "it is mostly under illegal restrictions from the collective West".¹⁴ That is, the massive sanctions the US and European governments have levelled against Russia for defending itself against a proxy war via Ukraine, have in fact insured Russia against economic fallout. The sanctions have also boomeranged¹⁵ back against the US and Europe, damaging their economies much more than Russia. One reason for this is that Russia is the

¹⁰ www.forbes.com/sites/marisadellatto/2023/03/19/ubs-agrees-to-buy-embattled-bank-credit-suisse-central-bank-says (22-03-2023)

¹¹ www.michael-hudson.com/2021/10/3rd-edition-super-imperialism/ (22-03-2023)

¹² www.counterpunch.org/2023/03/13/why-the-banking-system-is-breaking-up/ (22-03-2023)

¹³ www.unz.com/mhudson/why-the-bank-crisis-is-not-over/ (22-03-2023)

¹⁴ www.businessinsider.com/svb-bank-crisis-russia-western-sanctions-insures-fallout-us-ukraine-2023-3?op=1 (22-03-2023)

¹⁵ www.thehill.com/opinion/international/3545188-have-sanctions-against-russia-boomeranged/ (22-03-2023)

tenth largest *exporter* of goods¹⁶ in the world, with oil and gas, metals and metal products, chemical products, food and grains, machinery and equipment and timber and pulp and paper products the top earners.¹⁷

Last year, large numbers of Russian banks were cut off from the SWIFT transactions system by the EU (European Union). Notably however, two of Russia's largest banks – Sberbank and Gazprombank – were exempted, as they handle the vast bulk of transactions to the EU for gas and oil payments, on which the EU largely remains reliant.¹⁸ Whatever political disagreements workers internationally may have with President Putin and the government of the Russian Federation, the fact remains that around 20 years ago, Putin and his backers moved to take large section of the Russian economy under effective state control, in an effort to drag it out of the catastrophic economic and social collapse it experienced in the 1990s in the wake of the capitalist counter-revolution which brought down the former Soviet Union. Without these moves, Russian banking would not be in the position it is today, able to withstand massive Western sanctions on the back of its export and manufacturing base.

Banking in Russia's Eurasian partner the People's Republic of China (PRC) is in an even stronger position. Thanks to the momentous 20 year long uprising which culminated in the declaration of the PRC on October 1st, 1949, the PRC's banks are almost entirely state owned and state controlled. They form arguably the strongest pillar of its resultant proletarian state, despite the overwhelming preponderance of hundreds of millions of peasants who fought and defeated foreign imperialist enslavement under the

leadership of the Communist Party of China (CPC). The state-owned banks in the PRC are thus even safer than Russian banks, as they are backed by a workers' state and are thus are *NOT* used in a predatory fashion to achieve financial return at virtually any social cost.

This is the elephant in the room. Western banks collapse, or constantly threaten to falter, due to the vast imbalance of retaining only a tiny percentage of depositors' money, while "investing" the rest in the casino stock market. By contrast, banks in the PRC cannot collapse, as long as the state is not overthrown. The imperialist ruling classes are well aware of this, hence their unceasing efforts to foment often violent separatism in Hong Kong, the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region (XUAR) Tibet and Taiwan, while creating and funding reactionary anti-China destabilisation in Myanmar, Thailand, Cambodia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Sri Lanka, Pakistan, and Afghanistan, while never ceasing to threaten obliteration against the DPRK (Democratic People's Republic of Korea - "North Korea"). Despite these attempts, the PRC's Big Four state-owned banks are simultaneously *the world's largest banks by assets and market capitalisation*. The Industrial and Commercial Bank of China is the largest, followed by the China Construction bank at number 2, the Agricultural Bank of China at number 3, and the Bank of China at number 4. The largest Western bank – JP Morgan Chase – comes in at number 7.¹⁹ This is just one of the real reasons why the US Empire is seeking war with China by 2025.

Big banks and socialism

The state-owned banks in the PRC are used by the CPC to drive societal goals, not just a return on

¹⁶ www.newsunrolled.com/economy/201588.html (22-03-2023)

¹⁷ www.rbth.com/business/334557-russian-exports-in-2021-gas-oil-vodka (22-03-2023)

¹⁸ www.euronews.com/my-europe/2022/03/02/these-are-the-7-russian-banks-banned-from-swift-and-the-two-exempted (25-03-2023)

¹⁹ www.rankred.com/largest-banks-in-the-world/ (25-03-2023)

investments. The China Construction Bank in particular, is used to develop China's real economy, extend credit to major strategic national programs including the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), supporting eco-friendly construction, providing "caring stations" (!) at its branches to provide services for industry groups, and donating millions of yuan to public welfare.²⁰ Such actions are virtually inconceivable in the West, with working people being accustomed to being ripped off daily by banks with exorbitant fees, and having banks repossess their homes if they fall behind in repayments. Does "charity" work by the PRC banks slow their performance? Hardly. In 2022, the largest state-owned banks lent out 103 trillion yuan by the end of December.²¹ All but a tiny proportion of this amount was lent domestically, and this amount was roughly double what was lent internally by the PRC banks in 2014. There is no financial crisis, and no banking crisis, in China, as "free enterprise" clearly plays an overwhelmingly *subordinate* role to state-backed development and economic planning.

Paramount Russian revolutionary leader VI Lenin, during 1917, famously declared that *without big banks socialism would be impossible*. He declared that the state-owned banks would constitute nine-tenths of the socialist apparatus, and would provide country wide bookkeeping, country wide accounting of the production and distribution of goods, and that this would provide the skeleton of socialist society.²² The parallels between Lenin's words during the world's first proletarian revolution and the practice today in Red China are striking. The banks in the PRC are used for state building, for national economic development, for bolstering welfare, for funding green initiatives and much more. In China banking is publicly

owned, and is seen primarily as a service, not a business venture.

To be sure, the PRC is saddled with a conservative and bureaucratic political leadership contained within the CPC, which, despite its revolutionary heritage, never had any intention of extending the gains of 1949 internationally. The twin Stalinist nostrums of "socialism in one country" and "peaceful coexistence with imperialism" today override the political outlook of the CPC. This is one reason why some in the West cannot see a qualitative difference between the government of the PRC and governments of "their own". They are correct to identify the CPC as non-revolutionary, but mistaken to imagine it is overseeing a similar system to the West. To open the road to genuine socialism, the Marxism of Lenin and Trotsky must prevail, through internationally linked proletarian political revolutions in the East with socialist revolutions in the West. For this, the forging of vanguard parties – a real leadership of the working class - looms as a critically urgent task.

(Article sourced from www.redfireonline.com)



²⁰ www.forbesasiacustom.com/china-construction-bank-prospering-with-the-nation/ (25-03-2023)

²¹ www.statista.com/statistics/1171235/china-total-loans-from-large-state-owned-banks/ (25-03-2023)

²² www.marxists.org/archive/lenin/works/1917/oct/01.htm (25-03-2023)

FIGHT THE COST OF LIVING ATTACKS!

STATEMENT OF THE WORKERS LEAGUE



www.hero-labs.com

(This statement was released by the Workers League in late December 2022.)

28-12-2022: The year 2023 looms ominously over the heads of working people in the West. After two solid years of assault under the guise of a fraudulent “pandemic”, basic costs of living are set to skyrocket, sending millions more into despair, destitution and possibly death. This is on top of those who are suffering perilous injuries or perishing outright from the global rollout of mRNA injections, supposedly to counter a real or imagined “Covid”. The prices of basic food in supermarkets are jumping, increasing weekly grocery bills by 50% or more. In Europe, the cost of electricity, gas, water is tripling or quadrupling. In some places, working people are being expected to spend as much as 70% of their income

on basic utilities. Inflation is simply out of control, reaching 10% according to official figures, but in reality it may be double that. Wages, where there are any increases at all, fall as much as four or more percentage points behind the *official* inflation rates. This is unacceptable.

The Great Reset

None of these misfortunes are inevitable, or simply a sign of the economic times, as implied by the corporate media. Nor are they due to Russia’s military operations in Ukraine, which is often trotted out as the official excuse for price rises by Western politicians. Russia is resisting NATO’s proxy war for regime change in Moscow, by combatting the Nazi infested Ukrainian military which is armed, funded and trained by the

governments of the US (United States of America) and the EU (European Union). Rather, *the cost of living attacks are merely the second phase of the Great Reset*, the first being the overwhelming onslaught of broadsides on working people launched with the transparent excuse of Covid-19. While the World Economic Forum (WEF) may be the authors of the Great Reset or New Normal narrative, they are only its publicists, as the foremost neo-con think-tank. The *source* of both the Covid and post-Covid attacks on workers (which also hits much small business) is the pre-eminent crisis of the West, which is *the historical crisis of the centuries old system of capitalist imperialism*.



Imperialism is carrying out attacks on working people as it is being stymied from launching World War III – though it is doing its utmost to do so. The economic power of the People’s Republic of China (PRC) and the military power of the Russian Federation are combining to block incredibly dangerous US/NATO led provocations. It is the PRC’s largely nationalised and planned economy which the West is unable to combat. This is not just for reasons of the gigantic size of the PRC in terms of population. It is the fact that the state ownership of the strategic means of production there is providing a huge springboard for ongoing economic growth. Even though the PRC’s political leadership decided to sacrifice some economic

growth to entertain the non-scientific Covid spectacle, economic growth is starting again in the PRC after it finally abandoned pointless PCR testing and brutal lockdowns.

While it is true that the Communist Party of China (CPC) was more enthusiastic in imposing nonsensical Covid repression (apart from vaccine mandates) than politicians in the West, this can be attributed to Stalinism – not socialism, and certainly not “communism”. We should not be surprised that Stalinists with state power are more devoted to propping up capitalism outside its own borders, even if that means imposing Covid totalitarianism at home. The conservative bureaucracy of the CPC only retains its power to the degree they can prevent a proletarian political revolution at home, and to the extent that they can block workers’ revolutions from boiling over in Eurasia and beyond.

Resist war at home and abroad

Yet neither the CPC bureaucrats nor the Western politicians have ultimate power to prevent generalised uprisings. If the working class is organised and committed enough, and guided by its own vanguard party, little can stand in its way. To do this, however, working people must *link* Covid repression to imperialist war to cost of living daylight robbery. Covid tyranny was an attempt to partially shutdown whole economies, throw millions into unemployment and crush small business to enable big capital to scoop up the remains. The imperialist war against Russia via Ukraine led by NATO and the EU has been long planned, but dovetails with the contrived “pandemic” by seeking to destroy whole countries or continents, to allow fresh fields of investment for the Western corporate elite. The skyrocketing cost of living increases (rent, mortgages, electricity, gas and water bills) in the West for working people is a *deliberate* move to create fear among the still employed for higher levels of

unemployment, poverty, homelessness via monopoly price fixing to once again drive down the cost of labour power – wages and salaries. The relentless rising of interest rates on home loans will force many to abandon their homes to capital buyouts.

I
**DON'T UNDERSTAND HOW
A CEMETERY CAN RAISE
IT'S FUNERAL PRICES AND
BLAME IT ON THE COST OF
LIVING.**

Politicians in the US, Europe and Australia are openly blaming price rises on what they claim is an “invasion” of Ukraine. In reality, the West applied mind boggling sanctions on Russia as they appeared to believe that sanctioning Russia’s central bank would soon collapse its economy, and sanctioning oil and gas purchases from Russia would likewise lead it to financial ruin. As Russia’s economy is NOT just based on oil and gas sales, and large parts of it are effectively state run and therefore profit is not the sole determining factor, Western sanctions have boomeranged back against the countries that levied them. At the same time, Russia’s economy has not only weathered the storm, but improved, particularly as they find more willing customers for their raw materials in China, India, Iran and elsewhere. The working people of Europe, and to a lesser extent those in the USA and Australia, are being forced to pay the most severe price for Russophobic and Sinophobic ideological ends.

Paraphrasing Russian revolutionary leader L Trotsky, every society is founded on production, production gives rise to classes, the state is formed on the basis of class struggle, and the state is an organ of class oppression. For Marxists this is axiomatic, and this framework still explains what today appear to be abnormal occurrences – staged “pandemics”, the danger of world war, and difficulties just getting by for millions of those who must labour in order to survive. These looming catastrophes can be turned into opportunities for a better world, provided workers are prepared to fight for it. Indeed, the dire scenarios being faced today are proof positive that the ruling classes of the West do not and cannot have any other solutions than ongoing wars and political repression of the masses.

The only way out for workers and the oppressed is a series of revolutions which result in a federation of proletarian states. Key to this perspective is the urgent forging of Leninist vanguard parties which can inspire millions in an epic struggle for liberation. This goal must be paramount at the same time as mobilising under some critical demands, including: ***Abolish NATO! Abolish AUKUS! Lift the sanctions on Russia! No funding for Nazis in Ukraine! No war on China! For a six-hour workday! For public ownership of energy, infrastructure and banks! For workers’ republics!***



ARMED PAPUAN SEPARATISTS HOLD NZ PILOT HOSTAGE



Above: Pilot Philip Mehrtens held hostage by armed Papuan separatists after destroying his plane. www.flipboard.com

(Article sourced from www.redfireonline.com)

27-02-2023: Picture this scenario. Armed fighters threaten to kill construction workers who are building a health care centre in a remote area, accessible only by plane or helicopter. The construction workers take refuge in a priest's house to avoid being massacred. A pilot is sent on an evacuation mission and manages to rescue them. Returning with supplies, his plane is stormed by the armed fighters, his five passengers are released – but he is held hostage. The fighters then threaten to kill the pilot unless the government agrees to their demands. These fighters are then reported to be “rebels”, and

rather than being denounced as terrorists, liberals and the media laud them as brave warriors facing persecution for their political cause. What exactly is going on here?

Infrastructure building targeted by separatists

Welcome to the upside-down world of the West Papuan “movement for independence” from Indonesia. The holding of the New Zealand pilot Philip Mehrtens by armed Papuan separatists is the latest chapter in ongoing episodes of violence which characterise their actions. Mr Mehrtens is a pilot for Indonesian aviation company Susi Air²³ who was given the task by his employers of rescuing 15 construction workers who were

²³ www.apnews.com/article/politics-indonesia-government-new-zealand-af3aa5a2d043e261a2814c6bd0a4b78c (22-02-2023)

threatened with their lives by armed Papuan separatists. Mr Mehrtens managed to do this, and then it appears he returned on February 7 with 5 passengers in a plane which was also carrying 450 kilograms of supplies from Timika, a mining town in a neighbouring province. It was at this point that separatists from the so-called West Papua National Liberation Army (TPNPB) stormed the plane after it had landed in Paro in the Nduga region, released the five passengers, took Mr Mehrtens hostage – and set fire to the plane. Sebby Sambom, a TPNPB spokesperson, said that they were holding the pilot and would kill him if their demands were not met.²⁴

Further, Sambom wrote on Facebook that the TPNPB would never release Mr Mehrtens unless Jakarta made the Papua region independent from Indonesia. He went on to write that if Jakarta refused to negotiate or intervened militarily, then the New Zealand pilot “will be executed”.²⁵ Sambom has also implied that this was part of retaliation against New Zealand, Australia, the US and Europe who had supported the Indonesian National Police, which had supplied weapons used to kill West Papuans since 1963.²⁶ The Indonesian government no doubt has received shipments of weapons from Western countries, but the Indonesian government has repeatedly stated that the militarisation of Papua only occurs in response to provocations from the armed Papuan separatists. Without giving the Indonesian government political support, such statements appear to be verifiable. The Indonesian authorities also have a responsibility for other citizens not involved in the conflict. For example, Indonesian military command spokesperson for Papua,

Colonel Herman Taryaman stated that 167 people had fled the Paro district in Nduga regency in fear of violence after the hostage taking incident.²⁷

So we have a situation where the Indonesian government is attempting to build infrastructure for all Papuans, in a remote area, which in this case is a *health care centre*. The armed separatists threaten to kill the construction workers building the health care centre, and then storm and set fire to a plane carrying supplies, taking a pilot hostage. 167 local residents *flee for their lives* from the area. TPNPB commander Eganus Kogeya then demands that all flights into Paro airport be stopped.²⁸ They then assert that the pilot *will be executed* unless their demands are met. Is this a political movement for a cause, or just all round brigandage?

History of violence

A slightly different path is taken by other wings of the Papuan separatist movement. Benny Wenda, who lives in Oxford in the United Kingdom, is “President” of the United Liberation Movement for West Papua (ULMWP). Mr Wenda in fact fled from Papua to avoid arrest for inciting attacks on police stations, including at Abepura in 2000, where two people perished.²⁹ Largely unbeknownst to West Papua independence supporters, Benny Wenda would be arrested if he returned to Indonesia. Nevertheless, Mr Wenda parades as a responsible leader in exile. In relation to the Paro hostage taking incident, he stated that the West Papuans are pursuing national liberation peacefully, through diplomatic political mechanisms. This is scarcely what has been happening, and he himself was a part of violent

²⁴ thediplomat.com/2023/02/papuan-rebels-take-new-zealand-pilot-hostage-in-remote-area/ (22-02-2023)

²⁵ www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-11754171/Papua-rebels-threaten-EXECUTE-hostage-New-Zealand-pilot.html (22-02-2023)

²⁶ www.lindaikajisblog.com/2023/2/new-zealand-pilot-taken-hostage-by-heavily-armed-rebel-group-in-remote-papua-region-photos.html (22-02-2023)

²⁷

www.benarnews.org/english/news/indonesian/indonesia-papua-pilot-02142023110839.html (22-02-2023)

²⁸ www.abc17news.com/news/2023/02/08/new-zealand-pilot-held-hostage-by-separatist-fighters-in-indonesia/ (22-02-2023)

²⁹ www.westpapua.online/2011/03/13/interpol-wanted-benny-wenda/ (22-02-2023)

attacks in the past. He claimed that the “rebels” are demanding: the removal of Indonesian troops from West Papua, a United Nations (UN) investigation into alleged human rights violations, a referendum on independence, and a cancellation of Papua’s ‘special autonomy’.³⁰



Above: Around 2000 innocent people living in Wamena fled for their lives in October 2019 after Papuan separatists set fire to parts of the town, taking the lives of 30 people. 8 were Papuan, and the other 22 were non-Papuan. With actions of mass terror such as these, Papuan “independence” militia obviously have no intention of waging a political struggle to convince Papuans and non-Papuans living in Papua to support a separate West Papuan “state”. www.en.tempo.co

This flowery language may certainly fool liberals in the West, but this allegedly diplomatic and political road cannot obscure the history of violence the various armed separatists have used and continue to employ in Papua today. In July last year, armed separatists killed 10 traders and an indigenous Papuan who had travelled from other islands. Sebby Sambom later claimed responsibility for the attacks, claiming the victims were spies for the Indonesian government. Last

March, separatist militia killed eight technicians who were repairing a remote telecommunications tower. In December 2018, 30 road construction workers and a soldier were killed in one of the separatists’ worst onslaughts.³¹ In October 2019, separatists set fire to public buildings and a marketplace in Wamena, where 30 people lost their lives, and 22 of them were non-Papuan.³²

While there is a section of a West Papuan “independence” movement, in Papua and internationally, which engages in political protests which do not include violence, at no point do these elements distance themselves or even state any disagreement with the pitiless cruelty of the armed Papuan separatist militias. In this case, the armed separatists are delaying the building of a health care centre in a remote area of Papua, and more than 160 innocent villagers have been displaced, fearing that a conflict between the separatists and the military could endanger their safety. At the least, this indicates that not all residents of Papua support a separate “independence”, and are not prepared to politically back such a cause. In fact, only a tiny minority of Papuans are prepared to engage in armed violence against the Indonesian military. The majority would prefer to live in peace alongside all others.

KKB

The Indonesian government refer to the armed Papuan separatists as “armed criminal groups” or KKB.³³ Mohammad Mahfud, the Indonesian government’s co-ordinating Minister for political, security and legal affairs, said that the government is attempting to persuade the separatists to release the pilot, but would not rule out using other methods. “Taking civilians hostage for any

³⁰ www.eneewskenya.blogspot.com/2023/02/new-zealand-pilot-taken-hostage-by.html (22-02-2023)

³¹ www.winnipegfreepress.com/world/2023/02/07/separatist-rebels-take-new-zealand-pilot-hostage-in-papua (22-02-2023)

³² www.redfireonline.com/2019/10/05/wamena-papuan-militia-terrorise-civilians/ (22-02-2023)

³³ www.kabar24.bisnis.com/read/20230215/15/1628222/kkb-desak-papua-merdeka-pilot-susi-air-disandera-sebagai-jaminan-politik (25-02-2023)

reason is unacceptable”, were his words.³⁴ National Police Chief Listyo Sigit Prabowo stated that an operational team would be deployed to rescue the pilot and passengers of the Susi Air plane who were being held hostage.³⁵ These passengers have subsequently been released, while the pilot remains a hostage. Whilst socialists offer no political endorsement of the Indonesian government, working people should not stand in the way if this government acts to resolve a hostage situation, protecting civilians by doing so. In fact, there is no basis for opposing the Indonesian government using the police and the military to ensure the safety of construction and other workers who are building basic infrastructure for all Papuans – especially health care centres!

Many liberals and self-proclaimed “socialists” in the West fall for the winsome lure of the slogan of “Free West Papua”. They are running a fool’s errand. Although they can barely conceive it, the real drive of the armed Papuan separatists is one based on ethnic antagonism towards non-Papuan Indonesians. Western liberals cannot imagine that some within an indigenous people could act in a discriminatory way towards others, let alone use life-taking wanton violence to this end. Yet it occurs and occurs regularly. The area referred to as West Papua is home to over 250 indigenous Papuan tribes,³⁶ and over 400 distinct languages. To communicate with each other, the language they use is Bahasa Indonesian. It makes no sense to somehow separate from Indonesia, while continuing to use the *lingua franca* of the Indonesian archipelago.

While there certainly are some issues that arise from the transmigration of Austronesian people to

the Melanesian lands of Papua, the state of Indonesia is necessarily one which requires harmony between the more than 1000 ethnicities present within a population of over 270 million people.³⁷ Any movement which involves the slightest element of ethnic tension can never be supported by the left, let alone socialists. To justify a movement for a *separate state*, there needs to be overwhelming evidence of irrefutable circumstances. Yet hostage taking, open armed attacks on basic infrastructure, threats to kill as well as actually taking of lives of those building infrastructure for the use of all those who reside in Papua, reckless conflict with authorities causing innocent villagers to flee – such acts would scarcely be taken by those who are confident that the masses and the world at large would support their cause.

The various armed Papuan separatist groups are thus only targeted by the Indonesian police and military due to the immediate danger they pose to themselves and the local populace. This is also why Mohammad Mahfud announced in April 2021 that “organisations and people in Papua who commit mass violence are categorised as terrorist”, as the Indonesian government amended its anti-terrorism law. This has enabled special military units such as Koopssus TNI and Densus-88 to pursue separatist militia such as the TPNPB and the OPM (Organisasi Papua Merdeka) as terrorists. The special forces of Indonesia’s military – or any state military – may well have a murky record. Yet the TPNPB and OPM, and the larger “independence movement” can scarcely argue that the extreme violence and use of armed force by the separatist militia is not used to terrorise many others.

³⁴ www.aljazeera.com/news/2023/2/15/west-papua-rebels-release-photos-of-captured-new-zealand-pilot (25-02-2023)

³⁵ www.en.tempo.co/read/1689395/hostage-taker-demands-release-of-papua-after-kidnapping-pilot-and-passengers-of-susi-air (25-03-2023)

³⁶ www.westpauastory.com/west-papua-tribes-and-their-beautiful-culture/ (26-03-2023)

³⁷ <https://www.statista.com/topics/8377/demographics-of-indonesia/#topicOverview> (25-03-2023)

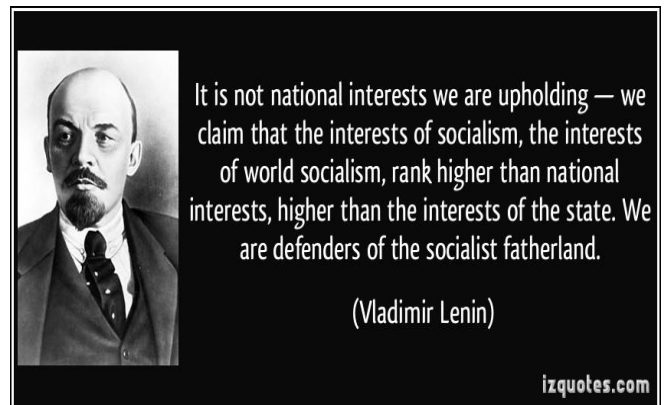
Left parties stump for terror

None of this seems to register for parties of the Australian so-called left. Almost without exception, these self-described “Marxist” organisations jump up and down for West Papuan “independence”. With a little investigation, they might be able to see that, in reality, the “movement for independence” is in fact a movement *against* transmigration, i.e., the transfer of some people from the over-populated islands of Java, Sumatra, Sulawesi and others into the sparsely populated but larger land mass of Papua. It is acknowledged that a transmigration program such as that carried out by the Indonesian government can have both positive and negative outcomes.³⁸ Overall, however, socialists should be the last groups on earth to deny Papuans the benefits that flow to them from the economic development which the Indonesian state is working to provide, e.g., transport, electricity, health care and education.³⁹ Indeed, the Papuan separatists are keenly aware that the *more* Indonesia develops Papua with vital infrastructure required for modernisation, the *less* will Papuans have any reason to commit themselves to a fantastical West Papuan “independence”. Hence their turn to brute force.

A movement against transmigration, if described in those terms, would easily be seen as racist. Papuan separatists, who largely rely on Western liberals (and self-identifying “socialists”!) for support, thus instead outline their movement as one of “independence” from “colonialism”. The list of “Marxists” who fall for this three-card trick

is close to endless. The Socialist Alliance,⁴⁰ Socialist Alternative,⁴¹ the Communist Party of Australia,⁴² Communist Party of Australia Marxist-Leninist,⁴³ the Spartacist League,⁴⁴ and even the Bolshevik-Leninist⁴⁵ - all give the Papuan separatist terror groups a blank cheque. All of them are swayed by lurid tales of Indonesian government “oppression” in Papua, as if the provision of health care, education, transport and power transmission is an onerous burden.

Genuine Marxism does not uphold the Indonesian government as an ally in a political sense. After all, the Indonesian government aimed to dispense the dangerous Covid vaccines to 70% of its population, despite the health risks.⁴⁶ At the same time, real socialism can only begin to be striven for on the basis of working-class unity in Indonesia, Australia, New Zealand and beyond. Papuans should work alongside Indonesians, rather than engage in ethnic antagonism. As far away as it may now seem, the building of Leninist vanguard parties across the Asia-Pacific which uphold Permanent Revolution is the key to a mass movement for workers’ republics throughout Australasia.



³⁸ www.factsofindonesia.com/effects-of-transmigration-in-indonesia (25-03-2023)

³⁹ www.medcom.id/english/national/ObzVVMgb-govt-speeds-up-infrastructure-development-in-papua-west-papua (25-03-2023)

⁴⁰ www.socialist-alliance.org/our-common-cause/2019-09-25/west-papua-%E2%80%94-australia%E2%80%99s-new-timor-leste (26-03-2023)

⁴¹ www.redflag.org.au/article/west-papua-hard-choice-simple-one (26-03-2023)

⁴² www.cpa.org.au/guardian/issue-2002/west-papuans-escalate-their-fight-for-justice/ (26-03-2023)

⁴³ www.cpaml.org/post2.php?id=1640914940&catid1=15 (26-03-2023)

⁴⁴ www.icl-fi.org/english/wv/1148/west_papua.html (26-03-2023)

⁴⁵ www.bolshevik-leninist.org/independence-for-west-papua/ (26-03-2023)

⁴⁶ www.thejakartapost.com/news/2020/12/23/majority-of-indonesians-unsure-about-covid-19-vaccination-survey-finds.html (26-03-2023)

FOR JUSTICE NOT TOKENISM!



Above: A huge Aboriginal flag is carried during an Invasion Day (“Australia Day”) protest in Brisbane. www.abc.net.au

(The following is the text of a leaflet distributed by the Workers League on 26.01.2023)

23-01-2023: As Invasion Day (January 26 or “Australia Day”) is marked around the country, the debate on the rights of Indigenous people is overshadowed by the Australian Labor Party (ALP) Federal Government’s proposal to amend the Constitution to establish an “Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice”. This proposal is best described as token, patronising and even insulting. If approved by referendum, three sentences will be added to the Constitution⁴⁷ which effectively establishes a committee which can make representations to the Parliament. The politicians

can purportedly make laws as a result....or they can simply ignore it all ! There is opposition to the Voice from the conservative right, however the federal Liberal Party does have a point when it asks for more detail as to how it will work, as there are currently no details at all. They have even wedged the ALP by calling for the Voice to be legislated first, as the 250 Indigenous leaders which released the 2017 Uluru Statement from the Heart called for the establishment of a constitutionally enshrined body.⁴⁸

War at home and abroad

⁴⁷ www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2022/jul/29/anthony-albanese-reveals-simple-and-clear-wording-of-referendum-question-on-indigenous-voice (18-01-2023)

⁴⁸ www.smh.com.au/politics/federal/albanese-owes-it-to-the-public-to-release-voice-details-jeff-kennett (18-01-2023)

It is the height of irony that the Voice is being championed by ALP Prime Minister Anthony Albanese, who in some quarters is nicknamed “Alba-Nazi” for visiting Kiev with NATO’s proxy war on Russia raging, and subsequently delivering hundreds of millions of dollars and military hardware⁴⁹ to Ukraine. This materiel inevitably ends up in the hands of Nazi regiments such as the Azov Battalion. The liberal ALP can make as many token virtue signalling moves as they wish, but the concern of the Australian ruling class for Aboriginal people is on a par with their care for innocent Ukrainians and Russians – zero. For example, during the fraudulent Covid “pandemic”, state and federal governments exerted more political repression on Aboriginal people than the non-indigenous. The Australian Army was rolled out to enforce Covid lockdowns in some remote indigenous communities, and some indigenous people were thrown into concentration camps and banned from going for a walk.⁵⁰

There were reports of Aboriginal people being forcibly vaccinated, while an almost indescribably racist narrative in the corporate media thundered about how indigenous people “needed”⁵¹ to be vaccinated against Covid first, because they were supposedly more vulnerable. The “pandemic” turned out to be nothing of the sort, but was rather a means of political repression of workers and the oppressed to enable the largest transfer of wealth in history from the poor to the ultra-rich. It is true that Covid – whether or not it exists at all – divided the Aboriginal community down the middle, in a similar way in which it ruptured non-indigenous Australia. While forms of racism against Aboriginal people never disappeared entirely, for a brief period of time *vaccinated* indigenous people were spared the horrific discrimination which was waged against the

“unvaccinated” – both indigenous and non-indigenous. In fact, unvaccinated working-class people were given but a glimpse of the racism experienced by Aboriginal people when they found themselves physically excluded from whole parts of society.



Above: Nonsensical Covid testing being carried out in remote indigenous communities in the Northern Territory during the fraudulent “pandemic”. Police and the Army were also called into to lockdown Aboriginal people, which divided the Aboriginal people down the middle. As with all other communities, some supported government backed crackdowns, while others joined the freedom movement protesting the abolition of basic democratic rights. www.abc.net.au

For an anti-capitalist struggle

The political leadership of both the Aboriginal people and the working-class is in dire need of being re-forged from scratch. Before Covid lockdowns began, the leadership of the Aboriginal rights movement squandered a huge opportunity for a significant victory. After gathering a millions strong groundswell behind the demand of “Change the Date”, subsequent Invasion Day rallies abandoned this overwhelmingly popular demand for the militant sounding but nihilistic

⁴⁹ www.defenceconnect.com.au/land-amphibious/10279-australia-gifts-more-apcs-bushmasters-to-ukraine (18-01-2023)

⁵⁰ www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-10237761/Covid-Australia-Outbreak-Indigenous-Northern-Territory-communities-spark-toughest-lockdown.html (18-01-2023)

⁵¹ www.1.racgp.org.au/ajgp/coronavirus/aboriginal-communities-covid-vaccination (18-01-2023)

“Abolish Australia Day” or even “Abolish Australia”. Subsequently, hundreds of thousands of non-indigenous supporters who wanted nothing more than to assist the Aboriginal struggle dropped away, dismayed and disillusioned. Changing the date of Australia’s national day could have been achieved, and while this would not have abolished indigenous disadvantage, it would have been a vital step forward.

Then came the horror of “Covid” lockdowns, with forced vaccinations with a potentially deadly substance, logic defying quarantines and the running of concentration camps. The leadership of the indigenous community was split on this massive issue, reflecting the split within indigenous people themselves. While some endorsed Covid nonsense, others were extremely wary of the government’s transparent agenda, given their history of abhorrent treatment of Aboriginal people for centuries. Some indigenous people joined the freedom movement, which fought against lockdowns and vaccine mandates, and was the largest and most sustained political movement in Australian history by several orders of magnitude. Most capitulated to the government, egged on by the utterly treacherous fake left “socialist” parties and ossified Trade Union officials, who indulged the fantasy of a “health crisis” and politically merged with the police, the military and the ruling class of the Australian capitalist state.

Some of the posters for this years Invasion Day rallies bear the slogan “What Price is Freedom?” Perhaps this is a coded acknowledgement of the sheer scale of the 2020-22 anti-lockdown freedom movement. Regardless, the Covid civil war imposed by big capital demonstrated yet again that the fate of Australia’s indigenous or First Nations people is bound up with the fate of the working-class, even taking into account the historical and current forms of oppression

Aboriginal people endure. That is to say, it is imperative that indigenous and working-class fighters forge a political leadership which aims at nothing less than the overturn of corporate rule, the superseding of an allegedly supra-class parliament and the establishment of a socialist republic based on workers’ councils.

Neither the liberalism of the “Indigenous Voice”, nor the liberalism of the Covid sham left nor the anchorless militancy of “Abolish Australia” offers any way forward. Only *revolutionary integrationism*, i.e., the forging of a multi-racial and multi-ethnic Leninist vanguard party, has a chance to break the political impasse. We are under no illusions about how difficult this will be, as many indigenous people may see Marxism as a “foreign” ideology, and only the most committed left-wing and pro-working class forces will be attracted to revolutionary party building. But there is no other way. Aboriginal and working-class liberation is today bound up with the fight for freedom against state terror, deceitful “pandemics” and apocalyptic imperialist wars against Russia, China, Iran and beyond. ***No to the “Indigenous Voice”! Treaty Now! For sovereignty via workers republics in Australasia!***



www.theconversation.com

WHAT DRIVES CLIMATE DENIAL?



Above: Burketown in North Queensland, seen from the air after floodwaters immersed it in March 2023. www.floodlist.com

(Article sourced from www.redfireonline.com)

13-03-2023: As war and economic crisis grips much of the world, climate disasters can struggle to attract headlines. Yet they continue at an alarming pace. On the 1st of March the Pacific island nation of Vanuatu was struck by a Cyclone Judy, only to be hit hard barely 24 hours later by Cyclone Kevin. Both were Category 4 cyclones, which brought down trees blocking roads and cut power lines across the 13 main islands, affecting hundreds of thousands of people.⁵² Two cyclones 24 hours apart is unprecedented, even in the Pacific. The situation is critical for some 58 000 children, especially from the worst affected

provinces of Tafea and Shefa, with many having lost both their homes and their schools.⁵³

In Australia, on the 5th of March, far North Queensland was once again deluged with floodwaters after some areas received 300mm of rain, with major roads cut off due to resultant landslides.⁵⁴ The next day, the rural fire service in central Western New South Wales was battling an out-of-control bushfire which had ravaged 267 hectares in Tambaroora, north of Bathurst. The fire service issued a warning to residents that it was “too late to leave” your home, for risk of being burnt to a cinder by the fire front.⁵⁵ In Australia during the 2019-2020 summer, the country was

⁵² www.aljazeera.com/news/2023/3/4/state-of-emergency-declared-in-vanuatu-as-second-cyclone-hits (08-03-2023)

⁵³ www.matangitonga.to/2023/03/07/vanuatus-children-need-help-recover-after-twin-cyclones (08-03-2023)

⁵⁴ www.abc.net.au/news/2023-03-06/flooding-in-far-north-queensland-cuts-roads-causes-landslides/102057794 (08-03-2023)

⁵⁵

www.dailytelegraph.com.au/newslocal/dubbo/tambaroora

scorched by bushfires which razed 46 million acres – an area the size of the country of Syria.⁵⁶ Devastation followed during the year 2022 in Australia, this time with flooding in February/March and October/November cascading through 25 000 homes and businesses.⁵⁷ Stating the obvious, one result of climate fuelled disasters in Australia is having to somehow deal with vast fires and floods *simultaneously*.

Denialist “explanations”

Despite ongoing dangerous and extreme weather events battering the planet, climate denialism in some quarters remains rife. Denial of climate change was in decades past the preserve of the right-wing and conservative pundits, but today this includes some who firmly identify with the political left as well as those who operate as alternative media/alternative analyses. It is also rampant within the freedom movement. Global warming and climate change is a hoax, they say, it is just the media running a scare campaign. Or, they claim climate change is a false façade designed to hand ever more control over your lives by the globalists such as the World Economic Forum (WEF) and neoliberal politicians masquerading as social justice warriors.

In the face of rather obvious climate collapse, where it cannot be denied that weather patterns are drastically changing for the worse, climate denialists are somewhat forced to produce other explanations as to what is happening. One they offer is that weather modification is taking place through contrails, the trails of condensed water from aircraft travelling at high altitudes. The contrails, they claim, are actually chemtrails which contain chemicals designed to harm humans,

modify the weather and/or for mind control and/or for population control and so on.⁵⁸ Yet this is very difficult to prove, and often the only “proof” offered of this is photos of the sky with unusual cloud formations. Certainly cloud seeding has been used by various governments for decades, in an effort to create precipitation (rain) in arid climates. Today this continues, even with the application of cutting edge nanotechnology to this process.⁵⁹ Yet, to say the least, it is implausible to go on to claim that efforts at cloud seeding by various governmental bodies can cumulatively or deliberately cause the never before experienced levels of flooding that is repeatedly afflicting human populations in many different countries. It is also rather disempowering. If the government has the power to change the weather and even deliberately trigger massive “natural” disasters, then we as mere mortals are powerless to prevent such carnage.

Another rather reflexive explanation for climate collapse is solar activity. Some denialists claim that a “Grand Solar Minimum” began in 2020 and will continue until 2070. According to this theory, during such a period, the sun’s magnetic field is weak, which allows extra cosmic rays into the solar system. This apparently means that this will result in an increase in the intensity and numbers of: storms, hurricanes, cyclones, typhoons, downpours, blizzards, tornados, flash flooding, earthquakes and....global cooling.⁶⁰ One must observe that this pseudo-explanation is just all too convenient. At the very time when over 250 years of serious environmental pollution since the industrial revolution combines to begin triggering dangerous climatic events, we have an “explanation” which allows us either to simply sit

-hazardous-bush-fires-sparks-emergency-warning/news-story/ (08-03-2023)

⁵⁶ www.disasterphilanthropy.org/disasters/2019-australian-wildfires/ (08-03-2023)

⁵⁷ www.housegrail.com/flood-statistics-aus/ (08-03-2023)

⁵⁸ www.u.osu.edu/vanzandt/2019/04/18/the-governments-hidden-agenda-a-look-inside-chemtrails/ (08-03-2023)

⁵⁹

<https://www.technologyreview.com/2022/03/28/1048275/scientists-advance-cloud-seeding-capabilities-with-nanotechnology/> (08-03-2023)

⁶⁰ www.strangesounds.org/2021/04/grand-solar-minimum-cycle-duration.html (08-03-2023)

back and live with the danger – or wait until 2070 !!

Another deflection type denial is the one that says that carbon dioxide doesn't cause global warming at all, and that in fact, more carbon is needed to feed plant life.⁶¹ Patently, those who claim this are confusing the carbon dioxide which is part of an environmental cycle, and the carbon dioxide produced by the burning of fossil fuels for energy, particularly coal, oil (as petrol or diesel) and gas. The carbon dioxide that humans and animals breathe out is transformed into oxygen and energy in the form of sugar by plants and trees through the process of photosynthesis.⁶² This carbon can be absorbed by vegetation easily as humans and animals are themselves part of the natural environment.

However, the carbon produced by machines burning fossil fuels is plainly not part of any natural cycle – and this is what is being pumped into the atmosphere with no offset. Today, industrialisation means that some 50 billion tonnes of carbon are emitted *each year*, which is 40% higher than what was the case in 1990, at 35 billion tonnes.⁶³ When scientists first became aware of the carbon which was being released into the atmosphere via industrial activity – over 100 years ago – many assumed that the oceans would simply absorb the excess. Later, it was discovered that the oceans only absorb about 30% of atmospheric carbon dioxide, and this obviously leaves about 70% which cannot be absorbed. Excessive carbon in the atmosphere dissolves into seawater, but with the end result of acidification, which has a drastic effect on sea life. The consumption of carbonate ions impedes calcification,⁶⁴ which means that shelled animals

(shrimp, crabs, lobsters, oysters, snails etc.) cannot grow their shells. The dire effect on the entire marine ecosystem is plain to envisage. Climate denialists offer no solutions to problems such as these, or the plethora of other misfortunes greenhouse gas emissions fuel.



Above: The top 20 corporations which emit the most carbon, contained in an infographic. These are all oil and gas companies, and the burning of these fossil fuels is not contained within any ecological cycle, so the environment is overloaded and cannot absorb the sheer volume of emissions. www.visualcapitalist.com

Alt media

It is not just carbon on its own, when released in a non-natural cycle, which is the problem. Carbon dioxide is the main greenhouse gas, but there are around 10 others, including nitrous oxide – which is mainly sourced from chemical fertilisers used for large scale agriculture.⁶⁵ Climate denialists are scarcely able to meaningfully engage with such information. A number of alternative media organisations and websites, who provide a vitally important counter to the corporate media on a range of issues, unfortunately put blinkers on when it comes to climate change. The UK based

⁶¹ www.usnews.com/news/blogs/washington-whispers/2009/10/07/scientist-carbon-dioxide-doesnt-cause-global-warming (08-03-2023)

⁶²

www.education.nationalgeographic.org/resource/photosynthesis/ (08-03-2023)

⁶³ www.ourworldindata.org/greenhouse-gas-emissions (08-03-2023)

⁶⁴ www.noaa.gov/education/resource-collections/ocean-coasts/ocean-acidification (08-03-2023)

⁶⁵ www.byjus.com/biology/list-of-greenhouse-gases/ (11-03-2023)

Off-Guardian, for example, was more or less founded as a much needed alternative to the ruling class propaganda for its war of regime change against Syria from 2011. Later, to their credit, they correctly identified Covid hysteria as being a cover for a different political agenda entirely, and exposed it mercilessly. They don't openly state that "climate change is a hoax", but strongly suggest that climate change is just another set of false ideas used to instil fear in the population.⁶⁶

The *Global Research* website, which is solidly anti-war and anti-imperialist, also exposed the unprecedented Covid corporate media barrage as having virtually no scientific validity whatever. They don't appear to have a unilateral editorial line, and often publish articles from both sides of an issue. However, they have highlighted a number of pieces which explicitly deny any climate emergency at all.⁶⁷ Similarly, the Signs of the Times (SOTT) website has provided a sterling service in ridiculing and condemning the extraordinary political repression meted out by many states throughout the world under the rubric of "Covid". They see straight through anti-Russia propaganda, and are generally objective about anti-China narratives also. At the same time, they are explicitly denialist when it comes to the smallest suggestion that the climate distortion might present an issue which could mean significant problems in food production, housing and other vital parts of civilisation.⁶⁸

These alt media platforms and "left-wing" climate denialists generally make the error of conflating junk Covid "science" with elementary climate science, which has been known for more than 100

years. The "science" of Covid was certainly corrupted⁶⁹ and distorted beyond recognition. The reasons for this should be apparent, in that it was necessary to provide a political cover for the fascistic removal of elementary democratic rights to enable partial economic destruction for 2 to 3 years. Capitalist ruling classes can only attack the working class and the oppressed when they enter a crisis. "Covid-19" was the false guise under which this brutal assault took place. The ruling bureaucracy in the People's Republic of China also took such measures (apart from vaccine mandates), which was utterly unnecessary, but provided some political cover for the treacherous Stalinist government caste.

Climate distortion movement hijacked

The global ruling classes cannot simply invent a storyline about climate change overnight, as they did with Covid. This is because scientific awareness of the dire effects of carbon and other greenhouse gases on the climate has been accumulating for more than a century. The elite have used other tactics to direct the working masses away from the root source of the problem – private capitalist ownership of the means of production. One of the first attempts to divert people away from climactic problems is the buying off and corporate co-optation of the environmental movement itself. Given that the environmental movement is classless – both billionaire fossil fuel company owners and low-income employees can agree on "save the planet" – this is relatively easy to do. The *Wrong Kind of Green* website has expertly exposed how "Big Green" NGOs such as 350.org has absolved capitalism of any responsibility for climate dangers.⁷⁰ Alt-left climate denialists are

⁶⁶ www.off-guardian.org/2021/08/16/the-ipcc-report-the-pivot-from-covid-to-climate/ (11-03-2023)

⁶⁷ www.globalresearch.ca/1500-scientists-say-there-no-climate-emergency-real-environment-movement-hijacked/5809791 (11-3-2023)

⁶⁸ www.sott.net/article/477995-New-scientific-evidence-suggests-temperatures-have-been-stable-in-Greenland-for-60-years-save-for-a-sudden-1C-jump-in-1994 (11-03-2023)

⁶⁹ www.redfireonline.com/2020/06/06/covid-19-the-corruption-of-science/ (11-03-2023)

⁷⁰ www.wrongkindofgreen.org/the-group-of-ten/ (11-03-2023)

correct to reject the Greta Thunberg phenomenon, which likely has huge corporate backing. Greta may be correct to highlight the problem of the climate, but given her anti-Russia and anti-China politics, it is a sinch for big capital to purchase her for their own uses.⁷¹

Climate denialism is unfortunately boosted by the desperately misguided politics and tactics of the Extinction Rebellion (XR), which burst onto the scene in 2019. XR was bourgeois philosophy turned inside out,⁷² born of demoralisation with the endless and failed attempts to politely lobby politicians and governments to take climate action.⁷³ The disruption *tactics* of XR, such as blocking traffic, had the effect of turning working class people away from a cause they may well otherwise support – measures to protect the natural environment. Many were so repelled from these actions, which often had the effect of blockading ordinary people rather than corporations or governments, that they probably gave up on the idea of even recognising environmental problems themselves. Most working people will understand a protest marching through traffic on its way to a destination. But it is another thing entirely to deliberately block and prevent people from going about their daily business, getting to and from work, collecting children from school and so on. To do this understandably invites fury, rather than a rethinking of a political issue. Arguably, XR's deliberate disruption actions had the opposite effect of their intention, as it may well have *created* more climate denialists.

For socialism

Climate denialists throw the baby out with the bathwater. It is healthy to reject the ruing elite

when they talk of Covid as a rationalisation for vaccine mandates, facemasks and lockdowns. However, it is distinctly unhealthy, and unintentionally right-wing, to reject climate science altogether. The politicians lied about Covid, but in relation to climate change they lie about *what should be done*. They can pretend they care about the climate while doing nothing, or doing the opposite. This does not mean that pollution – for this is really what climate change is about – is not a serious problem which needs to be addressed urgently. Granted, climate *alarmism* may not be helpful. Yet dangerous weather events are here, they are causing damage and taking lives, and they are getting worse.

Climate collapse is itself perhaps the strongest argument for socialism. The major means of production on a worldwide scaled need to be publicly owned, and held in trust by the working class, to really make inroads to a planned transition to zero carbon energy, let alone the myriad of accompanying environmental crises. While actions to protest environmental destruction remain important today, ultimately the billionaire corporate class must be expropriated if we are to have a chance at a future. The real urgency is the building of Marxist vanguard parties to help lead the working class to power.



⁷¹ www.globalcitizen.org/en/content/greta-thunberg-climate-action-three-years-movement/ (11-03-2023)

⁷² www.redfireonline.com/2019/10/07/xr-the-faux-rebellion/ (11-03-2023)

⁷³

www.theguardian.com/environment/2022/apr/09/extinct-on-rebellion-xr-climate-protesters-march-london-hyde-park (11-03-2023)

The Struggle Against Multiple Theatres of War



www.reddit.com

(Article sourced from www.redfireonline.com)

28-01-2023: The world is at war. There is one war being waged, in multiple theatres. Imperialism is waging a war for regime change against Russia and China primarily, but also against any and all governments that may not toe the line of Washington and London, or may even be on board with the agenda of the “Great Reset”. Included in this agenda is the Covid war, which is not being overtly waged, but could be rolled out the next time the ruling classes of the West feel able to do so. However, according to Davey Heller, of the purportedly Marxist Class Conscious (CC) organisation, there are only two theatres of war being waged – that of imperialism against Russia and China. Launching Anti-War Victoria in

Melbourne on January 17, Mr Heller gave a speech which outlines some of the difficulties with building an anti-war movement in these times. Yet the positions of Class Conscious in themselves reflect the pressure of imperialism on the working classes of the West.

Redirect money to “fight Covid-19” ?

We will allow Mr Heller some leeway, given that an agitational speech at a picket outside a US consulate necessarily involves some rhetorical flair. Yet some of the content of this speech needs to be debated, to say the least. CC states that we must fight to end the US Alliance and all of its treaties, including ANZUS and AUKUS. We must fight to kick out all of the US bases from Australia, including the Pine Gap spy base and especially the

stationing of nuclear armed B52 bombers⁷⁴ in the Northern Territory (NT). We can only agree, with the proviso that even if US forces were expelled, short of a revolution which brings the working class to power, the Australian armed forces would still be used to prosecute US imperialist wars. But then comes the clincher. CC claim that the plan to waste hundreds of billions of dollars on military hardware should instead be "...redirected to avoiding ecocide in the form of accelerating climate chaos. It must be spent on health including *fighting the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic*, (!!!) housing and education."⁷⁵

This is a jaw-dropping howler. CC would of course disagree, but the "Covid-19 pandemic" was "the biggest lie in history".⁷⁶ Whether or not the SARS-CoV-2 virus exists, Covid was and is a propagandistic cover for perhaps the largest ever assault on the working-class in history. Mr Heller is based in Melbourne, where the world's longest and arguably worst lockdowns were imposed. The brutal repression against anti-lockdown protestors – including being fired upon with rubber bullets⁷⁷ - seemingly had no effect on the "revolutionary" CC. According to them, the lockdowns were only "public health measures" ! Yet in Sydney, these "public health measures" were enforced by the Australian Army.⁷⁸ In 2019, if anyone told you that self-proclaimed socialists would be assisting and even encouraging the police and the military of a capitalist state to suppress working people protesting for the most elementary of democratic and civil rights, you probably would have replied that this was impossible. Yet this occurred, and much worse

besides. The "lockdown left"⁷⁹ not only capitulated to corporate media narratives on Covid, they *joined forces* with the most repressive arms of the capitalist state. Class Conscious perhaps means class consciousness for the ruling class, not the working class!

It is likely that CC also deny one of the worst outcomes of Covid repression – the undeniably large numbers of vaccine injuries and deaths as a result of mRNA vaccine mandates, i.e. take an untested series of injections, or lose your employment. The mind boggles as to how CC do not view this as an attack on the working class. Some politicians who are the last people on earth to be socialists are even raising questions as to why there is an incredibly high 17% excess mortality rate⁸⁰ in Australia since the rollout of the virtually forced Covid shots. The ruling class, it seems, took advantage of an environment of political repression to casually eliminate sections of the population which would, sooner or later, rise up against them. Talk about a pre-emptive strike! Yet CC, and the rest of the lockdown left, cannot or will not see what might unravel their Covid mania.

Imperialist war and "fascism"

CC state that "the fight against imperialist war and fascism is connected."⁸¹ We can only agree. Yet wasn't the inordinate repression combined with unmistakably totalitarian ideology under the rubric of Covid also a form of fascism? When a supposedly liberal democratic state bans protest, bans free speech, bans movement in many cases, bans travel, operates concentration camps, bans

⁷⁴ www.classconscious.org/2023/01/18/speech-by-davey-heller-at-anti-war-victoria-vigil-outside-us-consulate-in-melbourne/ (25-01-2023)

⁷⁵ Ibid, 1.

⁷⁶ www.globalresearch.ca/biggest-lie-in-world-history-the-data-base-is-flawed-there-never-was-a-pandemic-the-covid-mandates-including-the-vaccine-are-invalid/5772008 (25-01-2023)

⁷⁷ www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2021/sep/21/victoria-covid-update-melbourne-

descends-into-chaos-as-police-fire-rubber-pellets-at-anti-lockdown-protestors (25-01-2023)

⁷⁸ www.abc.net.au/news/2021-07-30/adf-soldiers-to-arrive-in-sydney-covid19-lockdown/100336124 (25-01-2023)

⁷⁹ www.redfireonline.com/2021/11/11/australian-totalitarianism-the-yield-of-left-betrayal/ (25-01-2023)

⁸⁰ www.vaccinedeaths.com/2022-12-14-vaccinated-australia-baffled-high-excess-death-rate.html (25-01-2023)

⁸¹ Ibid, 1.

sections of the population from public venues, closes state and national borders etc. - is this not fascism? Is this not a war by the ruling class against those below them? Not according to CC and the lockdown left. This is for “public health” and those that question this are “right-wing”. Perhaps CC and the lockdown left need to look in the mirror to find such souls.



Above: Two Australian Defence Force (ADF) soldiers during exercises in Afghanistan in 2019. Now ADF soldiers are being used to train Nazi infested Ukrainian soldiers to fight a proxy war on behalf of NATO against Russia. If the “left” advises workers to follow the politicians and the government on “Covid” lockdowns, injection mandates, border closures and much else, how can they then ask them to oppose the war moves of the very same people? www.reddit.com

CC also state that “..the war in Ukraine has been used by the (Labor Party Prime Minister) Albanese government to make Australia a de-facto member of NATO.”⁸² We can only agree – but how can workers oppose the Albanese government on NATO’s proxy war on Russia via Ukraine – but strongly support the Albanese government on vaccine mandates and lockdowns, i.e., the war at home? If a capitalist government is trying to protect the health and welfare of the working class

on Covid, how can we then ask workers to oppose this government when it goes to war with Washington overseas? While it is the case that the left needs to build towards such a time as there is a wave of support which can potentially produce a revolution, anything approaching revolution will NEVER occur while the “socialists” urge workers to support “their own” politicians on “public health” !!

CC are very loose when flinging around the accusation of “fascism”. They claim that the link between imperialism and fascism is demonstrated by the case of the Philippines, where the US and Australian governments have armed and supposedly supported the “fascist” forces in the Philippines military and government.⁸³ They were joined at this picket by the Bayan Australia group, which, like all *liberal* opposition in the Filipino expat community, claim that the former President of the Philippines (Rodrigo Duterte) was a “fascist”, and by extension, the new government of President Ferdinand “Bongbong” Marcos Jr and Vice President Sara Duterte-Carpio are likewise.⁸⁴ This is news to the four out of five Filipinos who strongly backed Rodrigo Duterte during his six year term, who was clearly seen as one of the masses and one who defended Filipino sovereignty internationally. In fact, Rodrigo Duterte resolutely stood *against war with China*, and *resisted pressure from the liberal opposition*, bizarrely, to go to war with China.⁸⁵ So, if today, CC and Bayan Australia are demonstrating against war with China – this would make them “fascists” along with former President Duterte!

Unfortunately, CC hurl yet more accusations of “fascism”. Mr Heller acknowledges that there were national rallies against NATO’s war on Russia, but says that it was “sad” that they were “organised by an Australian fascist The Aussie

⁸² Ibid, 1.

⁸³ Ibid.1.

⁸⁴ www.facebook.com/watch/?v=380300374136685 (25-01-2023)

⁸⁵ www.redfireonline.com/2019/05/29/philippines-liberals-cry-foul-after-crushing-defeat/ (25-01-2023)

Cossack.”⁸⁶ This takes the cake. The Aussie Cossack has a significant following, with 161 000 followers of his YouTube channel, most of whom are based in Australia.⁸⁷ Also known as Simeon Boikov, the Aussie Cossack was one figure who led opposition to Australian involvement in the war on Syria, and now NATO’s proxy war on Russia via Ukraine. He also was prominent in opposing tyrannical Covid lockdowns and vaccine mandates – but this was “right-wing” according to CC. It is true that many socialists do not agree with the Aussie Cossack on other issues such as the economic and political nature of the People’s Republic of China. Nevertheless, both CC and the Aussie Cossack oppose NATO’s proxy war on Russia and Australian government involvement in backing Nazi infested forces in Ukraine. And yet, CC is not fascist, but the Aussie Cossack is? Again, CC should take a long look in a long mirror before they throw stones.

Oppose war on Russia, China..and the Covid war

Mr Heller correctly states that the Australian capitalist class also “supports US imperialism as the major force globally that works to suppress any efforts to create workers states. The fight against the DPRK, Vietnam and the People’s Republic of China are all part of the never ending fight by the imperialist countries against the striving of the masses for Communism”.⁸⁸ We can only agree. The DPRK (“North Korea”), the SRV (Socialist Republic of Vietnam) and the People’s Republic of China (PRC) must be defended against internal and external counter-revolution – with external counter-revolution a very likely consequence of an imperialist war. However, genuine Trotskyists never forget to add that we offer zero political support to the Stalinist political leaderships of such states, viz., the Workers Party

of Korea (WPK), the Communist Party of Vietnam (CPV), nor the Communist Party of China (CPC).

This applies at all times – but especially in the era of the Covid wars. Despite swearing by revolutionary Trotskyism, CC in practice had the same position as the ultra-Stalinist bureaucracies in the DPRK, Vietnam and China, i.e., they all capitulated to imperialism on Covid repression. As the CPC was in possession of state power in the worlds largest country population wise, their Covid repression was awful – including welding shut the doors of houses during lockdowns!⁸⁹ It is significant though, that the CPC was never able to enforce vaccine mandates. The WPK admittedly went rather light on Covid repression, “only” applying facemask mandates and some lockdowns much later than China.⁹⁰ In Vietnam, the CPV locked down whole cities for three months at a time, imposed “social distancing” and rolled out Covid vaccines as widely as they could.⁹¹ In other words, the Stalinists betrayed “their own” workers in the worst way by genuflecting before Covid nonsense, fuelling non-scientific myths about what may have only been a cold or flu. This betrayal emboldened the governments of the imperialist West to lockdown harder against “their” working classes, shredding basic civil liberties and elementary freedoms in the process. In many cases, for lack of an alternative on the left, this also drove offended workers into the right-wing camp.

The Stalinists in the DPRK, Vietnam and China knew very well what they were doing – help prop up imperialism in order to promote and sustain the class treachery of “peaceful coexistence”. By falling into line behind the imperialist fraud of Covid-19, the Stalinists were policing “their own” workers while politically schooling them in the

⁸⁶ Ibid,1.

⁸⁷ www.youtube.com/@AussieCossack (25-01-2023)

⁸⁸ Ibid,1.

⁸⁹ www.ntd.com/residents-in-china-scold-authorities-for-welding-doors-shut_762555.html (25-01-2023)

⁹⁰ www.redfireonline.com/2022/05/22/dprk-fuels-covid-storyline/ (26-01-2023)

⁹¹ www.aljazeera.com/news/2021/9/30/vietnam-to-end-covid-lockdown-in-ho-chi-minh-city (26-01-2023)

anti-Marxist dogma of “socialism in one country”. A genuinely Leninist leadership would have rejected “the Great Reset” and “the New Normal” narratives as the products of a declining and decadent Western capitalism, and even built solidarity with the then burgeoning freedom movements in Europe, the USA, Australia and New Zealand. As Stalinism is a negation of Marxism, however, the opposite occurred. Mr Heller and CC, on the other hand, bought bucket loads of shares in the Covid deception, and seemingly advised the millions of workers thrown out of their jobs that this was an unfortunate consequence of a “deadly virus” !! While the Stalinists knew how to pull off a Covid subterfuge, CC swallowed the imperialist Covid propaganda whole.

CC are correct to state that the imperialist war against Russia and China are two different theatres of the same war. They are also correct to criticise the entirely one-sided and therefore small Australian anti-war movement which ONLY says “No War on China, No to AUKUS” – while remaining silent or even supporting NATO’s proxy war on Russia via Ukraine. This much we agree on. US and EU (European Union) led imperialism is gunning for regime change in Russia now, as a warm up for regime change in China later. Of course, any attempt at either of these means a global nuclear war, which working people must work hard to prevent. Ultimately, this can only be achieved by the sweeping away of the imperialist states through proletarian socialist revolutions. This appears to be far away currently, and building anti-war movements now are a priority. Yet the solution is revolution.

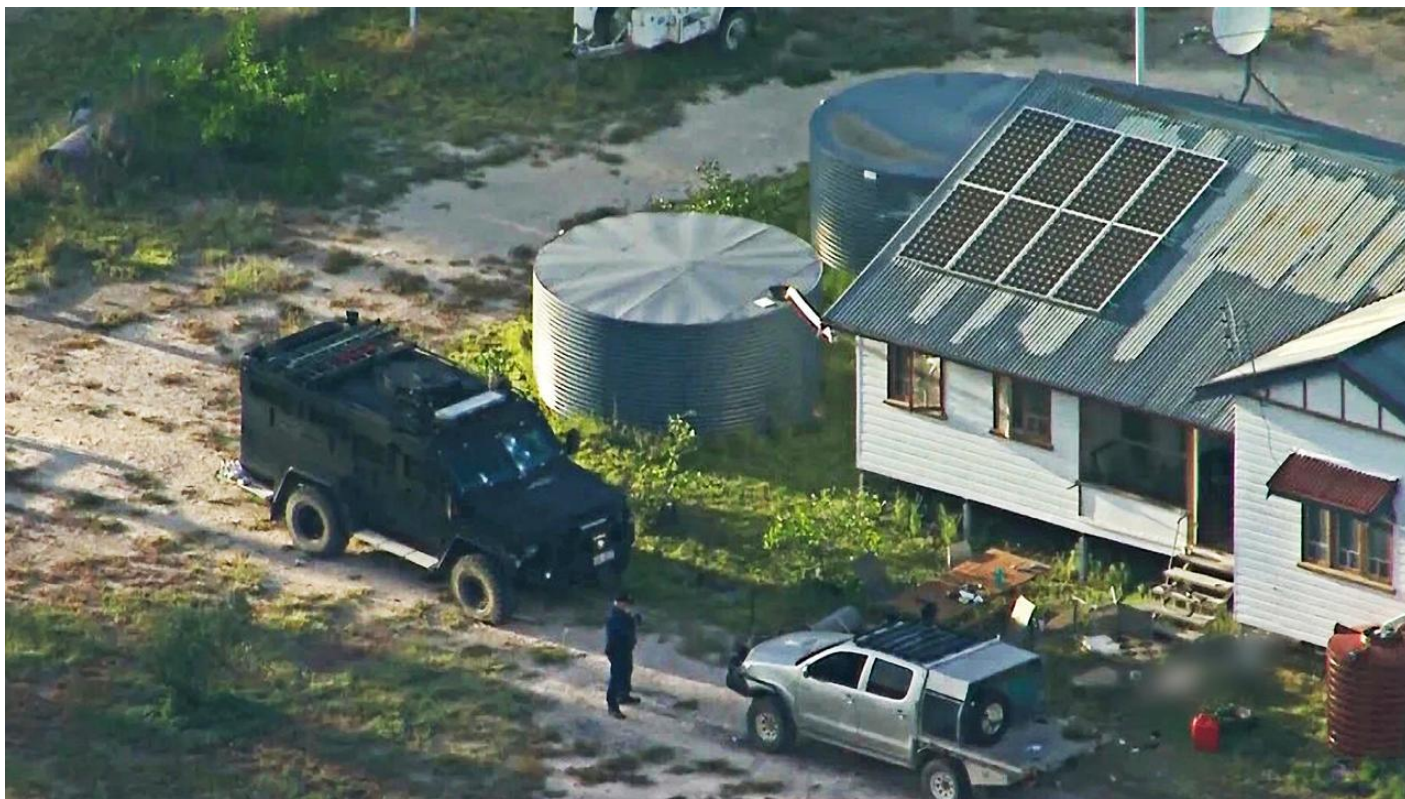
CC certainly agree with this, and would also agree that the forging of Marxist vanguard parties is the vital first step. Yet ironically, working class consciousness is impossible if socialists urge workers to *work with* the agents of capitalism (the Labor Party, the Liberal Party, the Greens, the

politicians, old Trade Union officials, the Covid left, most academics and middle-class professionals etc.) on “public health” (!!), instead of *against* these very same forces on imperialist war. Covid is the class line. CC and the Covid left crossed this line, but then ask workers to forget all of this and fight against imperialist war. While we can forgive rank and file workers for some confusion, we expect better from “Marxists” who aspire to lead the working class towards the overthrow of capitalism.

If a capitalist and/or imperialist state is primarily concerned with saving the lives of workers – then not only is no class struggle conceivable, but nothing left-wing and indeed nothing political is possible. If the wealthiest corporations on earth can fire workers for refusing a dangerous vaccine – then the working class has no rights whatever. We are prepared to work against the West’s imperialist war on Russia and China with all those aiming to do so. At the same time, we seek to merge the remnants of the freedom movement with what we hope will be an anti-war upsurge, as part of an effort to unite the working class against domestic and international wars, and for their own international revolution.



WIEAMBILLA SHOOTINGS: TRAGIC INCIDENT OR FALSE FLAG?



Above: The Trains' house at Wieambilla after the siege, with armoured police vehicle outside. www.news.com.au

(Article sourced from www.redfireonline.com)

20-12-2022: By accident or by design, rural Western Queensland has become a scene of what is reported by the mainstream media (MSM) to be an execution of police officers going about their daily duties. Their version of events is that Constables Matthew Arnold (26) and Rachel McCrow (29) were shot dead as they walked up the driveway of a property in Wieambilla, near Tara, approximately 300 kilometres West of Brisbane. Neighbour Alan Dare (58) was apparently shot in the back as he came to

investigate the noise. Two other constables attending the scene managed to escape with their lives. 15 police officers allegedly later stormed the house where the purported perpetrators lived and shot them dead in a hail of bullets. The three people were Nathaniel Train (46), the missing person the police were stated to have been seeking, his brother Gareth Train (47), and Gareth's wife Stacey Train (45) who co-owned the property.⁹² Yet this explanation has more holes than a block of Swiss cheese.

A Queensland Psy-Op ?

⁹² www.news.yahoo.com/wieambilla-six-dead-shooting-remote-004710983.html (18-12-2022)

The MSM reporting of this incident raises instant suspicion. Firstly, it is extremely unlikely that *four* police constables approached a house when they were supposedly only following up on a missing persons report. One, or perhaps two police officers is believable – but four, in the one vehicle? A missing persons report supposedly had been filed for Nathaniel, so one could assume that the officers would simply approach Gareth and Stacey at the home and ask if they have seen Nathaniel recently. Secondly, it is even more unlikely that these three people simply opened fire or “executed” the police as they approached the house. Even hardened criminals on the run are extremely unlikely to ambush police unless they themselves want to die.⁹³ Thirdly, video footage of the house where this incident supposedly took place was aired multiple times, yet no bullet holes and no broken windows could be seen.⁹⁴ No visible damage to the house where a deadly shootout with a “hail of bullets” took place?

There are many more questions about what actually happened that need to be answered. This may have been a tragic incident which included loss of life. Yet the finger pointing which the MSM immediately engaged in raises the possibility that some kind of event may have been staged for nefarious political goals. The MSM promptly labelled the Trains as “conspiracy theorists” and “anti-vaxers”, and attempted to slur the anti-lockdown, anti-vaccine mandate freedom movement as dangerous nutters who can become violent. Yet it was not only the millions of civilians in Australia who steadfastly resisted Covid vaccine mandates – some in the Queensland Police force did also. In the Queensland Police, the Covid vaccine mandates for officers were finally

withdrawn on December 12 – the day of the Wieambilla shooting incident. Until that day, police officers in Queensland were mandated for *four* Covid vaccination shots.⁹⁵ Was the Wiembilla shoot out set up to drive home the message to recalcitrant police that the freedom movement was still dangerous? It is certainly possible that the shoot out was contrived to manufacture and sustain pro “pandemic” propaganda.

Tara “blockies”

The MSM is now also attempting to slur residents of nearby Tara as being potentially suspect for living “alternative lifestyles” – as if this is a crime – and thus being susceptible to taking on “conspiracy theories”. Tara “blockies” are those who purchase often cheap subdivided blocks of land, which may or may not be connected to water and electricity services, to build a house and/or live a life away from the hectic cities. Indeed, the horrifying repression of Covid lockdowns over the last three years has pushed some to move away from urban areas in an attempt to escape a return of state-imposed lockdowns and the nightmarish vaccine mandates. Certainly some in Tara were a part of the freedom movement – but given the depth and size of the freedom movement, there are supporters of this movement in every town and locality. The federal member of parliament for the seat of Warrego Ann Leahy tried to dissociate Tara from being a “conspiracy zone” when she claimed that there “were no freedom rallies here”.⁹⁶ The clear inference is that questioning the government on Covid, on lockdowns, on vaccine mandates is crazy, irrational and stands outside the Overton Window of acceptable debate.

⁹³ www.bitchute.com/video/7pq7krolg4ZP/ (18-12-2022)

⁹⁴ www.abc.net.au/news/2022-12-13/wieambilla-shooting-explainer-six-people-shot-dead/101764286 (18-12-2022)

⁹⁵

www.facebook.com/photo.php?fbid=10162113024939638&set=p.10162113024939638&type=3 (18-12-2022)

⁹⁶ www.abc.net.au/news/2022-12-17/inside-tara-queensland-shooting-nathaniel-stacey-gareth-train/101776306 (18-12-2022)

Yet it appears that the town of Tara was beset by splits and bitterness during the time of Covid lockdowns – the same as virtually every town in Australia and the Western world. Even The Guardian reported comments which indicated that the pub and the bowls club in Tara were not allowing local residents into their establishments if they were not vaccinated.⁹⁷ Covid repression changed Tara, as some moved there, or fled there, to avoid ongoing lockdowns. Again, the strong implication from the MSM is that ANY questioning of Covid, ANY lack of trust in politicians, ANY thought that those in authority might be corrupt or out to harm people – is the product of “going down a rabbit hole”, isolation (which is drastically increased by lockdowns!), baseless and unsound. They are driving home ideology which says that everyone must accept what the government and the media are telling them without question, and that the police – despite enforcing brutal lockdowns – are simply doing their job.

The MSM attempts to paint Stacey Train as “weird” for simply refusing to accept a Covid vaccine mandate, and for resigning as a teacher instead.⁹⁸ Yet she was hardly in a small minority, as thousands of teachers in Queensland bravely resisted Covid vaccine mandates, in one way or another. The MSM media claims that Gareth Train posted “anti-government” and “anti-vaccination” material online⁹⁹ - along with millions of others! They claim that the Train’s refusal to accept Covid vaccinations is part of a “twisted back story” of their recent history¹⁰⁰ - which would make anyone objecting to being forcefully injected by the state with an untested formula “twisted”. Whatever

happened at Wieambilla on December 12, the Trains were certainly not alone in questioning the nonsensical Covid narrative. In fact, the largest movement in Western political history which emerged challenged it head on.



Above: Photo of (from left to right) Gareth, Stacey and Nathaniel Train, and (inset) two police officers who allegedly lost their lives in an incident at Wieambilla in December 2022. www.dailymail.co.uk

“Far-right extremism”

In August 2021, Nathaniel Train apparently had a heart attack at work, and was lucky to survive.¹⁰¹ After this he reportedly became disillusioned with the NSW Education Department and did not return to work after this point. Given the number of heart attacks linked to the rollout of the Covid vaccines, did Mr Train take a Covid vaccine as part of a mandate, suffer a cardiac arrest – and then joined the dots from there? We may never know. Yet the character assassination of the MSM continued, and even claimed that Mr Train “breached” state borders when they were locked

⁹⁷ www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2022/dec/13/wieambilla-shooting-the-draw-of-the-blocks-where-a-wave-of-arrivals-has-landed-since-the-pandemic (18-12-2022)

⁹⁸ www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2022/dec/14/god-and-guns-the-strict-religious-upbringing-of-the-wieambilla-shooters (18-12-2022)

⁹⁹ https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GUPS_cZ8bMU (18-12-2022)

¹⁰⁰ www.msn.com/en-au/news/australia/gareth-nathaniel-and-stacey-train-carried-out-a-deadly-police-shooting-their-twisted-backstory-is-revealed/ar-AA15ht6H (18-12-2022)

¹⁰¹ www.amp.brisbanetimes.com.au/national/queensland/as-a-principal-he-was-feted-for-his-success-now-he-s-linked-to-two-police-killings-20221213-p5c601.html (19-12-2022)

down due to “Covid”.¹⁰² This takes the cake. National and state border Covid closures were obviously not based on one whit of science but was rather an attempt to deliberately shut down economic activity and throw sections of the working class – and some small businesses – out of work. It is hardly a crime to “breach” utterly nonsensical, openly contradictory and arbitrary rules imposed with the flimsy excuse of Covid.

The Daily Mail went on to claim that Gareth and Stacey Train posted a Youtube video where they claimed to have shot the police that came for them, slandering them as “doomsday prepper cop killers”.¹⁰³ Conveniently, they state that the video has since been deleted – meaning no one can verify it. Channel 7 made a verbal claim that after the incident, police found tunnels and foxholes on the property, complete with an underground living quarters dug into the earth.¹⁰⁴ Unsurprisingly, no photographic or video evidence was provided, and the public is perhaps just expected to swallow this claim, as with the others. Other slurs were hurled at them, such as the claim that they were a “trio of loners”. Yet this term may then also apply to thousands of other residents in rural and regional Australia, who live in remote properties with the nearest neighbour located kilometres away.

Yet the most sinister invective weighed against the Trains – and by extension the entirety of the anti-lockdown, anti-vaccine mandate freedom movement – is the tendentious claim that the Wieambilla shootings highlight the supposed threat of “far-right extremism” even as lockdowns and vaccine mandates fade into the background. Last month, Australian Security Intelligence Organisation (ASIO – the internal political police)

Director General Mike Burgess was quoted as stating that while the threat of so-called Islamic terrorism had declined, there had been an increase in extremism fuelled by “diverse grievances, conspiracy theories and anti-authority ideologies”.¹⁰⁵ One can easily see how broadly this interpretation could be applied. In this context, this is an indirect reference to the freedom movement, which grew to enormous and history making size from 2020 to the early part of 2022.

When any protest against capitalist state repression, under a false pretext of “health” or otherwise, is officially labelled as a “conspiracy theory” or “anti-authority” or “far-right”, we have achieved an upside-down world. Only in the heads of the treacherous so-called left can a protest movement against the abolition of the most elementary of civil and democratic rights be depicted as “far-right extremism”. As if on cue, the Australian government went even further and started murmuring about the need to change terrorism laws.¹⁰⁶ The slippery slope is here illuminated. Beginning with concerns about fundamental democratic rights being eroded, protestors against being confined to effective house arrest on spurious medical grounds, vaccine mandates, facemask mandates, or mind-boggling restrictions on the freedom of movement – are derided as “conspiracy theorists”, who hold “anti-authority” beliefs, which flows into “far-right extremism” which is a form of “terrorism”. Voila! The exercise of bourgeois democratic rights – which first began to be won with the French Revolution of 1789 – are soon to be criminalised as “terrorism”. This cannot be allowed to stand.

Liberalism is the new danger

¹⁰² www.abc.net.au/news/2022-12-17/qld-police-shooting-nathaniel-train-rammed-border-dumped-guns/101783696 (19-12-2022)

¹⁰³ www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-11544167/YouTube-video-emerges-Gareth-Train-Wieambilla-shooting-Mrs-Gugi-Girawil.html (19-12-2022)

¹⁰⁴ www.youtube.com/watch?v=PEP3xOsi1x0 (19-12-2022)

¹⁰⁵ www.smh.com.au/politics/federal/wieambilla-killings-a-chilling-reminder-of-far-right-threat-in-australia-20221214-p5c6ac.html (19-12-2022)

¹⁰⁶ www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2022/dec/15/queensland-shooting-political-leaders-express-concern-over-potential-role-of-rightwing-extremism-in-deaths (19-12-2022)

Six people may have lost their lives in Wieambilla on December 12 in violent circumstances. Or, it may have been a contrived false flag set up to alibi the actions of the authorities during the times of Covid repression. The gaping holes in the official version of the story retailed by the corporate media tends to indicate the latter. Whatever the case, it can scarcely be denied that it is being used by the government and all of their hangers-on to attempt to totally and forever discredit the very notion of working people defending the most rudimentary civil rights. Democratic entitlements, freedom of speech, freedom of assembly, freedom of movement, bodily autonomy, the right to legal redress – all of these and more must now be subordinated to the needs of the state. Or at least, such are the current tenets of liberalism, the ideology and politics of both the Covid and post-Covid world.

The crisis of imperialist capitalism is such that it can no longer allow working people the political rights it had won over the previous centuries. Nor can it guarantee jobs, housing, healthcare, education and a decent standard of living – if it ever did. This is one reason liberal reforms are, for the most part, now unable to be conceded even if fought for. Those wedded to the many forms of liberalism are convinced of its essentially progressive nature and cannot contemplate that it could ever be used for conservative, right-wing or fascist ends. Yet it has done, and is doing so now, by upholding the pillars of the liberal world order, a.k.a, the Great Reset or the New Normal. It is not a “conspiracy theory” if the government – through themselves or their agents – are carrying it out.

The ruling class can get away with employing liberalism as the new ideology and practice of

totalitarianism principally due to the abject betrayal of working people by the old Union officials and the Covid left.¹⁰⁷ In a classic case of projection, the Covid left and the entire liberal milieu (the Labor Party, the Greens, the old Union officials, the self-described “socialist” parties, civil society NGOs etc., hurled accusations of “fascism” against the freedom movement – while they themselves defended the entirety of a rapidly degenerating plutocracy which did not hesitate to use fascist measures to preserve the *ancien regime*.

What is urgently required is the building of a real left, a genuine workers party, which forever breaks with all traces of liberalism and its fake pandemics, false flags, lockdowns and other forms of totalitarianism. Capitalism produces its own gravedigger – the multi-racial and multi-ethnic proletariat, which has no interest in maintaining any form of exploitation. Guided by its vanguard party, the working class has the potential to end the tyranny of finance capital through its very own revolution.



Above: Media infographic of the Wieambilla shootings. This version of events should be taken with a large grain of salt, as it was fed to the mainstream media for mass consumption. www.shstrendz.com

¹⁰⁷ www.redfireonline.com/2022/02/17/the-straw-man-fascism-in-the-freedom-movement/ (19-12-2022)

PERU: RIGHT WING OR LEFT WING COUP?



www.english.almayadeen.net

(Article sourced from www.redfireonline.com)

15-01-2023: Coups, protests, riots, regime change operations and colour revolutions all seem to merge into one in recent times. If one was to follow the Western corporate media, it would indeed be difficult to tell one from the other. The current situation in Peru is a case in point. Much of the liberal Western media would have us believe that left-wing President Pedro Castillo was thrown out of office by a right-wing Congress, and the remaining government cracked down on defenders of the elected government with little justification. Yet the labels left-wing and right-wing no longer mean what they meant in the 20th century. Especially since the civil war launched by the ruling classes of the West under the guise of a “Covid pandemic”, the political forces of liberalism

are carrying out some of the worst acts of violence and terror which in decades past was the preserve of ultra-conservative right.

Electoral fraud

The base reason for the unrest in Peru today stems from the 2021 election, which “elected” Pedro Castillo of the Free Peru party by the slimmest of margins. The contested results claimed that Castillo received 50.125% of the votes while Keiko Fujimori of the Popular Force party received 49.875%.¹⁰⁸ In response, Keiko Fujimori and the Popular Force party repeatedly put forward audio and video evidence alleging many instances of fraudulent election practices which favoured Free Peru. In one case, a representative of Free Peru was interviewed for allegedly marking 67 ballots

¹⁰⁸ www.indianexpress.com/article/world/peru-castillo-claims-election-win-fujimori-fights-result-7361076/ (10-01-2023)

with the symbol of his party¹⁰⁹ during the second round of elections in June. Fujimori claimed that there was a clear intention to boycott the popular will of the votes by Free Peru through their efforts to distort or delay the results.¹¹⁰

Even though Fujimori and the Popular Force represent the “right” as against the “left” Free Peru, the rigging of elections to favour liberal (NOT socialist or “communist”) political forces follows a pattern since the “Great Reset” began with the onset of Covid repression. From the US to Brazil to Australia, elections have been more or less openly manipulated¹¹¹ to place liberal parliamentary parties in power. It is not at all beyond the “globalists” – in reality the deep states of Western capitalism – to use their soft power to advance their nefarious agenda. While working people of course should not simply switch their support to conservative parliamentary parties in response, they do have a stake in taking whatever action is necessary to expose election deceit enacted by liberal actors.

On the 8th of December in Peru, Vice President Dina Boularte was sworn in after Castillo was arrested and detained. On the 7th of December, Castillo had attempted to form an emergency government, which was to dissolve the Congress and disarm all citizens – hours before Congress was set to depose him as President of Peru.¹¹² Castillo had previously survived two previous votes for his impeachment, and undoubtedly

would not have survived a third – hence his attempt to stage a coup.¹¹³ His moves were rejected by the military, and some members of his own party. In fact, 101 Congress members voted to remove Castillo, with only six against, and 10 abstentions.¹¹⁴

Riots in response

In response, Castillo’s so-called “left” supporters unleashed an orgy of violence on the streets of Peru. By December 13, they blocked roads, seized airports and assaulted police – causing the deaths of seven civilians and 100 injured police.¹¹⁵ A day earlier, it was reported that around two thousand Castillo supporters attempted to occupy the Alfredo Rodriguez Ballon International Airport. Ostensibly, they were demanding the resignation of Dina Boularte, new general elections in 2023, and the release of Pedro Castillo. Yet this appears to be political cover, as the rioters *set fire* to two control booths and *destroyed* several lights¹¹⁶ which serve as night guidance beacons for planes that have to land at night- time! On the same day, pro-Castillo rioters pelted stones at the offices of television stations America Television and Canal N, causing glass breakage. Vandals also attacked the facilities of Panamericana Television, and a vehicle belonging to Exito Radio was destroyed and its occupants were *beaten*.¹¹⁷ To say the least, this is hardly a genuine protest for social justice and democratic rights.

¹⁰⁹ www.rpp.pe/politica/elecciones/elecciones-2021-fiscalia-indaga-caso-de-cedulas-marcadas-por-personero-en-centro-de-votacion-en-carabaylo-noticia-1340803 (10-01-2023)

¹¹⁰ www.rpp.pe/politica/elecciones/keiko-fujimori-hay-una-clara-intencion-de-boicotear-la-voluntad-popular-elecciones-2021-noticia-1341000 (10-01-2023)

¹¹¹ www.redfireonline.com/2022/11/21/election-fraud-a-new-normal-for-the-liberal-world-order/ (10-01-2023)

¹¹² www.en.mercopress.com/2022/12/07/castillo-stages-coup-d-etat-in-peru-announces-emergency-gov-t (10-01-2023)

¹¹³ www.news.yahoo.com/peru-president-castillo-ousted-coup-192501797.html (10-01-2023)

¹¹⁴ www.reuters.com/world/americas/perus-president-says-will-dissolve-congress-calls-elections-2022-12-07/ (10-01-2023)

¹¹⁵ www.breitbart.com/latin-america/2022/12/13/deadly-leftist-riots-sweep-peru-latin-american-socialists-support-failed-coup/ (14-01-2023)

¹¹⁶ www.rpp.pe/peru/actualidad/arequipa-manifestantes-ingresan-al-aeropuerto-internacional-alfredo-rodriguez-ballon-noticia-1452895 (14-01-2023)

¹¹⁷ www.elcomercio.pe/lima/sucesos/lima-vandalos-atacan-instalaciones-de-canales-de-television-y-radio-de-lima-canal-n-rpp-america-television-panamericana-television-tv-exitosa-rmmn-noticia/?ref=ecr (14-01-2023)

It was then claimed that “civil society” had called for a general strike on December 15. The Agrarian and Rural Front of Peru (FARP) and the National People’s Assembly (ANP) supposedly joined with the General Confederation of Workers of Peru (CGTP) declared they will take to the streets to demand the closure of Congress, general elections and a new constitution. Fantastically, they claimed that they were part of a popular insurgency against the coup perpetrated by the Congress, the leadership of the armed forces, the mainstream media and the judiciary.¹¹⁸ This would be the same Congress, armed forces, mainstream media and the judiciary that existed before the “election” of Castillo.



Above: Rioters attempt to take the Juliaca airport in southern Peru, wielding slingshots and throwing bricks, attacking police and airport buildings. Such violence is scarcely a protest for democratic rights, it is more like a staged coup . www.peru-n-english.blogspot.com

In November, Castillo had met with the ANP¹¹⁹ to sure up his support from liberal forces, but at the same time he had met with the Washington based

Organisation of American States (OAS). He was working with a High Level Commission of the OAS to “resolve” the situation of being faced with, for example, the six investigations which had been opened against him, accusing him of corruption, criminal organisation, influence peddling, accomplice to collusion, personal concealment against the administration of justice and even plagiarism of his master’s thesis.¹²⁰ So Castillo was meeting with his “left” supporters – while prioritising linking arm in arm with the OAS, which is the premier body of US imperialism in Central and Latin America, to ward off his “right” opposition. So much for progressive humanitarianism! Something is not right with this picture.

Mayhem continues

The “left” supporters of Castillo object to being labelled criminals, terrorists, vandals and drug traffickers¹²¹ – but they are unable to respond to the evidence the government puts forwards claiming that some of the weapons the rioters are using have links to criminal gangs. In addition, the murderous mayhem of these supposed “revolutionaries” continued. In the second week of January, pro-Castillo rioters launched a broadside against an airport in the city of Juliaca. Peruvian Prime Minister Alberto Otrola reported that 9000 people had participated, of which some 2000 led a merciless attack on police and airport buildings. He claimed that the rioters are clearly sponsored from abroad, with money from drug trafficking, which brought in “aggressive individuals” from cities around the country in over

¹¹⁸ www.commondreams.org/news/2022/12/15/peru-civil-society-calls-national-strike-unelected-president-declares-state (14-01-2023)

¹¹⁹ www.andina.pe/agencia/noticia-president-meets-with-national-assembly-of-peoples-of-peru-918845.aspx (14-01-2023)

¹²⁰ www.peoplesdispatch.org/2022/12/08/coup-in-peru-president-pedro-castillo-overthrown-by-conservative-congress/ (14-01-2023)

¹²¹ www.peoplesdispatch.org/2022/12/20/we-are-here-to-support-our-president-peruvians-resist-the-coup/ (14-01-2023)

200 vehicles.¹²² It was reported that one police officer was *burned alive* after his vehicle was torched after being ambushed by a part of the mob in Juliaca.¹²³

Whatever the politics of the new President Dina Boularte may be, her claim that the rioters are “terrorists” is not without foundation. She stated that once the Castillo supporters murder police officers, it is no longer a protest, but is terrorism.¹²⁴ Who are the forces behind such violence? We don’t have to look too far to find them, and they are familiar for those who can see the dark hand of imperialism when it comes to regime change operations. The National Endowment for Democracy (NED), the regime change arm of the CIA, admit to pouring over half a million dollars into Peru just in the year 2021.¹²⁵ The funding goes under the name of funding innocuous sounding NGOs specialising in “anti-corruption”, “civil society participation”, “strengthening democratic governance” and “promoting transparency through independent news”. In other words, the NED funds NGO fronts to distort and undermine almost every aspect of Peruvian public and political life in the interests of Washington.

Where the US state department operates, invariably we find the nefarious operations of billionaire anti-socialist regime change operative George Soros. Peru is no exception, where Soros’ reactionary Open Society Foundation (OSF) has been operating for decades. Cynically, the OSF runs the Open Society Early Childhood Program which claims to be concerned about Peruvian children living in poverty and taking alleviation

measures. But the game is transparently clear with the words of even half a quote from one of the OSF directors of a so-called childhood program, viz., “We seek not only to improve each child’s potential, but also to better educate citizens and create a democratic culture in each community we work with.”¹²⁶ In other words, the OSF is aiming to subvert Peruvian sovereignty and political independence, under the guise of helping children and “promoting democratic values”.

The US Agency for International Development (USAID) – funded by the US government – has extensive operations in Peru. USAID also uses rhetorical cover, of any sort, to conduct its sabotage of Peru. Under the guise of the fraudulent “Covid pandemic”, the USAID supposed “worked with” the Transparencia “civil organisation” to produce an app and web platform allegedly for citizens to use to “denounce public sector corruption”.¹²⁷ Translated, the USAID is using a deceitful health program as a stalking horse to encourage Peruvians to find corruption where none may exist. Then, when the signal is given, these misled Peruvians can rise up against a “corrupt” government – to be replaced by one endorsed by Washington. Often though, USAID does not even bother with a verbal shroud. In the USAID’s grandiosely titled “Country Development Cooperation Strategy”, it openly states that “In line with Peru’s development goals and US foreign policy, USAID will help Peru reinforce its capacity to address joint interests and priorities of our two nations”.¹²⁸ It can hardly be more blatant. USAID, the NED, the OSF and others such as the Ford

¹²² www.republicworld.com/world-news/south-america/17-killed-in-fresh-anti-govt-protests-in-peru-pm-claims-mob-was-sponsored-from-abroad-articleshow.html (14-01-2023)

¹²³ www.theguardian.com/world/2023/jan/11/genocide-investigation-opened-against-peru-president-after-protest-deaths (14-01-2023)

¹²⁴ www.larepublica.pe/politica/gobierno/2023/01/02/dina-boluarte-no-podemos-estar-poniendole-toda-la-

responsabilidad-al-ejecutivo-sobre-muertes-en-protestas/ (14-01-2023)

¹²⁵ www.ned.org/region/latin-america-and-caribbean/peru-2021/ (14-01-2023)

¹²⁶ www.opensocietyfoundations.org/voices/peru-fight-against-poverty-starts-early (14-01-2023)

¹²⁷ www.usaid.gov/peru/fact-sheets/us-government-assistance-peru-covid-19-response (14-01-2023)

¹²⁸ www.usaid.gov/peru/cdcs (14-01-2023)

Foundation¹²⁹ engage in duplicitous activities for decades in Peru, waiting for the nod from Washington to pull the trigger on a contrived uprising. This may well mean murder, mayhem, riots, the burning down of public buildings, the stoning of television and radio stations, the sabotage of airports and more – as we are witnessing in Peru today.

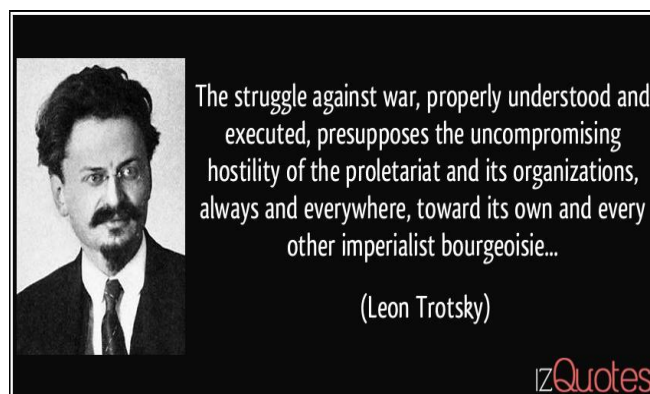
Upside down politics

Much of the liberal left have fallen for the Peru narrative of another “leftist” Latin American political leader being overthrown by the right, in concert with the deep state of the US Empire. The Socialist Equality Party (SEP) claim that the “leaderless and spontaneous” character of the protests (read: riots) in Peru makes them vulnerable to a further crackdown.¹³⁰ The SEP remains oblivious to the vast scale of underhanded soft power exercised by the US state department in Peru and Latin America for decades. The riots are *made to appear* as “leaderless and spontaneous” precisely in order to conceal the real and active leadership of the deadly mayhem – Washington itself. In this sense, the riots are neither leaderless nor spontaneous under any definition of those terms.

Politics in Peru – and in most other countries around the world in the wake of the Covid deception – is upside down. While it is true that Keiko Fujimori and the Popular Force accused Pedro Castillo and Free Peru of being “communists” who “want another Venezuela”,¹³¹ in practice part of their direction is against the “globalists”, who are operating in cahoots with US imperialism. It is apparent that US imperialism – through an array of intermediaries – rigged the 2021 vote to place Castillo in power. Then, when the “right-wing” Congress voted overwhelmingly

to remove Castillo, US imperialism activated its proxy forces in Peru in a bid to place Castillo back in power. These proxy forces are more than willing to commit murder, manslaughter, riots and the destruction of public property – even while claiming to be progressive humanitarians, fighting for human rights, democracy and even “socialism”.

The liberal left internationally are confounded by such developments, and struggle to comprehend how they have manipulated along with many others. Imperialism is currently using liberalism (NOT socialism) to drive its agenda of regime change, war and political repression. And it is using apparently liberal left parties and organisations to do so. We should not be fooled. Workers in Peru should demand the expulsion of all US government backed NGOs, at the very least. Peru, and Latin America generally, will not be sovereign until these forces are driven from the continent. At the same time, only a genuine left-wing force has the chance of leading the working masses of Peru where Fujimori and Castillo and all of their backers cannot – towards their own workers’ republic, as part of a socialist federation of Latin America. Authentic Leninist-Trotskyist vanguard parties must be forged before the US Empire can use its liberal underlings to destroy the progress achieved thus far.



¹²⁹ www.fordfoundation.org/our-work-around-the-world/andean-region/ (14-01-2023)

¹³⁰ www.wsws.org/en/articles/2023/01/07/egca-j07.html (14-01-2023)

¹³¹ www.jacobin.com/2021/07/peru-election-pedro-castillo-keiko-fujimori-overturn-fraud (14-01-2023)

“Artic Blast” in the US Brings Havoc and Death in its Wake



www.buffalonews.com

(Article sourced from www.redfireonline.com)

By Stu Winters

A huge and dangerous winter storm recently struck the US upper Midwest and East accompanied by high winds and blizzard conditions along with bitter cold having wind chills ranging from 10 to 25 below zero in the lower elevations, down to 50 below in the mountains.

Coastal areas were also hit hard by rain including coastal flooding in Queens County, a borough of New York City, which necessitated “water rescues” of those trapped in homes and cars.

The Mid-Ohio Valley and central Appalachians experienced a dramatic temperature drop of near 40 degrees in just a few hours (!) followed by a period of strong winds and frigid wind chills.

In the vicinity of Buffalo in upstate New York (NY) 43 inches of snow fell according to the National Weather Service. This was on top of the snow already fallen due to a previous blizzard which struck several weeks ago. The Buffalo area is particularly susceptible to large precipitation events—termed the “lake effect” -- due to its proximity to Lake Erie, a large body of water comprising what is termed the “Great Lakes”.

As of this writing 17 weather related deaths have been reported across NY State with more sadly anticipated.

NY Governor Hochul termed the after-effects of the storm “...a crisis of epic proportions”.

Even many locations in the southeast US – a generally warmer region -- experienced the coldest Christmas in decades.

Approximately 250 thousand homes and businesses across the region experienced multiple power grid failures due to the storm which places in jeopardy the lives of millions of inhabitants since electricity is a necessary component for home heating. Aggravating the situation is the increased energy demand due to the extreme cold, and thus the need to transport natural gas, a key component of the heating infrastructure.

As climate science generally affirms, the warming of the planet causes the heating of the oceans (and fresh water bodies as well) which in turn results in increased evaporation generating additional moisture into the atmosphere thereby driving more intense storm events.

These climatological and weather-related crises are exacerbated by Increased economic burdens on working people: the skyrocketing cost of living which includes increased prices for energy, food, and thus the increasing inability to recover from these increasingly common events. Unemployment also plays into all this, much of it resulting from the attacks on living standards brought about by COVID repression since 2020 using the pretext of a “deadly virus”, sometimes termed the “Great Reset”.

Climate destabilization also produces “climate refugees” as a result of drought, flooding, and agricultural collapse. This has already begun in various regions of the globe including the US as survival becomes more and more tenuous for increasing numbers of people.

These cascading crises can and must be addressed through the scrapping of the outmoded capitalist system and its replacement by a system of rational development and planning democratically driven by an engaged working class and a re-distribution of wealth and resources from the heights of finance to those who do all the work and produce the real wealth of society - the proletarian masses.

