

RED FIRE

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WORKERS OF THE WORLD UNITE!



STOP THE DRIVE TO WORLD WAR III!

STATEMENT OF THE WORKERS LEAGUE

30-10-2023: The planet is careering towards World War III at breakneck speed. Driving with its foot flat on the accelerator towards this catastrophe are the declining Western imperialist powers based in Washington, London and Brussels. Working people the world over have the power to stop and reverse this course, *provided* they can assemble a political leadership which corresponds to the dire need to end capitalism and establish socialism. The October 7 Hamas attacks

on Israel – which are likely to have been orchestrated by the security services of the imperialist powers – have provided a pretext for the US state to launch a three-front war against Iran, Russia and China. The West has proven itself unable to wage war against Russia using Nazis in Ukraine as proxies. It has already demonstrated that it does not have the military or industrial capacity to produce weapons and ammunition for a prolonged war, whereas the Russian Federation

does, even on its own. And this is without direct assistance from Russia's ally, the vast manufacturing power of the People's Republic of China (PRC).

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.

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BRICS 11

It is not just for US President Biden's re-election fortunes that Washington is facilitating a world war. Imperialism is well aware that its time is limited, if not already passed. From 1 January 2024, the BRICS alliance (Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa) will be expanded to include Saudi Arabia, Iran, Argentina, Egypt, Ethiopia and the United Arab Emirates. This "BRICS 11" will represent almost half of the world's population and almost half of the world's oil production. There are more than 30 countries, all from the "Global South" who are just waiting to be invited to join. The mainstay and backbone of the BRICS is the PRC, with its vast and powerful economy and its unique advantages in the development of science and technology. The PRC leads the world in high-speed rail, it has the world's largest banks, it has the best infrastructure and the ability to expand it, and it is the largest trading partner of the majority of the world's countries. It is the second largest economy by nominal GDP (Gross Domestic Product) and the largest by GDP PPP (Purchasing Power Parity).

None of this would be possible without its epic revolution in 1949, from which emerged a workers' state, albeit one with significant deformations. The land, the major and strategic means of production, banking, finance, steel production, shipping, aviation and much more are all state-owned or majority state owned. Combined with a planned economy, the PRC has stunned the world with its achievements, due to giant strides taken towards socialism. Certainly, a conservative bureaucracy holds political power in Beijing, but nevertheless the PRC combined with its BRICS allies forms *a formidable non-imperialist bloc*. It is no coincidence that while the West was igniting its latest war in the Middle East, the international Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) conference was taking place in Beijing.

The West, mired in an ongoing and deepening economic crisis which is sinking many workers deeper into poverty, is being eclipsed just by the PRC alone. Combined with the BRICS 11 expansion, stumbling US and European capitalism has little chance of ever regaining the pre-eminent position it has held for centuries. This is the root source of the potential World War now being unleashed by Washington and its Western satraps. Private property in the means of production and the nation state are the ultimate barriers to the expansion of capitalism. This is a major reason why imperialism must overthrow governments, plot colour revolutions and wage war seemingly regardless of consequences.

Against suicidal war

Biden's \$105 billion weapons package for Ukraine, Israel and Taiwan is a virtual suicide pact, with potentially millions included against their will. The clear target is not Hamas or even Hezbollah necessarily, but the Islamic Republic of Iran, the longtime foe of Washington and London. This is the reason for the US sailing four aircraft carrier strike groups to the Middle East. While Russia and

China remain the ultimate targets for regime change, currently they are too large and powerful to take on. Iran is a smaller target, but even it is going to prove too powerful if it unleashes its formidable conventional missile stocks alongside animating any number of Shia resistance allies in the region, from Hezbollah in Lebanon to the Popular Mobilisation Units in Iraq to the Ansar Allah in Yemen. The PRC has also currently six warships in the Middle East which are visiting BRI partners Oman and Kuwait. In addition, Russian MiG-31 jets armed with Kinzhal hypersonic missiles – with a range of 1000 kilometres – are now on patrol in the Black Sea. This means the Middle East is well within range.

Working people have a side in calling for the military defence of the BRICS bloc countries, specifically Iran, Russia and China, but also the DPRK (“North Korea”) which is not currently a BRICS member. Yet the *politics* of an urgent anti-war movement is something that workers have more influence over and *may be decisive* in affecting the actions of governments. Yes, Palestine has the right to defend itself, and even wage an armed struggle. However, the leaderships of the current “Free Palestine” rallies (at least in the West) have not distanced themselves from the criminal terrorism of Hamas, which is ultimately a Western proxy force as much as ISIS, Al Qaeda or the Israeli state itself. Indeed, Hamas was created and funded by the Israeli state as a bulwark against secular nationalism. These liberal led leaderships are also essentially pro “UkroNazi” against Russia, for ultra-violent regime change in Iran, and for the counter-revolutionary overthrow of the People’s Republic of China.

Needless to say, this needs to change, and fast. It is certainly possible, as the overwhelming number of working people rallying in defence of Palestine in the West and elsewhere are not in favour of more war, let alone a regional war, to say nothing of a world war. The vast majority also understand

that while self-defence is a right, indiscriminate terrorism is counter-productive and only aids the Israeli state and its Western sponsors – who can then in turn “justify” more repression, invasions and wars. In fact, it only creates more Israeli nationalists and Zionists, which makes the problem worse. For 75 years, bolstering Palestinian nationalism in opposition to Israeli nationalism has achieved virtually nothing, and has made things much worse. The only way forward is for the Palestinian and Israeli working classes to join forces against capitalism, and for revolution. There is no other way to undermine nationalism and Zionism, and no other option for a genuine defence of Palestine.

What is more, the potential world war is but an extension of the two years of Covid repression and the skyrocketing cost of living for working people, ecological collapse and many other serious problems. The anti-war movement should *seek to block all weapons shipments to not only Israel, but Ukraine and Taiwan*. The BRICS bloc governments will not lead a struggle for socialism, but the road to socialism – via the forging of Marxist vanguard parties – must *proceed through* the non-imperialist BRICS allies.



NIGER: ECOWAS WEIGHS UP A PROXY WEST AFRICAN WAR



Above: Nigerien supporters of the coup gather in front of the National Assembly in the capital Niamey, on July 27, 2023. Some supporters display the national flag of the Russian Federation. www.reuters.com

(Article sourced from www.redfireonline.com, and was current at the time of writing.)

19-08-2023: On the 28th of July, General Abdourahmane Tchiani declared that the constitution of Niger was suspended and the National Council for the Safeguard of the Homeland (CNSP) had deposed the Western backed President Mohamed Bazoum. He called on “technical and financial partners who are friends

of Niger” to understand the situation of the country and continue to provide it with the support necessary to meet coming challenges.¹ In response on July 30, ECOWAS (Economic Community of West African States) threatened a military intervention including the “use of force” if the ousted president and his government were not reinstated by Sunday, August 6.² This ultimatum has passed without incident, but ECOWAS could still be used by the Western powers as a proxy

¹ www.npr.org/2023/07/29/1190897332/soldiers-declare-niger-general-head-of-state-coup (16-08-2023)

² www.srilankaguardian.org/2023/08/ecowas-says-no-option-taken-off-table.html (16-08-2023)

force against the CNSP who they suspect will tilt Niger further towards the Russian Federation. US (United States of America) Secretary of State Antony Blinken warned that US assistance to Niger, amounting to hundreds of millions of dollars, is “in jeopardy” unless the coup against Bazoum was reversed.³

ECOWAS

France, the colonial power of Francophone Africa (“Françafrique”) was not impressed. French President Emmanuel Macron exclaimed that the “coup is completely illegitimate and profoundly dangerous for Nigeriens, for Niger and for the whole region.”⁴ However, all indications are that the majority of Nigeriens strongly support the actions of the CNSP, and support the drive to end the imposed use of CFA franc currency, which stimulates huge capital outflows, due to a fixed exchange rate, to Europe and mostly France.⁵ Nigeriens in the main also demand an end to the exploitation of Niger’s mineral reserves, especially Uranium. According to a survey by the *Economist*, 78% of Nigeriens supported the CNSP takeover, and 73% want the CNSP leaders to retain power “for an extended period” or “until new elections are held”.⁶ At a rally in the capital Niamey on July 30, two days after the takeover, a huge crowd waved both Nigerian and Russian flags, and one placard bore the slogan “Down with France, Long Live Putin!”, referring to the Russian President.⁷

ECOWAS was established in 1975 and has 15 member states, including Niger itself. The others

are Benin, Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, The Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Ivory Coast, Liberia, Mali, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone and Togo.⁸ In reality, ECOWAS is here being used as a proxy force for NATO, via French and US imperialism. ECOWAS – dominated by Nigeria, has militarily intervened and sent troops into member states *six times* since 1990, intervening in civil wars, or in the case of Mali in 2013 – against Western backed Al Qaeda terrorists. This was later absorbed into MINUSMA – the UN “stabilisation” mission which was in turn forced out in June this year of Mali by a combination of Malian and Wagner PMC (Private Military Company) forces.⁹ At one protest in Niamey, the French Embassy was attacked, while others were demanding that ECOWAS “stay out of our business”.¹⁰ There is also dissent amongst other ECOWAS countries, who are not at all united behind a military intervention into Niger. In addition, *The Grayzone* reported that Nigerian President and ECOWAS Chair Bola Tinubu spent years laundering money in Chicago for heroin dealers, amongst other corruption scandals.¹¹ One of the wealthiest men in Nigeria, Tinubu is clearly an asset of the US state and is anything but an opponent of Western imperialism in Africa.

Who is behind the terrorist insurgencies in Africa?

As at January 2022, there were active terrorist insurgencies in Mali, Burkina Faso, Niger, Nigeria, Kenya, Somalia and Mozambique.¹² The West complains endlessly about Wagner’s

³ www.thehill.com/policy/international/4127079-blinken-says-us-assistance-to-niger-in-jeopardy/ (16-08-2023)

⁴ www.france24.com/en/afrique/20230728-france-s-fm-says-niger-coup-not-final-as-putschists-win-army-backing (16-08-2023)

⁵ www.hir.harvard.edu/true-sovereignty-the-cfa-franc-and-french-influence-in-west-and-central-africa/ (16-08-2023)

⁶ www.countercurrents.org/2023/08/queen-of-the-ukraine-coup-victoria-nuland-visits-niger/ (16-08-2023)

⁷ www.npr.org/2023/07/30/1190969703/supporters-of-nigers-coup-march-waving-russian-flags-and-denouncing-france (16-08-2023)

⁸ www.awajis.com/ecowas-member-nations/ (16-08-2023)

⁹ www.vanguardngr.com/2023/08/six-times-ecowas-intervened-in-their-neighbour-countries/ (16-08-2023)

¹⁰ www.apnews.com/article/niger-coup-mohamed-bazoum-military-junta-sahel (16-08-2023)

¹¹ www.thegrayzone.com/2023/08/05/bagman-ecowas-chairman-invade-niger/ (16-08-2023)

¹² www.criticalthreats.org/briefs/africa-file/africa-file-wagner-group-deployment-to-mali-threatens-counterterrorism-efforts (16-08-2023)

“interference” in African countries such as Mali, Libya, Sudan, the Central African Republic, Madagascar and Mozambique¹³ - for no other reason than it is the Western imperialist powers themselves which have funded and enacted the destabilisation. The Wagner PMC forces are invited in by the African countries to protect themselves the terrorist attacks on civilians and infrastructure. In turn, Africans are well aware that without Wagner they are essentially unarmed against these “Salafist-Jihadis” backed by the deep states of the US and its allies. Hence, placards with “Merci Wagner” (Thank you Wagner) can be seen in Africa.¹⁴ The Salafist cutthroats claim to be motivated by Islam, but in reality they demonstrate such a vast perversion of the Islamic faith that it is unrecognisable.

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Exact confirmation is difficult to come by, but it is strongly suspected that Al Shabaab in Somalia and Boko Haram in Nigeria and elsewhere, are covert CIA operations to counter the influence of the People’s Republic of China (PRC), and now Russia, in Africa.¹⁵ In fact, AFRICOM (US “Africa Command”) was established in 2007 by then US

President George W Bush, and at that time the US ruling class appeared to be concerned about not ceding control of mineral resources required for advanced electronics to the PRC. In addition, AFRICOM’s operations in Africa were vastly expanded by the Barack Obama Administration. The Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) contains more than half of the world’s cobalt and three quarters of world resources of columbite-tantalite (“coltan”), which is a primary component of microchips and printed circuit boards essential for computers.¹⁶ Despite its name, AFRICOM is headquartered in Stuttgart, Germany. This in itself exposes the imperialist designs of Washington and its European allies.

The PRC is the second largest foreign investor in Niger after the former colonial power of France. Niger *became an oil producer for the first time* in 2011 on the back of a joint venture with the Nigerien government and the PRC’s state owned Petro China when the Agadem oilfield was opened. In 2019, Petro China also agreed to build a 2000-kilometre pipeline between Agadem and the port city in Benin of Cotonou. This pipeline is the *longest in Africa*, and was 63% complete in February this year.¹⁷ The PRC also offers somewhat of an alternative for Niger in relation to developing its massive Uranium deposits. In 2007, the PRC state owned China National Nuclear Corporation (CNNC) entered a joint venture with the Nigerien government to develop the Azelik mine in the centre of the country, and gave the Nigerien government a loan of \$90.93 million from PRC state owned Eximbank to support development of the project in 2009.¹⁸ As a bureaucratically deformed workers’ state, the PRC is hardly “capitalist”, let alone “imperialist”, and

¹³ www.thehill.com/opinion/international/4147915-wagners-future-depends-on-russias-africa-agenda/ (16-08-2023)

¹⁴ www.dw.com/en/russias-wagner-group-where-is-it-active/a-66027220 (16-08-2023)

¹⁵ www.globalresearch.ca/is-boko-haram-a-cia-covert-op-to-divide-and-conquer-africa/5431177 (16-08-2023)

¹⁶ www.globalresearch.ca/china-and-the-congo-wars-africom-america-s-new-military-command/11173 (16-08-2023)

¹⁷ www.timesofindia.indiatimes.com/world/china/chinas-oil-and-uranium-business-in-niger/articleshow/102274000.cms?from=mdr (16-08-2023)

¹⁸ Ibid, 17.

thus its investments in Niger (especially those from its state owned firms) assist Niger's economic development, as opposed to exploiting it. It does not take much imagination to surmise that PRC built pipelines and other infrastructure are the ideal targets of the Western backed terrorists, aiming to derail even basic cooperation between African states and the Chinese economic powerhouse, let alone joint ventures.



Above: NATO's destruction of Green Libya in 2011 using Al Qaeda terrorists on the ground led to a flood of weapons and mercenaries flooding across the Sahel region of Africa. It also led to the return of slavery, with open air slave markets taking place in the years after the Libyan state was removed. www.sfbayview.com

The terrorist insurgencies in Africa, and especially across the Sahel region, cannot be understood without acknowledging NATO's destruction of Green Libya in 2011. The assassination of longtime leader Muammar Gaddafi and the bombing of the country led, not surprisingly, to years of war. Libya still barely has a state to speak of, and the NATO war infamously resulted in a return of slavery, with open air slave markets.¹⁹ Some of the Western

backed fighters against Green Libya filtered into Al Qaeda in the Islamic Mahgreb (AQIM), some went to fight for yet more Western backed regime change in Syria, and some drifted into Niger, Mali and Nigeria. Some joined Al Shabaab in Somalia, where the Biden administration has literally been "bombing the very terrorists it created".²⁰ It is little wonder then, that Wagner and Russia (and President Putin) become hugely popular with Africans when they are invited in with their considerable military skills and resources to counter this wanton destruction.

Russia-Africa Summit / BRICS Summit

Moreover, it is hardly a coincidence that *several hours* after the Russia-Africa Summit concluded in St. Petersburg in Russia, the CNSP took power in Niger. The CNSP takeover in Niger follows similar coups in the last two years in neighbouring Mali and Burkina Faso. These coups, like the coup in Niger, were also popularly supported as they were directed against governments that were seen to be cooperating with the Western backed terrorists. Yet it is Niger which has dramatically raised the stakes for imperialism, given that Niger is neck and neck with Kazakhstan as the largest suppliers of Uranium to the European Union (EU).²¹ France, above all, requires a steady supply of Uranium given that around 80% of its power emanates from its nuclear energy system. What is more, until the last ten years or so, Niger had been seen as a reliable ally of the Washington. Today, it is a different story.

For example, when US Deputy Secretary of State and arch war hawk and coup-monger Victoria Nuland visited Niger on the 7th of August, she was *refused permission* to meet with the ousted former President Bazoum. Also, CNSP central

¹⁹ www.ibw21.org/commentary/nato-set-stage-open-air-slave-markets-libya/ (16-08-2023)

²⁰ www.libya360.wordpress.com/2021/08/18/in-somalia-the-us-is-bombing-the-very-terrorists-it-created/ (16-08-2023)

²¹ www.statista.com/chart/30538/share-of-uranium-delivered-to-eu-utilities/ (16-08-2023)

leader General Tchiani *did not meet* with the US delegation.²² Even ten years ago, an African leadership refusing to meet with a high-powered US emissary would have been unthinkable. Yet today it is a reality. The perception of many Africans and almost all African leaders now is that Russia is fighting the imperialists in Ukraine, and that Russia will help them fight the imperialists in Africa – either directly or via the Wagner group. Thus, without Russia’s role in combatting ISIS/Al Qaeda in Syria, and its role in blocking NATO armed Nazis on its own borders – it is likely that Mali, Burkina Faso and now Niger would not be emboldened to stand up to the West.

This is not to take anything away from the incredibly brave stands that the African peoples and dissenting African leaders are maintaining in the face of pressure from Washington, London and Paris. Captain Ibrahim Traoré, the interim president of Burkina Faso, gave a speech in which he declared “a slave who cannot assume his own revolt does not deserve to be pitied”, and heralded Russian and African cooperation in defeating the Nazis in the Second World War. He also condemned the West for denouncing Africans who take up arms to defend their homeland as “militias”, when in Europe they are called “patriots”.²³ At 35 years of age, he is the world’s youngest head of state. Traoré also hails the legacy of Major Thomas Sankara, who headed an anti-imperialist and pro-socialist Burkina Faso from 1980 to 1984 and sought closer ties with the then Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR). Sankara is often referred to as the “Che Guevara of Africa”.²⁴



Above: Russian President Vladimir Putin addresses the Second Russia-Africa Summit in St. Petersburg in August. It was attended by representatives of 49 out of the 54 African nations, and this was at a time when NATO’s proxy war in Ukraine against Russia was in full swing. Russia’s military assistance to some African countries to guard against the Western backed “jihadist” militias ensures it is seen as a friendly ally, if not a partner. www.eurasiareview.com

The Second Russia-Africa Summit was attended by 49 out of the 54 African nations,²⁵ which is remarkable considering that Russia is currently waging a defensive war against NATO in Ukraine. Flowing on from this will be the 15th Annual BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa) Summit to take place in Johannesburg on August 22-24 with a themed focus on Africa – “BRICS and Africa: Partnership for Mutually Accelerated Growth, Sustainable Development and Inclusive Multilateralism”.²⁶ More than 40 nations are in the

²² www.politico.com/news/2023/08/07/niger-coup-leaders-refuse-to-let-senior-u-s-diplomat-meet-with-deposed-president-00110207 (16-08-2023)

²³ www.peoplesdispatch.org/2023/08/02/a-slave-who-cannot-assume-his-own-revolt-does-not-deserve-to-be-pitied-says-ibrahim-traore-of-burkina-faso/ (16-08-2023)

²⁴

www.english.ahram.org.eg/NewsContent/50/1203/506286

[/AlAhram-Weekly/World/A-heavy-legacy-Coups-in-Mali-and-Burkina-Faso-II.aspx](http://AlAhram-Weekly/World/A-heavy-legacy-Coups-in-Mali-and-Burkina-Faso-II.aspx) (16-08-2023)

²⁵ www.africanews.com/2023/07/26/2nd-russia-africa-summit-what-are-the-stakes/ (16-08-2023)

²⁶ www.plenglish.com/news/2023/08/07/south-africa-34-countries-confirmed-for-upcoming-brics-summit/ (16-08-2023)

queue to join BRICS,²⁷ as they can see the writing on the wall. That is, the non-imperialist Eurasian bloc is rising, and the imperialist Western bloc is in a state of rapid decline. In fact, the non-imperialist BRICS bloc is not only acting as a counterweight to the West but is offering an alternative to the imperialist G7 (US, UK, France, Germany, Italy, Canada and Japan)²⁸ backed by NATO. Many of the G7 nations are in, or will enter, a recession largely as a result of their backfiring sanctions on Russia in support of a Nazified Ukraine.



Above: A map of the ECOWAS states, which, at the time of writing, have not been able to conduct a military intervention into Niger in an attempt to reverse the overwhelmingly popular coup. www.mfwa.org

Towards liberation

It is in the vital interest of workers internationally to offer *military support* to the CNSP in Niger, and to the governments which have pledged to oppose, if not assist, resistance to a proxy imperialist ECOWAS intervention, e.g., Mali, Burkina Faso, Algeria and Chad. Further, working people should defend the right of African nations

to call on any security assistance it can secure from any non-imperialist nation, up to and including Wagner PMC. In addition, workers should stand for *total imperialist non-interference* in any form of *economic cooperation* African countries enter into with the non-imperialist BRICS countries, whether that be the Russian Federation or the PRC. This especially includes infrastructure projects which are part of Beijing's flagship Belt and Road Initiative (BRI).

At the same time, the BRICS bloc does not offer workers in Africa or internationally *political* solutions, at least from the *governments* of the BRICS nations and those aspiring to its membership. While “multipolarity” may temporarily offset US led domination, it will not end the constant threat of imperialist meddling and/or outright war. Global capitalism is in such a dire state that its leading citadels are willing to risk World War III to preserve its fast fading “glory”. For workers in France, the struggles waged by Mali, Burkina Faso, Niger and Francophone Africa need to be linked directly to the efforts at home not only to end the reign of “the banker President” Macron, but the overthrow of the rule of French finance capital. The key task for workers in France and Africa and internationally is to forge linked Leninist vanguard parties welded to Trotsky's theory of Permanent Revolution. Only socialism – a network of collectively owned and planned economies – has the power to supersede and depose an imperialism which is rotting alive.



²⁷ www.reuters.com/world/more-than-40-nations-interested-joining-brics-south-africa-2023-07-20/ (16-08-2023)

²⁸ www.worldatlas.com/articles/group-of-seven-g7-countries.html (16-08-2023)

Democrats Wage Groundless Lawfare Against Trump



Above: A stylised image of Donald Trump's mugshot. www.trumptrainnews.com

(Article sourced from www.redfireonline.com)

04-09-2023: It is scarcely an exaggeration to state that the United States of America (US) is in danger of becoming a “banana republic”. The leading contender for the nomination of President for the Republican party in the 2024 elections – Donald Trump – is currently facing four indictments ultimately imposed on behalf of the Democratic party presidential administration of Joe Biden. Even without a thorough investigation, it is plain to see that these four indictments are only “crimes” using the wildest interpretation of legal theory imaginable. Vast numbers of Americans are

viewing these attempts to have Trump charged with “offences” as blatantly political, and a not-so-subtle attempt to prevent by far the leading opposition candidate from running in the elections next year. As Trump has only served one term as President (2016-2020), he is constitutionally entitled to serve a second term if elected.

Partisan lawfare

The four indictments levied against Trump are an act of lawfare – the use of legal systems and institutions to damage or delegitimise an opponent, or to deter an individual's use of their legal rights.²⁹ The fact that this is being used not

²⁹ www.wikiwand.com/en/Lawfare (30-08-2023)

by a corporation against some activists, but by one of the major political parties in the US against its rival – threatens at the very least a constitutional crisis if it proceeds. The first indictment stems from the paying of hush money by Trump to adult-film star Stormy Daniels, who alleged the pair had an extra-marital affair prior to 2016. From this stem 34 felony charges (which is actually just the same charge repeated 34 times) for supposedly falsifying business records in order to suppress negative news stories about this issue ahead of the 2016 election.³⁰ Yet the paying of hush money in itself is not a crime in the US. The prosecution has to somehow prove that the intention of this payment was in relation to the 2016 election, and not for any other reason. Needless to say, it is almost impossible to determine the state of mind of either Trump or his lawyers or accountants at the time this payment was supposedly made.

The second indictment relates to charges that Trump supposedly endangered national security by retaining classified documents and taking them to his residence at the Mar-a-Lago estate in Florida after he left office in 2020. The charges have also been weighed against Carlos De Oliveria, Trump's manager of the estate.³¹ This is despite some evidence that former US President Barack Obama took *33 million pages of documents* with him when he left the White House, many of them classified.³² The notion that Trump engaged in "wilful retention of national defence information", "corruptly concealing a document or record", or a "conspiracy to obstruct justice" is beyond anything that can be considered plausible. In addition, as President at the time, it is likely that Donald Trump himself had the power and authority to both

classify and de-classify records relating to his administration. It is reasonable to assume that Presidents taking some records and personal effects with them when they leave office is standard practice, rather than some kind of aberration.

The third indictment brought by the Justice Department special counsel Jack Smith relates to a supposed "conspiracy to defraud the United States", a "conspiracy to obstruct an official proceeding" and a count of "conspiracy against rights".³³ The prosecutors are claiming – absurdly – that Trump attempted to overturn the results of the November 2020 Presidential Election and undermine America's democracy! This is stretching the outer limits of credibility. For one thing, there is an abundance of evidence of fraudulent practices carried out during the election, even just in the one state of Michigan.³⁴ For another thing, even if we assume that the election was entirely legitimate (despite volumes of evidence to the contrary) it is of course entirely legal to object to an election count, especially if you were one of the candidates. This has been done many times in US history, and the Democrats themselves have a history of objecting to state and federal election results, especially Hilary Clinton herself and Georgia gubernatorial candidate Stacey Abrams.³⁵

A fourth indictment has been laid against Trump and 18 others by a grand jury in Fulton County, Georgia, in relation to "racketeering" with regard to the dubious loss of Georgia to Joe Biden in the 2020 election. The Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organisations (RICO) Act is invoked, a

³⁰ www.reuters.com/legal/what-charges-does-trump-face-new-yorks-hush-money-case-2023-04-05/ (30-08-2023)

³¹ www.apnews.com/article/donald-trump-documents-maralago-politics-florida-charges-bee867f48da593d351c5a91e87c356a9 (30-08-2023)

³² www.octoldit.com/exclusive-national-archives-and-media-caught-in-another-lie-evidence-shows-obama-did-have-classified-docs-in-the-33-million-pages-he-took-with-him-when-he-left-office%ef%bf%bc/ (30-08-2023)

³³ www.usnews.com/news/national-news/articles/2023-08-15/explainer-trumps-four-indictments (30-08-2023)

³⁴ www.100percentfedup.com/breaking-another-conservative-mi-lawmaker-requests-forensic-audit-of-2020-election-benson-recounts-are-not-enough-we-must-examine-ballots-tabulators-and-chain-of-custody-all-of-it/ (30-08-2023)

³⁵ www.washingtontimes.com/news/2023/aug/21/stolen-rigged-and-illegitimate-democrats-long-hist/ (30-08-2023)

federal law that penalises the activities of individuals engaging in organised crime.³⁶ In other words, a law which was first formulated in order to target the Mafia is now being hurled against Trump. This is despite numerous videos surfacing of highly irregular practices taking place by election workers in Georgia during the 2020 election, including the feeding of the same ballots through tabulating machines multiple times,³⁷ and the pulling of suitcases full of ballots from under tables and running them through machines *after* telling other observers that counting had stopped for the night.³⁸

Election interference

None of this is to validate the *politics* of Donald Trump or the Republican party, which ultimately provide no solutions for working people at a time of systemic crisis. Yet the fact that the Democrats and the liberal left are remaining silent on what is an overt use of state power for unmasked political ends is more than revealing. To say virtually nothing while the leading opposition candidate in a US Presidential Election is likely being arrested and even jailed on spurious charges exposes them as complicit in one of the most undemocratic manoeuvres ever undertaken. Plus, there is a virtual corporate media blackout on the substantial evidence accumulating of barely concealed corruption of Joe Biden himself and his son Hunter.³⁹ In addition, evidence has since come to light confirming the suspicion that the Democratic administration of Joe Biden was behind the removal of the former Prime Minister of Pakistan, Imran Khan, for his neutral stance towards the NATO proxy war in Ukraine.⁴⁰ Biden's

Secretary of State Antony Blinken then broke records for hypocrisy in welcoming "free and fair elections"⁴¹ in Pakistan, while Imran Khan remains in jail!⁴²



Above: Pakistani Prime Minister Imran Khan (centre) was overthrown in a US backed coup, and today remains in jail. Meanwhile, the US state has brought multiple indictments against Donald Trump with non-existent evidence, in order to prevent him from running for election as President in the US in 2024. US imperialism is involved in election interference, at home and abroad, regularly. www.writerscafeteria.com

After years of complaining about non-existent election interference by Russia in the 2016 US Presidential election, the Democrats themselves are now engaging in election interference *par excellence* – through the attempted jailing of the likely leader of their main opponent party. Yet this plan is backfiring spectacularly, with Trump way out in front in the Republican primary polling. At the end of August, Trump is far and away the most popular with 50.3%. Ron De Santis is the second most popular, but only has 14.8%. Vivek

³⁶ www.newsweek.com/what-rico-charges-trump-potential-charge-1819650 (30-08-2023)

³⁷ www.thegatewaypundit.com/2021/01/breaking-another-video-corrupt-election-workers-feeding-ballots-machines-numerous-times/ (30-08-2023)

³⁸ www.thefederalist.com/2020/12/07/no-the-georgia-vote-counting-video-was-not-debunked-not-even-close/ (30-08-2023)

³⁹ www.thehill.com/opinion/white-house/4003066-americas-state-media-the-blackout-on-biden-corruption-is-truly-pulitzer-level-stuff/ (30-08-2023)

⁴⁰ www.theintercept.com/2023/08/09/imran-khan-pakistan-cypher-ukraine-russia/ (30-08-2023)

⁴¹ www.siasat.com/us-emphasises-timely-and-fair-elections-in-pakistan-amidst-potential-delay-2681384/ (30-08-2023)

⁴² www.aljazeera.com/news/2023/8/29/despite-bail-order-imran-khan-remains-in-jail-over-cypher-case (30-08-2023)

Ramaswamy has 9.2%, Nikki Haley has 5.6% and Mike Pence has 4.4%.⁴³ In other words, it is no contest. And with each indictment the Democrats register against Trump, his popularity amongst Republican voters seemingly increases even further. When Donald Trump was booked at the Fulton County Jail in Georgia, his mug shot was emblazoned on several pieces of merchandise in an effort to further raise funds for the election campaign. The result was that some 7.1 million dollars was raised *within 48 hours*.⁴⁴

The Democrats, backed either silently or loudly by the woke left, have used capitalist state power to unjustly prosecute participants in the January 6, 2021 protest in Washington, which was attended but hardly led by Donald Trump. Ludicrously labelled an “insurrection” by a liberal led media, this protest was against what was perceived to be large scale electoral fraud in the November 2020 presidential election – for which there is ample evidence.⁴⁵ The central demand for this demonstration was “Stop the Steal” or even the more moderate “Audit the Vote”.⁴⁶ However, even if the 2020 election was entirely legitimate with every vote cast validated, people obviously should still have the right to question the results, call for a recount, or protest about what they believe to be the case. This is especially the case for candidates who ran in the election. What is more, all avenues should be open for a legal challenge to the election process, for those who have the resources to do so.

The depths to which the Democrats and the US state have plunged to prevent Donald Trump – or

anyone – from even *questioning* the result of an election are bewildering. The attempted RICO indictment on Trump is also being used to pursue four of Trump’s lawyers on *felony charges* for heading up a case to persuade officials that the 2020 Election was marred by irregularities and therefore should not be certified.⁴⁷ One should be able to see the ramifications for totalitarianism if people are going to be *criminalised* for questioning election results! In the case of the January 6, 2021 protest, the Democrats have used state power to weigh criminal charges against over 1100 people who attended the protest, or “riot” as the liberal media also name it.⁴⁸ Some have spent months or years in jail already, with many pleading guilty in order to avoid jail. However one views the politics of those who protested on January 6 in Washington DC, the prosecution and jailing of those who question (or even just doubt) election results portends sinister ends. Workers should demand: *Drop all the charges and indictments against Trump, his lawyers and all January 6 protestors!*

The collapse of capitalist democracy

Much of the so-called left caught a bad case of “Trump Derangement Syndrome”, and many are still afflicted by it. That is, a pathological hatred of Trump which is so intense that it distorts political judgement and even a rational assessment of the issues. Some of the acts of Trump in power were as criminal as many Democratic presidents before him, such as the assassination of Iranian Quds Force General Qassem Soleimani,⁴⁹ the bombing of Syria in 2017,⁵⁰ and a failed regime change

⁴³ www.projects.fivethirtyeight.com/polls/president-primary-r/2024/national/ (02-09-2023)

⁴⁴ www.latimes.com/politics/story/2023-08-28/how-much-is-trumps-mug-shot-worth-over-7-million-campaign-says (02-09-2023)

⁴⁵ www.washingtontimes.com/news/2022/mar/28/joe-biden-got-255000-excess-votes-fraud-tainted-sw/ (02-09-2023)

⁴⁶ www.redfireonline.com/2021/01/16/when-exactly-was-the-fascist-coup/ (02-09-2023)

⁴⁷ www.off-guardian.org/2023/08/29/lets-kill-all-the-lawyers-the-real-trouble-with-the-trump-indictment/ (02-09-2023)

⁴⁸ <https://www.axios.com/2023/08/09/jan-6-criminal-charges-capitol-attack-riot> (02-09-2023)

⁴⁹ www.mei.edu/blog/killing-qassem-soleimani-analysis-mei-experts (02-09-2023)

⁵⁰ www.defense.gov/News/News-Stories/Article/Article/1144601/trump-orders-missile-attack-in-retaliation-for-syrian-chemical-strikes/ (02-09-2023)

attempt in Venezuela.⁵¹ Nevertheless, Trump never actually started a war during his 2016 – 2020 presidency, began the withdrawal from Afghanistan and Syria, and today at least claims he would end NATO's proxy war in Ukraine "in 24 hours".⁵² Even just on foreign policy, the Democrats and the US deep state cannot allow another President who at least pays lip service to ending US "forever wars". Indeed, one of the reasons Trump was elected in 2016 was on the back of promises to put an end to the never-ending series of regime change wars, by previous Republican and Democratic presidents.

Domestically, Trump did succumb to pressure with the fraudulent "Covid-19 pandemic" by authorising "Operation Warp Speed",⁵³ which accelerated the rollout of what became potentially deadly vaccines.⁵⁴ However, Trump backed away from pushing down hard on Covid political repression, and now cannot be trusted by the US ruling class to once again enforce any form of "health" totalitarianism. The Democrats and their woke left tails joined forces with many Union officials to enforce unprecedented vaccine and facemask mandates, which only a few Republican governed states avoided. Not without a basis, Trump is today claiming that the Democrats are threatening to bring back Covid lockdowns and facemask mandates in an attempt to steal the 2024 election.⁵⁵ It is certainly a possibility that this could potentially be what is being planned, with President Biden commenting that a new Covid vaccine "that works" (an admission that previous ones have not?) will be authorised, and that it will be recommended for everyone to take it "whether they've gotten it before or not..".⁵⁶

Threats to be bring back "Covid", the jailing of presidential candidates, the rigging of elections, the criminalisation of anyone who questions election results – all this and more are clear indications that capitalism today can no longer allow the usual procedures of bourgeois democracy to take place. Either the ruling class will utilise a form of fascism as it did in the West during 2020 to 2022 under the guise of "health" or even another pretext, OR it will fix elections and jail candidates or any supporters who protest the blatant extinguishing of what were assumed to be democratic rights. The collapse of bourgeois "democracy" is the surest sign that capitalism itself – with its vast gap between rich and poor, crumbling infrastructure and increasing repression – must be overthrown. Capitalist democracy must be replaced with workers' democracy – the rule of elected workers' councils administering public ownership of the major means of production through a planned economy. Key to this is the preparation of Marxist vanguard parties which fight for the victory of internationally linked workers' republics.



⁵¹ www.truthout.org/articles/the-us-is-orchestrating-a-coup-in-venezuela/ (02-09-2023)

⁵² www.metro.co.uk/2023/07/17/donald-trump-reveals-how-hed-end-the-russia-ukraine-war-in-24-hours-19144320/ (02-09-2023)

⁵³ www.gao.gov/products/gao-21-319 (02-09-2023)

⁵⁴ www.makismd.substack.com/p/mrna-injury-series-multiple-family (02-09-2023)

⁵⁵ www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-12468051/Trump-blasts-fearmongering-new-COVID-strain-claims-left-wing-lunatics-trying-bring-lockdowns-mask-mandates-steal-2024-election.html (02-09-2023)

⁵⁶ www.justthenews.com/government/white-house/biden-ask-congress-new-covid-vaccine-funding (02-09-2023)

Which Strategy for the Palestinian Resistance?



www.liberationnews.com

(Article sourced from www.redfireonline.com)

23-10-2023: The outbreak of a new wave of hostilities between Israel and Palestine has once again thrust this still unresolved conflict onto centre stage. Arguably, this was by design, given the fact that US imperialism's proxy war on Russia via Ukraine had come to a grinding halt and could go no further. Even though the Israel/Palestine conflict has been simmering for some 75 years, the attack on Israel by Hamas on October 7⁵⁷ perhaps

set a stage which was predetermined. Nevertheless, the potential for a new regional or world war once again arises, to which working people the world over must respond. Imperialism cannot be allowed to continuously provoke and start wars which could cause a global catastrophe. Demonstrations have taken place throughout the globe, as millions in the "Global South" and the "Global North" march in defence of Palestine which is unquestionably the victim of a historic injustice. At the same time, the actions of Hamas

⁵⁷ www.edition.cnn.com/middleeast/live-news/al-aqsa-storm-militants-infiltrate-israel-after-gaza-rockets-10-07-intl-hnk/index.html (18-10-2023)

have yet again raised the question of which tactics should and should not be used to redress the deepest forms of political repression.

Hamas

The conservative right label Hamas as terrorist in order to alibi the millions times worse state terrorism of the Israeli state against Palestinians. Yet it cannot be denied that Hamas uses terrorism, and that the October 7 attacks were some of the worst terrorist acts yet seen. Yes, Palestine has a right to resist occupation, a right to defend itself, and a right to an armed struggle. Yet which is the best strategy for the Palestinian resistance? The Palestinian Authority (PA) has blatantly acted as a subcontractor for the Israeli state, and it has monstrously betrayed the Palestinian masses for decades. It cancelled elections in 2021, leading to mass dissatisfaction amongst the Palestinian resistance.⁵⁸ Mahmoud Abbas is President of the Palestinian Authority, and head of both the Palestinian Liberation Organisation (PLO) and Fatah, its largest faction. Yet he is now 88 years old, and has acted to sideline any succession plan,⁵⁹ even as the end of his tenure must soon arrive.

Hamas is not a part of the PLO, and as libertarian US Congress member Ron Paul stated in the House in 2009, it was in fact the state of Israel which “encouraged and started Hamas”.⁶⁰ Indirectly, the US government, along with then Israeli Prime Minister Golda Meir,⁶¹ helped construct Hamas as a counter to the secular PLO headed at the time by Yasser Arafat. It then became an issue for the US

state when Hamas won elections in Gaza in 2007. From the beginning, Hamas (Harakah al-Muqawamah al-Islamiyyah or Islamic Resistance Movement) was nursed and remotely run by Mossad (the national intelligence agency of Israel) while being funded by successive Israeli governments.⁶² Today, the largest financial backer of Hamas is the Qatari monarchy, although some financial support also arrives from Türkiye and Iran.⁶³ However the most influential force within Hamas is the Muslim Brotherhood. Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh’s first official visit outside Gaza after being elected was to Egypt’s Muslim Brotherhood headquarters in Cairo’s Moqattam district.⁶⁴ In 2017, Hamas apparently dropped its association with the Muslim Brotherhood,⁶⁵ though not everyone was convinced. Also in that year, apparently under pressure from the Egyptian government, it moderated the section in its charter which contained the traditional call for the destruction of Israel.⁶⁶

The most significant marker of what Hamas is came during the US led war of regime change on Syria, from 2011 to the present day. Hamas declared itself *with* the ISIS (Islamic State of Iraq and Syria) and Al Qaeda terror campaign against Syria in 2012, and sent fighters there. During this time, Hamas was *fighting with the Israeli state* against Syria, in a major imperialist war. Thus, the notion that Hamas is “anti-Israel” needs to be taken with a large pinch of salt. Some have reported that there is no difference in practice between the Muslim Brotherhood, Hamas and

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www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/17502977.2015.1020738 (18-10-2023)

⁵⁹ www.crisisgroup.org/middle-east-north-africa/east-mediterranean-mena/israel-palestine/238-managing-palestines-looming-leadership-transition (18-10-2023)

⁶⁰ www.wltreport.com/2023/10/08/flashback-ron-paul-hamas-was-started-israel/ (18-10-2023)

⁶¹ www.globalresearch.ca/hamas-is-a-creation-of-mossad/1818 (18-10-2023)

⁶² www.globalresearch.ca/hamas-creation-israel/5835878 (18-10-2023)

⁶³ <https://www.ibtimes.sg/how-was-hamas-formed-who-funds-it-supplies-rockets-heres-everything-about-militant-group-57596> (18-10-2023)

⁶⁴ www.islamicity.org/4604/hamas-and-the-brotherhood-reanimating-history/ (18-10-2023)

⁶⁵ www.reuters.com/article/us-palestinians-hamas-document-idUSKBN17X1N8 (18-10-2023)

⁶⁶ www.theguardian.com/world/2023/oct/12/what-is-hamas-the-militant-group-that-rules-gaza (18-10-2023)

ISIS⁶⁷ – and therefore Al Qaeda. Indeed, there may very well be an exchange of personnel between these terrorist entities, which ultimately serve the interests of US imperialism. Iran cut off its funding for Hamas in 2012, when it entered the regime change war on Syria on the opposite side, but then reportedly re-started it in 2017.⁶⁸



Above: Hamas flags alongside the French colonial mandate flag for Syria, which was used by Al Qaeda and ISIS operatives in their ongoing war of regime change alongside the Israeli state – against Syria. For ten years, Hamas fought with ISIS, Al Qaeda and the Israeli state on behalf of US imperialism. This split Palestinians, many of whom defended Syria against the Western sponsored regime change proxy war.
www.theguardian.com

Ten years after Hamas fought *with* ISIS, Al Qaeda and the Israeli state against Syria, they eventually normalised ties with Syria in 2022.⁶⁹ Though this was an expedient move on their behalf, as by this time Syria, with the help of Russia, Iran and

Hezbollah, had decisively defeated the US and European imperialist led war against it. The war on Syria was perhaps the most underhanded in history, as the Western powers brazenly armed and funded ISIS and Al Qaeda who carried out unspeakable atrocities to take down an independent Middle Eastern country.⁷⁰ Hamas, ISIS, Al Qaeda and the Israeli state fought together – all as effective proxy forces of Washington. Despite what has happened since then, Hamas is still used as a proxy force, and in practice still aids and assists the Israeli state. Its terrorist attacks on Israel provide Tel Aviv and Washington with an ongoing pretext to arm Israel to the teeth, against not only Palestine but the broader Middle East.

Non-PLO organisations

The Palestinian Islamic Jihad (PIJ) sits outside the PLO, as does Hamas. It was founded by Fathi Shikaki, a Palestinian nationalist inspired by the Islamic Revolution in Iran. He sought to attract Palestinian nationalists disillusioned with secularism and Islamists disenchanted with what they saw as moderation by the pan-Arab Muslim Brotherhood. PIJ has a singular focus on militarily fighting Israel, has an operating base in the West Bank, and has attacked Israeli civilians.⁷¹ It is apparently receives funding from, and thus has some ties to, the Islamic Republic of Iran. However, it has forfeited any possibility of ever engaging with Israelis by carrying suicide bombings against civilians in Tel Aviv.⁷² The International Crisis Group claims that the Jenin Brigades have around 200 members, and are drawn from disgruntled members of Fatah, some members of the PIJ and the Lions Den in Nablus.⁷³

⁶⁷ www.weeklyblitz.net/counterterrorism/there-is-no-difference-between-muslim-brotherhood-hamas-and-isis/ (18-10-2023)

⁶⁸ www.wilsoncenter.org/article/irans-islamist-proxies (18-10-2023)

⁶⁹ www.dailysabah.com/world/mid-east/hamas-to-normalize-ties-with-assad-regime-in-syria (18-10-2023)

⁷⁰ <https://ia601409.us.archive.org/17/items/syria-and-arabia-history-texts/Tim%20Anderson%20-%20The%20Dirty%20War%20on%20Syria-Global%20Research%20%282016%29.pdf> (18-10-2023)

⁷¹ www.latimes.com/world-nation/story/2023-05-12/islamic-jihad-gaza-palestinian-militant-group-explainer (18-10-2023)

⁷² www.nbcnews.com/id/wbna12351695 (21-10-2023)

⁷³ www.crisisgroup.org/middle-east-north-africa/east-mediterranean-mena/israelpalestine/new-generation-palestinian-armed (21-10-2023)

The Popular Resistance Committees (PRC) are a loose grouping of armed factions in Gaza. After Hamas and Islamic Jihad, they form the third largest armed force in Gaza.⁷⁴ They seem to focus on Fatah members fed up with the corruption and betrayals of the PA. In 2005, they claimed responsibility for dragging Moussa Arafat (a cousin of Yasser Arafat) from his house and “liquidating” him. The PRC claimed that Moussa Arafat was corrupt and had ordered assaults and killings of its fighters.⁷⁵



Above: Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) fighters. The PFLP’s focus on a military only strategy is self-defeating, and has led them to be involved in terrorist attacks taking the lives of Israeli civilians. The Stalinist and nationalist politics of the PFLP are a dangerous dead end, as much as is the Islamist nationalism of Hamas. While an armed struggle may well be part of a Palestinian resistance, the military struggle must be subordinated to the politics of a Marxist class struggle approach. www.jns.org

PLO Groups

The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) is the second largest faction within the PLO, and the main opposition to Fatah. It was founded in 1967 as an umbrella organisation for so-called “Marxist-Leninist” and Arab nationalist groups.⁷⁶ In reality, its politics are Stalinist, which is a woeful distortion of both Marxism and Leninism. The PFLP opposes a two-state solution and instead calls for the creation of a democratic state in all of historic Palestine through armed struggle.⁷⁷ Between 2002 and 2004, the PFLP carried out five suicide bombings during the second Palestinian intifada.⁷⁸ In 2014, there was an attack on a Jerusalem Synagogue which killed five Israelis. The PFLP issued contradictory statements justifying it, explaining it, owning it and disowning it at the same time.⁷⁹

The Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP) was formed in 1969 and is another “Marxist-Leninist” (read: Stalinist) organisation, which has been responsible for attacks against Israeli targets, including civilians. Unlike the PFLP and other groups within the PLO, it supports a two state solution.⁸⁰ Taysir Khaled, a senior PFLP official, ran for President of Palestine in 2005.⁸¹ To get an idea of just how liberal Stalinism can be in a political sense, the PFLP Department of Foreign Affairs released a statement to international allies, in which they requested its supporters “pressure” their (capitalist) governments to adopt positions based on international resolutions and covenants, and to

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www.ecfr.eu/special/mapping_palestinian_politics/popular_resistance_committees/ (21-10-2023)

⁷⁵ www.cbc.ca/news/world/moussa-arafat-killed-by-militants-in-gaza-1.550597 (21-10-2023)

⁷⁶

www.ecfr.eu/special/mapping_palestinian_politics/popular_front_for_the_liberation_of_palestine/ (21-10-2023)

⁷⁷ www.rdlm.wordpress.com/2014/03/12/palestinian-liberation-and-the-pflp-today-an-interview-with-abu-ahmad-fouad-deputy-secretary-general-of-the-pflp/ (21-10-2023)

⁷⁸ www.middleeasteye.net/news/profile-popular-front-liberation-palestine (21-10-2023)

⁷⁹ www.palestinechronicle.com/pflp-soul-searching-the-rise-and-fall-of-palestines-socialists/#.VHqqFNZ-D2s (21-10-2023)

⁸⁰

www.ecfr.eu/special/mapping_palestinian_politics/democratic_front_for_the_liberation_of_palestine/ (21-10-2023)

⁸¹

www.wikiwand.com/en/2005_Palestinian_presidential_election (21-10-2023)

call on your (capitalist) governments to support a Palestinian delegation and its movements at the United Nations (UN) !⁸²

This is an affirmation of the twin Stalinist policies of “socialism in one country” and “peaceful coexistence with imperialism” rolled into one. Instead of calling on the international working class to engage in class struggle actions (demonstrations, strikes etc.) to force its will against a government collaborating or enacting imperialism, the Stalinists call for the lobbying and pleading with “your own” ruling class to adopt a slightly more liberal position, and cast votes in the UN. How revolutionary! The Palestinian Liberation Front (PLF) is a minor PLO group with historic ties to Iraq’s Ba’ath Party. It gained notoriety for the 1985 hijacking of the Achille Lauro, an Italian cruise ship in the Mediterranean.⁸³ They took hostages and demanded the release of 50 prisoners held in Israeli jails. Many of the passengers on board were elderly, and the majority were European holiday makers.

Which way forward?

This non-exhaustive list of the Palestinian resistance contains but a brief overview of Palestinian politics. It is clear, however, that secular, Stalinist and Islamist nationalism offer no way forward. After 75 years, the various types of nationalism have only led to defeat, and a worsening situation. Whether in the form of secularism, Stalinism or Islamism, the combination of various classes waving the Palestinian flag against the Israeli flag leads to a dead end. The fates of both Israel and Palestine are inextricably intertwined, no matter how this has come about historically. The Zionist Israeli state must be overcome, but it must be recognised that this state *is a capitalist state above all*. Israel is a state

with massive inequality between rich and poor. It can only be removed via a class struggle culminating in a socialist revolution. This directly implies that there must be joint struggle between Palestinian and Israeli workers, for an end to conflict and for socialism.



Above: During the “Occupy” protests in Israel in 2011, participants set up tents in public spaces to raise awareness of the housing problems for many Israelis, which includes unaffordability. There are many issues of inequality in Israel, and therefore Palestinian working people could link with working class Israelis for joint action against harsh living conditions. This would obviously start to break down the hostility between Israel and Palestine that nationalism builds and fosters.
www.rt.com

Palestine is also a capitalist state, though one which is of course of a much smaller size. There is a Palestinian ruling class, exemplified by the loathed and despised Palestinian Authority. There is a vast basis for a joint class struggle for impoverished Palestinian workers and many Israeli workers who are only marginally better off in some senses. Yes, Israeli workers must be convinced that Zionism is not, and can never, benefit them. Yet obviously, the taking of

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www.cpaml.org/post4.php?id=1697500488&catitem1=People%27s%20Rights%20&%20Liberties&catid1=19 (21-10-2023)

⁸³ www.smh.com.au/world/middle-east/from-the-archives-1985-hijacked-italian-liner-sparks-geopolitical-crisis-20191007-p52yce.html

hostages, suicide bombings and other purely military attacks are totally counter-productive and will only drive Israelis deeper behind their own government and their own state – which cares not a whit about them in reality. To even begin to reach out to Israeli workers, Palestinians must reject Hamas and even dismantle it. In addition, all the armed groups which utilise innocent life taking terror – whether secular, Stalinist or Islamist – must likewise be disassembled. A military only strategy is one of total defeat. While there will necessarily be a military component to a liberation struggle, it must be totally subordinate to the political struggle.

The current situation after October 7, however, is bound up with the international geopolitical clashes brought on by the ruling classes of the imperialist West and its hopeless bid to stop the rise of the Eurasian powers, and the new expanded BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa) bloc, which from 1 January will include Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, Saudi Arabia, Argentina and the United Arab Emirates. Anchoring BRICS is the powerful socialistic economy of the People's Republic of China – the most powerful of the remaining deformed workers' states. The BRICS bloc is a non-imperialist bloc, and thus it does not seek war, regime change, colour revolutions and other hostilities anywhere in the world. This is in stark contrast to the West, headed by the US and European former colonial powers. Their capitalist imperialism is economically collapsing – and so murderous conflict is its only way out.

What is required is a bi-national Arab-Hebrew *workers' state* as part of a socialist federation of the Middle East. This presupposes the overthrow of capitalism in the region. While this seems far away, it is the only way to stop the current war and resolve the 75-year conflict. While the Palestinian resistance should utilise the efforts of the BRICS states to broker peace, at the same time the BRICS *governments* will not lead any combined efforts at

class struggle in the East or the West. US and European led imperialism has driven itself to an impasse and is now planning to launch a three-front war against Russia, Iran and China. Obviously, this is the World War III that everyone was dreading. But workers should not despair, as the objective path of history is on their side and is not on the side of a fading and withering Western capitalism. All methods of class struggle internationally need to be employed, especially the hot-carguing of weapons shipments to Ukraine, Israel and Taiwan. Strikes and demonstrations against a world war need to raise demands for not only a “multi-polar” world but a just international order. Key to this perspective is the forging of internationally linked Marxist vanguard parties which drive forward the permanent revolution to the world victory of socialism.



HANDS



SYRIA

“Aggression” in the South China Sea



Above: World War II Filipino vessel the BRP Sierra Madre remains grounded on the Ren'ai Reef, despite being within the recognised sovereignty of the People's Republic of China (PRC). www.scmp.com

(Article sourced from www.redfireonline.com)

16-09-2023: If one was to take the Western corporate media at face value, the People's Republic of China (PRC) has made “excessive” maritime claims over the South China Sea, is bullying neighbouring claimant nations, and is provoking them into conflict. However, the Western corporate media is one of the main mouthpieces for US (United States of America) led imperialism, and thus it depicts an upside-down world. In reality, the South China Sea has, as its name implies, always fallen largely within the purview of China. This was effectively recognised

internationally until only recently, when Washington's long pursued military and political encirclement of the PRC extended following effective failures with their anti-China narratives towards Tibet, Hong Kong and the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region (XUAR). Then, the South China Sea “suddenly” became an area of international concern. In practice, the relentless rise of the PRC's gigantic socialistic economy has risen to a level which the ruling elites in the West have realised will surpass their own by 2030, if not sooner,⁸⁴ and this is the catalyst for much of the

⁸⁴ www.thehill.com/policy/finance/531688-china-expected-to-surpass-us-economy-in-2028-analysis/ (07-09-2023)

Western media to now feign concern for the South China Sea.

Fishing disputes

Despite the noise over clashes between the Coast Guards of the claimant nations in the South China Sea, disputes over fishing vessels and coastal and sea areas belonging to different countries are relatively common around the world. Rarely, if ever, do these lead to a hot war between contending nations. In the South China Sea, there are overlapping claims to various parts by the governments of the PRC, Taiwan (even though Taiwan remains a part of China), the Philippines, the Socialist Republic of Vietnam (SRV), Malaysia and Brunei.⁸⁵ There has been a practice for years by the maritime authorities of many nations, not just those surrounding the South China Sea, of ramming, escorting away and even *sinking* illegal fishing vessels found within recognised waters. These rogue fishing vessels are apparently often engaged in modern day slavery, using workers trafficked from South East Asian nations.⁸⁶

It is not only the authorities of the PRC who sometimes sink illegal fishing vessels, and in fact, the PRC sinks illegal fishing boats by far *the least* in comparison to their neighbours. In April 2017, the Indonesian special maritime task force known as Satgas 115 blew up and sank *81 fishing boats* caught poaching in its waters. The boats were mostly from Vietnam, the Philippines and Malaysia, with only one coming from China.⁸⁷ In 2021, Australian maritime authorities intercepted 16 Indonesian vessels which had sailed past

Australia's Ashmore Reef and were fishing inside its vicinity. The Australian authorities escorted 13 of them out of Australia's waters but *sunk* three of them.⁸⁸ In February of 2023, the Malaysian Maritime Enforcement Agency (MMEA) disposed of seven Vietnamese fishing vessels forfeited by the courts through *sinking* them and turning them into an artificial reef. Prior to this the MMEA had seized from the boats 1700 fish species, 1.3 tonnes of trash fish, 50 kilograms of sea cucumber and 150 kilograms of dried squid.⁸⁹ In previous years, the MMEA has simply *set fire* to trawlers that trespass into its waters, as a means of deterrent to others who might try their luck.⁹⁰ In April this year, the Indonesian maritime authorities seized six vessels for illegal fishing in the North Natuna Sea and Sulawesi waters. Five of them were Filipino, and one was from Vietnam. Some 13 Filipino crew members were arrested, and the Indonesian authorities sought to simply hand over the seized vessels to local Indonesian fishermen.⁹¹

In 2019, there was an incident where a Vietnamese Coast Guard vessel *rammed* an Indonesian navy ship. The Indonesian navy was attempting to prevent a Vietnamese fishing boat from entering a southern edge of the South China Sea, which Indonesia claims as its own.⁹² In other words, there are ongoing and relatively frequent clashes between the various navies and coast guards of Indonesia, Vietnam and Malaysia over the right to use marine sea life resources in certain areas of the South China Sea. There are *rammings*, *boat sinkings* and *boat incinerations* by most countries against the fishing vessels of several

⁸⁵ www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1099264 (07-09-2023)

⁸⁶ www.news.yahoo.com/news/indonesia-sinks-125-mostly-foreign-illegal-fishing-vessels- (07-09-2023)

⁸⁷ www.straitstimes.com/asia/se-asia/indonesia-blows-up-and-sinks-another-81-fishing-boats-for-poaching (07-09-2023)

⁸⁸ www.smh.com.au/world/asia/indonesia-backs-down-in-row-with-australia-over-torched-fishing-boats-20211110-p597t0.html (07-09-2023)

⁸⁹ www.thestar.com.my/news/nation/2023/02/16/kelantan-mmea-disposes-of-seven-seized-vietnamese-boats (07-09-2023)

⁹⁰ www.todayonline.com/world/asia/malaysia-sets-fire-illegal-foreign-fishing-boat (07-09-2023)

⁹¹ www.en.antaranews.com/news/278205/six-foreign-boats-illegally-fishing-in-natuna-sulawesi-seas-seized (07-09-2023)

⁹² www.scmp.com/news/asia/southeast-asia/article/3008485/sinking-captured-fishing-boats-deterrent-not-retaliation (07-09-2023)

other neighbouring countries. This has gone on for years, and the PRC is a relatively minor player in this type of action. Yet there is no campaign in the Western corporate media about Indonesian, Malaysian or Vietnamese “aggression” in the South China Sea. According to Western authorities, it is only China which is the source of unruly belligerence.



Above: Ferdinand Marcos Jr (Bong Bong) was elected following Rodrigo Duterte’s six year term. Marcos Jr is clearly setting the Philippines back on a course into the fold of US imperialism, and hence for a catastrophic war against the People’s Republic of China. Many on the so-called left absurdly criticised former President Duterte for NOT going to war with China! Now Marcos Jr has allowed the US to set up four new military bases in the Philippines, as a staging post for more provocations against China. www.freebiemnl.com

New Philippine proxy

Almost universally, liberals joined with the US state in criticising former Philippines President Rodrigo Duterte as an authoritarian dictator,

despite being the most popular President in Filipino history by several orders of magnitude. At one point, he was the most popular leader *in the world*, with an astonishing 91% approval rating.⁹³ From the start of his term to the finish, Duterte maintained an emphasis that under no circumstances should there be any conflict, let alone war, with the PRC.⁹⁴ Revealingly, liberals and many self-described “leftists” criticised Duterte for *not* going to war with China! These quislings eventually had their way. New Philippines President Ferdinand Marcos Jr has clearly reversed course, allowing the US military to establish *four* new bases in the Philippines as part of a dramatic escalation of war preparations against the PRC.⁹⁵ Unfortunately, the current Filipino administration has lowered itself to the status of a subordinate US proxy state, abolishing the independent stand of the Philippines under the immensely popular former President.

In 1999, the Philippine military deliberately ran aground the World War II era landing ship *BRP Sierra Madre* on the Ren’ai Reef, probably as a cheeky means to establish some kind of base. In 1935, the then Republic of China publicly declared the Ren’ai Reef to be an indivisible territory of China, and in 1983, the PRC officially changed its name to Ren’ai Jiao.⁹⁶ Just last month, the Philippine military has been transferring building materials to a handful of Filipino soldiers stationed on the *Madre*, under the guise of a temporary agreement with the PRC to supply *food* to the isolated personnel. These acts are a clear provocation against the PRC, and as a result the China Coast Guard drove away two supply ships and two Filipino coast guard vessels on August 5, as the PRC retains sovereignty over the Nansha

⁹³ www.gulfnews.com/photos/news/duterte-is-the-worlds-most-popular-leader-heres-why-1.1603804149597?slide=1 (12-09-2023)

⁹⁴ www.globaltimes.cn/page/202107/1229929.shtml (12-09-2023)

⁹⁵ www.abc.net.au/news/2023-03-23/marcos-says-us-military-bases-to-be-scattered-around-philippines/102132800 (12-09-2023)

⁹⁶ www.min.news/en/military/cc565c42fd2e7697dcca6c3ab6ba26.html (12-09-2023)

Islands which includes Ren'ai Jiao.⁹⁷ Two years ago, the Philippine government protested the presence of 200 Chinese fishing vessels anchored in the Whitsun Reef, located within the disputed Spratly Islands. The PRC authorities stated that the fishing vessels were simply sheltering from strong winds, i.e., not engaging in fishing activity, and that this was quite normal. However, the US government, backed by the governments of Japan, Australia and Canada backed the Philippines government, with US state department spokesperson Ned Price commenting that the US stands with the Philippines regarding concerns of a PRC “maritime militia” gathering in the Whitsun Reef.⁹⁸ According to US led imperialism and its acolytes, Chinese *fishing boats* are a “maritime militia” !

Much is made in the Western corporate media about the 2016 ruling of the Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA) in the Hague, which allegedly dismissed the PRC’s claims over parts of the South China Sea, in favour of the Philippines. Yet then Filipino President Duterte at the time stated that this ruling “singles out no one”, and called on all ASEAN (Association of South East Asian Nations) states to abide by the Declaration on the Conduct (DOC) of Parties in the South China Sea which they all signed in 2002, which stresses self-restraint and a *non-militarisation* of the South China Sea.⁹⁹ What is more, the PCA in the Hague has no jurisdiction over such matters, and was not brought before it by the government of the Philippines, as the Western media claims. It was in fact headed by an American lawyer, Paul S. Reichler of the US based law firm Foley Hoag.¹⁰⁰ Even then, the US state was manoeuvring the

Philippines as an emissary acting on behalf of Washington in its many sided military, economic and political moves to contain and encircle the PRC.



Above: The United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) has been ratified by around 150 nations, but the USA has remained entirely outside of it. This doesn’t stop the US state from claiming that China is violating UNCLOS in the South China Sea!! The manifest hypocrisy of imperialism is on full display. Image from www.kahimyang.com

UNCLOS

Under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), nations with a coastline are entitled to territorial waters 12 nautical miles from their shores plus and exclusive economic zone of 200 nautical miles.¹⁰¹ UNCLOS is signed and ratified by 150 states, including all South-East Asian and Pacific nations, with the exception of Cambodia which has signed but not ratified.¹⁰² The most notable omission from UNCLOS is the US

⁹⁷ www.globaltimes.cn/page/202308/1296738.shtml (12-09-2023)

⁹⁸ www.news.mongabay.com/2021/03/chinese-fishing-fleet-anchored-on-philippine-reef-raises-tensions/ (12-09-2023)

⁹⁹ www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1158003 (12-09-2023)

¹⁰⁰ www.journal-neo.su/2016/08/27/us-international-court-ruling-on-china-falls-short/ (12-09-2023)

¹⁰¹

www.un.org/Depts/los/convention_agreements/texts/unclos/unclos_e.pdf (12-09-2023)

¹⁰²

www.en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_parties_to_the_United_Nations_Convention_on_the_Law_of_the_Sea (12-09-2023)

government, which has *sat entirely outside* UNCLOS for 41 years.¹⁰³ And yet, despite not even being a part of UNCLOS, the US state asserts the right to conduct “freedom of navigation operations” (FONOP) with its warships throughout the South China Sea. The US Navy claims to challenge “excessive maritime claims” and claims to uphold the so-called right of “freedom of navigation” for all nations as a principle¹⁰⁴...under UNCLOS !! Yet the glaring hypocrisy of US imperialism goes even further. At the end of August, Indonesian Defence Minister Prabowo Subianto had to issue a clarification after his meeting his US counterpart Lloyd Austin. The US Department of Defence issued a joint press statement stating that Indonesia and the US shared the view that China’s “expansive” maritime claims are inconsistent with international law, and UNCLOS in particular. However, this was entirely fabricated. Minister Subianto reaffirmed that there had been no joint statement with the US, and nor was there a joint press conference. He emphasised that Indonesia has good relations with China, respects America, and seeks friendship with Russia. According to Subianto, Indonesia is non-aligned and befriends all countries.¹⁰⁵

The US government had simply *fabricated* the notion that Indonesia was on-side with what are essentially military provocations in the South China Sea against the PRC. And it repeatedly claims that the PRC is in violation of UNCLOS, while the USA itself has never even signed it !! The US is joined with this constant goading of China by the warships of the United Kingdom (UK), the

Netherlands,¹⁰⁶ France¹⁰⁷ and Australia.¹⁰⁸ All of these minor imperialist powers bring up the tail behind the US behemoth in constantly sailing up and down the South China Sea, and even through the Taiwan Strait, while ludicrously claiming a right to “freedom of navigation”. One can only imagine what the response would be in the West if Chinese and Russian warships were to sail past the east coast of the US, or past the UK and France, or up and down the east coast of Australia. The clear strategy of imperialism and its satraps is to push and prod the PRC relentlessly with all kinds of military provocations, and then shriek about supposed “aggression” the moment the PRC responds in any way.

No to war

The Western media disingenuously raised alarms recently when the PRC released a map of its territories which appeared to extend the “Nine Dash Line” to a ten-dash line.¹⁰⁹ In reality, the extra dash was just one drawn on the north-eastern side of Taiwan – which all Western governments officially recognise as part of China under the One China policy. While Western government propaganda tries to claim the PRC’s claims in the South China Sea are “excessive” because the islands and reefs are closer to other countries in the region, it is after all the South *China* Sea. China’s activities there date back some 2000 years. In addition, after World War II, China recovered islands occupied by Japan, and Japan later issued maps clearly marking the South China Sea Islands as part of China. In the 1950s and 60s, the US government repeatedly filed applications

¹⁰³ www.usni.org/magazines/proceedings/2021/june/it-time-united-states-ratify-unclos (12-09-2023)

¹⁰⁴ www.navy.mil/Press-Office/News-Stories/Article/2904862/7th-fleet-destroyer-conducts-freedom-of-navigation-operation-in-south-china-sea/ (12-09-2023)

¹⁰⁵ www.en.antaranews.com/news/292485/no-joint-statement-with-us-on-chinas-south-china-sea-claims-subianto (12-09-2023)

¹⁰⁶ www.maritime-executive.com/article/uk-s-carrier-strike-group-exercises-in-south-china-sea (12-09-2023)

¹⁰⁷

www.scmp.com/news/china/diplomacy/article/3123342/south-china-sea-why-france-flexing-its-muscles-contested (12-09-2023)

¹⁰⁸ www.apnews.com/article/china-australia-navy-south-sea-darwin-a9cd22a08c16964b42067419b852d8a3 (12-09-2023)

¹⁰⁹ www.news.abs-cbn.com/news/08/31/23/philippines-protests-new-china-map-over-west-ph-sea-claims (12-09-2023)

to the PRC for surveying in the area, which was an open acknowledgement at the time of Chinese sovereignty in the South China Sea.¹¹⁰



Above: The logos of some of China's largest State Owned Enterprises (SOEs), including Sinopec (oil and gas), the Industrial and Commercial Bank of China, and the Bank of China. China's SOE's are the backbone of its workers' state, and a significant victory stemming from its socialist revolution which triumphed in 1949. While distorted by a conservative bureaucracy, the People's Republic of China is well on its way to becoming the number one economic power. www.nai500.com

Today, the situation is reversed. The PRC is fast becoming, or has become, the number one world power on the basis of its vast manufacturing base together with its scientific and technological advances. US imperialism cannot tolerate a rival, let alone one which surpasses it. The PRC is poised to do just that because its economy *does not run primarily on the basis of production for profit*. Its giant state-owned enterprises (SOEs) dominate a collectively owned and planned economy which predominantly serves people's needs. Despite being heavily distorted by Stalinist politics, the PRC

has taken the first crucial step towards socialism, which portends a bright future for humanity.

Unfortunately, Washington and its satellites are responding by preparing a catastrophic war on the PRC, which could trigger death for hundreds of millions, the effective collapse of a myriad of world economies dependent on trade with China, and a crisis which would overtake all those that have gone before. The West's continually ramped up provocations in the South China Sea is just the latest effort to trigger such a military conflict with the PRC, whatever the cost. Washington must bring about an end to socialistic rule on the Chinese mainland, if it is to save the very basis of world capitalism. This should not at all deter working people, for if US led imperialism has almost nothing to offer apart from a world war, it is more clear than ever that its time has well and truly passed. If workers East and West can forge genuinely Trotskyist vanguard parties, a proletarian political revolution in the PRC combined with socialist revolutions in the West are within their grasp – and the threat of war will wither away.



¹¹⁰ www.news.cgtn.com/news/2023-08-08/Ren-ai-Jiao-clashes-between-China-Philippines-explained-1m6ffHQ9Wks/index.html (12-09-2023)

CANCEL THE VOICE REFERENDUM!



www.couriermail.com

(Article was current at the time of writing. Since then, the “Voice” Referendum was defeated with around 60% or more voting “No”.)

18-09-2023: Four weeks out from the Australian federal government’s “Voice to Parliament” referendum, most polls show it is headed for a heavy defeat. One poll has the No vote at 61%, trailed by the Yes vote at only 39%.¹¹¹ The referendum, which is being spearheaded by the governing Australian Labor Party (ALP) and the Greens, has the least support in the states of Western Australia (WA) and Queensland (QLD), but more support in the generally more liberal states of Victoria (VIC), New South Wales (NSW) and South Australia (SA). The “Voice”, if enacted, will give an indigenous body (which is appointed rather than elected) the right to make a

submission to parliament on matters affecting Aboriginal/First Nations people. In WA however, support for the Voice has waned on the back of the disastrous new cultural heritage laws which were scrapped 39 days after they were proposed due to a widespread backlash. While perhaps well intended after mining giant Rio Tinto destroyed two ancient rock shelters in the Pilbara in 2020, the proposed cultural heritage laws included penalties of up to \$10 million in fines for corporations, \$1 million for individuals as well as time in jail.¹¹² It could potentially have led to small farmers being jailed for building a fence, planting trees or clearing tracks.

Deception

¹¹¹ <https://www.msn.com/en-au/news/australia/the-latest-poll-for-the-voice-to-parliament-shows-yes-trailing-no-by-greatest-margin-yet/ar-AA1grlbv> (17-09-2023)

¹¹² <https://www.news.com.au/national/politics/reason-entire-state-were-turned-against-voting-yes-to-the-voice/news-story/b2f8c95c3c5b25079a95092f5937aa5c> (17-09-2023)

As was the case during the fraudulent “Covid pandemic” of 2020 – 2022, allegedly progressive and liberal values are being used by sections of the ruling class for reactionary ends and political repression – under the guise of humanitarianism! This is why the Voice is being led by the capitalist parliamentary parties of the ALP and the Greens, unquestioningly by the old Union bureaucracies, and with some grumbles by the faux left. The Voice is so token as to be embarrassing, a powerless committee which can be ignored by politicians at a whim. Potentially, the Voice, if put in place, can be used by politicians to derail and block ANY genuinely progressive political demands that Aboriginal people and their allies put forward from this point onwards. Even moderate demands for better housing, education and healthcare outcomes for indigenous people could simply be referred to the Voice, which would have no say other than attaching a Voice letterhead to emails to parliament.

Identity politics is so divisive that it has led to a situation where there is a left-wing yes *and* a left-wing no, at the same time as there being a right-wing yes *and* a right-wing no. This is somewhat understandable, given that some workers wish to back even the smallest step forward for Aboriginal people, even while they readily acknowledge its severe limitations. Generally speaking however, those who fell into line under “Covid”, have also fallen into line under the “Voice”. On the other hand, those who resisted the unprecedented tyranny and authoritarianism of Covid repression are seeing through what is essentially another elaborate deception via a referendum. Arguably, one reason the ruling class is pushing this is to obtain untrammelled access to vast regions of the outback for mineral exploitation through such environmentally disastrous procedures as “fracking”, with “permission” from a toothless and unrepresentative Voice. Another important reason may well be that the ruling class is aiming

to forever put an end to the uncomfortable situation (for them) where hundreds of thousands of indigenous people and their supporters march for justice each year on the 26th of January.

Change the Date

The Invasion Day (“Australia Day”) rallies each year were, prior to Covid terror, becoming larger and larger, highlighting the epic injustice of Australia’s national day in fact marking the beginning of British colonisation in 1788 and the subsequent 150 years of undeclared war against Australia’s original inhabitants. They dwarfed any official “Australia Day” ceremonies held by local governments, to the point where most authorities simply abandoned them. During the years 2017-18, the single demand “Change the Date” was raised, which generated vast support far beyond indigenous people and their allies. Unfortunately, woke identity politics stepped in, and the Aboriginal activist leaderships trashed Change the Date in favour of the nihilistic “Abolish Australia Day”, which became “Abolish Australia”. Much of the false left caved in, and a huge movement of the masses turned away, with many repelled and disoriented. Changing the date of Australia’s national day away from January 26 *could* have been won and would have at least provided a platform for further struggles. Yes, it would have been symbolic and partial, but polls overwhelmingly showed the majority of people had no issue with changing the date, *as long as there was another date* which was marked as Australia’s national day.

It cannot be ignored that the Voice referendum is taking place amid a backdrop of cataclysmic preparations for a potential nuclear world war, with the West plying Nazis in Ukraine with weapons in a proxy war on Russia AND literally setting up US bases across Australia and the Pacific for a catastrophic war on China. One *cannot* pretend to be progressive while remaining silent,

or cheering on, the arming of Nazis in Europe (which the ALP and the Greens in Canberra have facilitated) AND remaining ambivalent about a horrific anti-communist war against Red China. Similarly, one *cannot* be for humane pluralism while assisting the capitalist state in the incarceration, censoring and physical suppression of workers under the threadbare excuse of “health” via a questionable virus. Millions of workers were thrown out of work through vaccine mandates, and some Aboriginal people were thrown into Covid detention centres without a word of protest from many who now loudly advocate the Voice !!



Above: Australia is enduring one of the worst cost of living crises ever, with the price of food, housing, rent and other essentials skyrocketing as a flow on from the deliberate shutting down of parts of the economy during the fraudulent “Covid pandemic”. At the same, time, some of Australia’s largest corporations such as Rio Tinto, BHP and Wesfarmers were strongly behind the “Voice”. This was one reason why many rejected the “Voice”, seeing it as an identity politics diversion which would do little or nothing to improve the lives of indigenous or working people. www.heraldsun.com.au

What is more, Australia is gripped in the worst cost of living crisis in memory, as but one outcome of the unconscionable lockdowns which shut down whole sections of the economy. Food prices, rent,

housing, utility bills and inflation have never been higher and is grinding many into poverty. Meanwhile, billionaire corporations which pay little or no tax such as Rio Tinto, BHP, Wesfarmers, Qantas and the Commonwealth Bank are strongly in favour of the Voice – which demonstrates just how ineffectual it would be in practice. It clearly does not cost a cent to *appear* woke and progressive, while fortifying the entirety of the parliamentary system and, by extension, the whole apparatus of elite rule.

Previously, we called for a treaty to replace the Voice, but it is now apparent that a treaty with the same political forces pushing the Voice will be far too compromised. Rather, to refocus and reignite the indigenous rights movement, the single demand of *Change the Date* needs to once again come to the fore, as a flow on from the demand **for the cancellation and permanent withdrawal of the Voice**. Ultimately, the fate of the Aboriginal people *and* the working class is bound up with a joint struggle against capitalist class rule. To this end, what is required is a multi-racial and multi-ethnic Marxist vanguard party, which can light the path towards the international victory of a socialist order.



Above: The Voice referendum was divisive amongst the Indigenous people, with some in favour and some against. Most militant Indigenous activists rejected the Voice as token, and demanded much more. www.sydneycriminallawyers.com.au

DPRK invites Russia to Mark 70 Years of Defiance



Above: DPRK leader Kim Jong Un shows Russian Defence Minister Sergei Shoigu some of their hardware. www.msn.com

(Article sourced from www.redfireonline.com)

05-08-2023: Several anniversaries are regularly celebrated and marked with official ceremonies in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK - "North Korea"), such as the founding of the Workers Party of Korea (WPK) on October 10,¹¹³ and the "Day of the Sun" on April 15 – the birthday of the country's first leader Kim Il Sung.¹¹⁴ Arguably the most important, however, is July 27 – the day in 1953 when the Armistice was signed between the United States of America (US) and the DPRK, which was the start of a truce, that had

taken two years to negotiate.¹¹⁵ This Armistice was meant to be converted into a genuine peace agreement, but the US state has since refused point blank to uphold this obligation, and so technically, the US is still at war with the DPRK. 2023 marks 70 years of heroic defiance of US imperialism by the DPRK, in the face of a juggernaut which to this day remains bent on its destruction.

Russia receives special invite

Currently, relations between the Russian Federation and the DPRK are perhaps at the

¹¹³ www.kkfonline.com/2022/10/06/on-the-77th-anniversary-of-the-founding-of-the-workers-party-of-korea/ (02-08-2023)

¹¹⁴ www.visitthedprk.org/what-is-north-koreas-day-of-the-sun/ (02-08-2023)

¹¹⁵ www.thediplomat.com/2023/07/reflecting-on-the-korean-armistice-70-years-later/ (02-08-2023)

highest point they have ever been, due to the strong backing of the DPRK for Russia's Special Military Operation (SMO) in Ukraine, in response to NATO's proxy war. In light of this, Russia was invited to observe the DPRK's festivities marking July 27, and what they see as their victory in 1950-53, which they refer to as the "Fatherland Liberation War". Russia sent Defence Minister Sergei Shoigu, who led a military delegation which included Alexandr Matsegora, the Russian Ambassador to the DPRK.¹¹⁶ Shoigu is the highest ranking Russian official to visit the DPRK since President Vladimir Putin first visited over 20 years ago, in the year 2000.¹¹⁷ During the visit, Shoigu read a congratulatory message from President Putin to the DPRK, earnestly thanking them for their support in Ukraine at a time when Russia correctly views its defensive actions against Washington and London to be of an existential nature.

The People's Republic of China (PRC) was represented alongside Sergei Shoigu by Li Hongzhong, a member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China (CPC).¹¹⁸ The PRC and the DPRK have blood ties as a result of the Korean War, which was squarely aimed at China's 1949 socialist revolution. Records of military casualties of over a dozen nations involved have been kept almost secret,¹¹⁹ but it is estimated that the imperialist slaughter killed 4 million people, which includes up to 1 million Chinese volunteers – who gave their lives to assist the Koreans and defend the PRC, which was at that time only four years old. These horrific massacres by the militaries of the West conditions the nature of the DPRK today, whose

people remember it as if it was yesterday. The Vietnam War receives greater coverage in the West due to the domestic political opposition which was generated, but the Korean War was a monumental war crime in its own right.

Russia, PRC & DPRK axis

Some speculate that sending Shoigu to the DPRK on this special occasion was a signal to the West that Russia and the DPRK may soon be involved in military cooperation, alongside the historical ties of the PRC with both nations. The DPRK's military manufacturing capacity is remarkable for a country of its relatively small size. At the July 27 parade in the capital Pyongyang, the DPRK showcased the Hwasong-17 and Hwasong-18 intercontinental ballistic missiles (ICBMs), which reportedly have the capacity to strike anywhere on the US mainland. At the event, the DPRK Defence Minister Kang Sun Nam announced that "the US imperialists have no room of choice of survival in case they use nuclear weapons against the DPRK".¹²⁰ This statement is devoid of bombast, and the ruling classes in the West are well aware of it. In an ideal world, nuclear weapons would not exist, and the threat of war would melt away. However, as long as imperialism exists, nations threatened by Washington and their allies have little choice but to build and maintain nuclear weapons. The DPRK has seen country after country which did not have the capability to defend themselves militarily invaded and/or overthrown multiple times – from Afghanistan to Iraq to Libya to Syria.

¹¹⁶

www.globalsecurity.org/wmd/library/news/dprk/2023/dprk-230727-kcna08.htm (02-08-2023)

¹¹⁷

www.abcnews.go.com/International/story?id=83114&page=1 (02-08-2023)

¹¹⁸ www.kathmandupost.com/world/2023/07/28/russian-chinese-officials-join-kim-at-north-korea-military-parade (02-08-2023)

¹¹⁹

www.historyguy.com/korean_war_casualties_and_statistics.htm (02-08-2023)

¹²⁰ www.apnews.com/article/north-korea-kim-jong-un-shoigu-parade-3171c3536c040e6edab073fa060c8138 (02-08-2023)

Now, the US ruling class is again trying to provoke a war with nuclear armed Russia via Ukraine. It is mainly through the incredible restraint shown by Russia and the PRC in the face of relentless provocations that World War III has not yet broken out. Despite living under the shadow of ongoing sanctions and threats against it for more than seven decades, the DPRK is still prepared to defend the gains of its century of struggle. The largest gain is the construction of a *workers' state*, which on an economic basis, is arguably the most advanced socialistic power to have yet come into being. Under the constitution of the DPRK, its citizens have the right to employment (which means zero unemployment), free education, free healthcare and full material assistance in the event of illness. All citizens over 17 years of age have the right to stand and be elected in any of the DPRK's state organs.¹²¹ Astonishingly, housing is free and supplied to all as a basic right.¹²² And, all of these benefits come *without* any burden of taxation. Taxes in the DPRK were abolished in 1974 !!¹²³



Above: Students in the DPRK attending the Kim Il Sung University. Education is free in the DPRK, as is healthcare and housing, while citizens pay no tax. This is the basic reason why the DPRK is demonised in the Western media, who attempt to bury facts from their audience. www.kkfonline.com

This is the reason why the DPRK is more demonised in the Western media than any other nation. It is subjected to a mountain of lies in order to hide achievements which many consider impossible. The only Western accusation which has some relation to the truth is the existence of a *leadership cult* around the Kim family. Of the plethora of various forms of Stalinism, this one is the most unique, but it distorts political discourse on the northern side of the Korean peninsula. While credit should be due to leading figures, no genuine militant should tolerate unquestioning adulation of individuals. Despite this, to be able to stare down and resist the dire threat of invasion and/or nuclear annihilation by the Pentagon every day for decades on end, is a remarkable testament to the strength of the DPRK. What is required is the *revolutionary reunification* of Korea, through a *proletarian political revolution* in the North combined with a socialist revolution in the South. It is acknowledged that this is likely to be bound up with a proletarian political revolution in the PRC, Korea's giant neighbour. With all due respect to 20th century Korean and Chinese history, the removal of Stalinism and the consequent extension of genuine Marxism internationally remains key for the final victory of socialism in Asia.



Above: A poster from the DPRK, hailing the role of the Korean People's Army (KPA). www.dalocollis.com

¹²¹ www.kfausa.org/chapter-v-fundamental-rights-and-duties-of-citizens/ (02-08-2023)

¹²² www.exploredprk.com/articles/free-housing-in-dprk-a-priority-for-the-peoples-wellbeing/ (02-08-2023)

¹²³ www.dprktoday.com/abroad/news/21381?lang=e (02-08-2023)

Papuan Separatists Denied at Port Vila



Above: Melanesian Spearhead Group leaders drink kava at the 22nd MSG Summit in Port Vila, in August 2023. www.rnz.co.nz

(Article sourced from www.redfireonline.com)

03-10-2023: At the August summit of the Melanesian Spearhead Group in Port Vila, Vanuatu, the separatist United Liberation Movement of West Papua (ULMWP) once again failed to obtain full member status, despite strenuous efforts to do so. The Melanesian Spearhead Group (MSG) is a body of governments and movements originally aiming for the decolonisation of Melanesian countries and territories in the South Pacific. The full members are the Republic of Fiji, Papua New Guinea, the Solomon Islands, the Republic of Vanuatu and the Front de Libération Nationale Kanak et Socialiste (FLNKS) of New Caledonia. FLNKS joined in 1989, Fiji in 1996, while Timor Leste and the

Republic of Indonesia joined as observers in 2011.¹²⁴ Indonesia was granted associate membership in 2015, representing its five Melanesian provinces of Maluku, North Maluku, East Nusa Tenggara, Papua and West Papua. Indonesia claims that the combined population of its five Melanesian provinces – some 11 million – is larger than the rest of the MSG members put together.¹²⁵

ULMWP “does not meet existing criteria”

The MSG leaders decided at the summit that the ULMWP does not meet “existing criteria” to be admitted as a full member and could not reach consensus on the issue. Both the ULMWP and representative of the Indonesian government had been lobbying the MSG leaders for their respective

¹²⁴ www.msgsec.info/about-msg/ (30-09-2023)

¹²⁵ www.indonesiaatmelbourne.unimelb.edu.au/melanesian-compromise-opens-the-door-for-papua-jakarta-dialogue/ (30-09-2023)

cases. Indonesian diplomats staged a walkout when ULMWP leader Benny Wenda prepared to address the summit meeting.¹²⁶ There is more than meets the eye behind this diplomatic snub. Many liberals in the West who unconsciously back West Papuan “independence” are blissfully unaware that Mr Wenda is wanted in Indonesia in connection with the murder of six people, including two police officers, and arson of several buildings in Abepura in December 2000.¹²⁷ Mr Wenda escaped from jail and fled Indonesia to the United Kingdom, where he lives in the leafy green surrounds of Oxford, with his wife and children, after being granted asylum by the UK government in 2003.¹²⁸ That is to say, Benny Wenda is not a political exile as such, but a fugitive wanted for serious criminal charges.

The ULMWP integrated all fractious wings in 2018 of what is a separatist “independence” movement, in an effort to gain MSG membership.¹²⁹ However, in August, after denying the ULMWP full membership status, the MSG then issued a one year moratorium on any new membership applications – seemingly an attempt to signal to the ULMWP that it should not once again apply at next year’s summit.¹³⁰ The ULMWP argues that the presence of the FLNKS within the MSG (which is not a nation state but a political movement) means that there should be no barrier to its membership. This is disingenuous, however, as the Kanak national liberation front is a pro-socialist political movement which seeks the independence of *all* of New Caledonia from the

former colonial power of France. It is a Melanesian based group, but one which works with at least five other nationalist parties in New Caledonia which has similar aims.¹³¹ The FLNKS *does not* seek an ethnic based separatist independence for indigenous Kanaks alone, but the independence of the New Caledonian nation *alongside* other ethnicities and nationalities including Europeans, Tahitians, Indonesians, Vietnamese and more.¹³²

This is hardly the case for the Papuan separatist groups, however, which rather grandiosely refer to themselves as a “liberation” front. The West Papuan separatist groups aim – without stating so openly – for a Melanesian only separatist “independence” from Indonesia. It is telling that the only MSG leader to meet one-on-one with the fugitive Benny Wenda was Fiji’s Sitiveni Rabuka on the margins of the Pacific Islands Forum in Suva in February. At the time, Rabuka claimed that “we will support them because they are Melanesians”.¹³³ Sitiveni “Rambo” Rabuka has a history of racial chauvinism, leading a coup in Fiji in 1987, claiming that indigenous Fijians were losing control of their country to descendants of ethnic Indians.¹³⁴ In this case, the “Melanesian only” ethnic one upmanship of Fiji’s 12th prime minister has gelled with the ethnic separatism of Papuan armed groups in Indonesia’s Papuan provinces. Needless to say, any amount of ethnic conflict cannot be backed by the progressive left in any sense, and nor can any efforts to form a separate ethnic nation.

¹²⁶ www.abc.net.au/news/2023-08-25/melanesian-spearhead-group-meeting-west-papua-independence/102772838 (30-09-2023)

¹²⁷ www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2011/dec/05/indonesia-catch-alleged-criminal-abuse-interpol (30-9-2023)

¹²⁸ www.tanahku.west-papua.nl/index.php/nieuwsberichten/5354-freedom-of-oxford-awarded-to-benny-wenda (30-9-2023)

¹²⁹ www.ulmwp.org/united-liberation-movement-west-papua-port-moresby-fulfills-prerequisites-msg-membership (30-09-2023)

¹³⁰ www.thediplomat.com/2023/08/for-the-melanesian-spearhead-group-west-papua-presents-a-challenge/ (30-09-2023)

¹³¹ www.rnz.co.nz/international/pacific-news/466742/flnks-insists-on-new-caledonia-sovereignty (30-09-2023)

¹³² www.indexmundi.com/new_caledonia/ethnic_groups.html (30-09-2023)

¹³³ www.asiapacificreport.nz/2023/08/19/west-papua-high-on-agenda-as-msg-leaders-set-to-convene-in-port-vila/ (30-09-2023)

¹³⁴ www.aljazeera.com/news/2022/12/24/sitiveni-rambo-rabuka-confirmed-as-fijis-new-prime-minister (30-09-2023)

Terror attacks on civilians

One reason the Papuan separatist groups place such emphasis on international bodies such as the MSG is that they make no attempt to win over those residing in the Papuan provinces of Indonesia to any set of political ideas, let alone independence. In fact, on the contrary, the armed separatists are more than prepared to carry out *wanton violence* on Papuans and Indonesians living in “West Papua” who do not support separatist “independence”, and who wish to live in peace with all of their neighbours. This is why the Indonesian government refers to the armed separatist groups as “armed criminal groups” or KKB. On January 27, 2022, the armed separatists attacked a TNI (Indonesian military) guard post in the Puncak Regency, which killed three soldiers.¹³⁵ IF the armed Papuan separatist groups ONLY targeted the military, one MIGHT be able to make a case that they are engaged in a just armed struggle. But this possibility is obliterated when one considers the multiple and ongoing attacks on *civilians* that the armed separatists conduct, with relative frequency.

In July 2022, Papuan separatist groups attacked a truck carrying civilians in the Nduga district with long rifles and pistols. 10 people died, and 2 others were injured, and all were civilians.¹³⁶ Understandably, when the Indonesian military intervene to protect civilians, even just by firing back at the armed separatists, the clashes cause many people to flee the conflict in fear of their lives. At the end of 2022, it was estimated that there were some 60 000 internally displaced persons throughout “West Papua”.¹³⁷ While the armed separatist “West Papua National Liberation Army” (TPNPB) often claim responsibility for attacks on the Indonesian military, they remain

totally silent on the thousands of villagers who are displaced as a result of their clashes with the police and military forces, of which they are clearly the instigators. Even though there is a political wing and a military wing of the separatist forces, the political wing *never* makes any attempt to distance itself, let alone condemn, extreme violence and armed attacks on innocent civilians, calling into question its entire political basis.



Above: New Zealand pilot Philip Mehrtens was kidnapped by armed Papuan separatists in February this year. They threatened to execute Mr Mehrtens if the Indonesian government intervened or refused to negotiate West Papuan independence. This is violent terrorism, rather than a political struggle.
www.theguardian.com

This year separatist violence has continued apace. In February, armed groups captured New Zealand pilot Philip Mehrtens, who was attempting to pick up 15 construction workers who had their lives threatened. They took Mr Mehrtens hostage and warned that if the Indonesian government intervened or *refused to negotiate* on making Papua independent from Jakarta the pilot “will be executed”.¹³⁸ In Dekai in the Yahukimo Regency from February to August, there have been seven attacks by armed separatists on civilians. In these

¹³⁵ www.voi.id/en/bernas/128903/ (30-09-2023)

¹³⁶ www.westpapudaily.com/papua-armed-group-kkb-barbaric-attack-killed-10-civilians-wounded-2.html (30-09-2023)

¹³⁷ www.humanrightsmonitor.org/news/idp-update-2022-more-than-60000-idps-in-west-papua-remain-without-government-aid/ (30-09-2023)

¹³⁸ www.redfireonline.com/2023/02/27/armed-papuan-separatists-hold-nz-pilot-hostage/ (30-09-2023)

ambushes, often carried out with sharp weapons and knives, six citizens died, and four others were seriously injured.¹³⁹ In July, separatist groups looted firearms from the Homeyo Intan Jaya police station, and then later shot at police during a meeting the police held with the public over the theft of the police weapons.¹⁴⁰ Referring to such groups as KKB or “armed criminal groups” is arguably an understatement. In reality, the separatist groups engage in violent terrorism without concern for innocent human life. At the same time, the political wing has the temerity to appeal to the world stage for political support and “solidarity” as if they are a victim of grave injustice.

National liberation ??

Both the political and armed wings of the Papuan separatist terror organisations focus on garnering international (primarily First World) backing for their campaign, rather than any attempt to mobilise political opinion within the Papuan provinces OR within the rest of Indonesia. There are two main reasons for this strategy. Firstly, the Papuan separatists are at some level aware that an “independent” West Papua, if it was to somehow come into being, would not be independent at all, but would rather be wholly *dependent* on Australian, British and US imperialism. An “independent” West Papua, which has only begun to be developed by the Indonesian economy, would scarcely be viable on its own. The Papuan separatists are also aware that a separate West Papua based on ethnic Melanesians set against the majority Austronesians and the multiple other ethnicities throughout the Indonesian archipelago *has no chance whatsoever* of gaining majority support. How could it, when they launch deadly

terror attacks on those who do not actively support them?



Above: Map showing West Papua as part of the Indonesian archipelago. Even if West Papua was able to achieve “independence”, as a largely underdeveloped area it would be entirely dependent on support and aid from neighbouring imperialist economies, such as Australia, but also ones further afield such as the United Kingdom and the United States of America. Papuan separatists and their supporters are aware of this, and so aim much of their appeals towards liberals in the West. Image from www.time.com

Secondly, the Papuan separatists are savvy enough to know that liberals in the West are easily fooled and are especially susceptible to wring their hands over an indigenous people, mixed in with rhetoric about “colonisation” and “genocide”. However, there is no “genocide” in West Papua. Rather, there is a campaign of lies, deception and fraud masquerading as a campaign for “freedom”.¹⁴¹ Chiming in with this deceit are a whole host of self-described “Marxist” parties, wildly misapplying and misunderstanding VI

¹³⁹ www.kompas.id/baca/english/2023/08/13/en-kkb-terus-serang-warga-yahukimo-sudah-10-korban (30-09-2023)

¹⁴⁰ www.westpapuadaily.com/kkb-looting-firearms-from-homeyo-intan-jaya-police-station.html (30-09-2023)

¹⁴¹ www.redfireonline.com/2020/09/24/west-papua-independence-or-ethnic-conflict/ (30-09-2023)

Lenin's championing of national liberation – *from an epoch which has long faded into history*. Such Australian "socialist" organisations which are swindled, and can scarcely imagine *some* indigenous people telling lies, let alone committing crimes, include: Solidarity,¹⁴² Socialist Alliance,¹⁴³ the Australian Communist Party,¹⁴⁴ Socialist Alternative,¹⁴⁵ and the Bolshevik-Leninist group.¹⁴⁶ That is, both Stalinist and "Trotskyist" parties in Australia are once again trapped in a sea of liberalism from which they cannot see dry land. Mercifully, the Spartacist League (SL) is aware of *some* of the relevant issues with regard to Papua and Indonesia, but still vulgarise an imagined "national oppression" into its opposite. For example, the SL are indeed cognisant of the issue of transmigration within Indonesia, and its impact on West Papua. They mention that the population of West Papua is now fairly evenly divided between Papuans and non-Papuans. But they then go on to claim that "Marxists" should seek to mobilise all workers in support of indigenous Papuans for a separatist independence while recognising the right of "settlers" to remain in West Papua!¹⁴⁷

Yet these "settlers", who are in reality transmigrants from the heavily populated Indonesian islands of Sumatra, Java and Sulawesi, have in many cases been living in Papua for 30 or more years. During that time, they have peacefully and happily integrated alongside indigenous Papuans, and well and truly become part of the community. What reason would they have for supporting a separatist independence, which would cut them off from the rest of Indonesia, its economy, its thousands of different cultures – not

to speak of its language? They would certainly have no reason to do this if it involves *any hint of violence* against those who are their friends, neighbours and no doubt, some relatives. This is not to say that the transmigration program has not involved some problems. But it has been above all a developmental acceleration program,¹⁴⁸ which can only benefit the relatively underdeveloped West Papua while relieving population pressures on Sumata, Java and Sulawesi.



Above: A diagram showing the transmigration patterns within Indonesia from 1950 to 1990. Much of this was necessary to deal with overpopulation in Java, but in West Papua it has also led to economic development. "Independence" for West Papua is thus about slowing or halting this transmigration, and not about "freedom".
www.thearabexperience.blogspot.com

What is more, in 2015 the Indonesian government brought in a temporary halt¹⁴⁹ to the transmigration program to the Papuan provinces –

¹⁴² www.solidarity.net.au/highlights/west-papua-a-rising-tide-of-struggle-for-liberation/ (01-10-2023)

¹⁴³ www.greenleft.org.au/content/solidarity-shown-west-papua-struggle-self-determination (01-10-2023)

¹⁴⁴ www.auscp.org.au/militant-worker/the-morning-star-shines-bright-solidarity-with-the-west-papuan-liberation-movement (01-10-2023)

¹⁴⁵ www.redflag.org.au/article/genocide-west-papua (01-10-2023)

¹⁴⁶ www.bolshevik-leninist.org/independence-for-west-papua/ (01-10-2023)

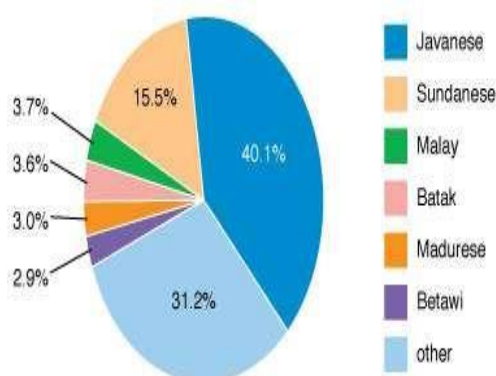
¹⁴⁷ www.icl-fi.org/english/wv/1148/west_papua.html (01-10-2023)

¹⁴⁸ www.westpapuadiary.com/transmigration-to-accelerating-development-in-west-papua/ (01-10-2023)

¹⁴⁹ www.rnz.co.nz/international/pacific-news/275490/indonesian-president-to-end-transmigration-to-papua (01-10-2023)

but this has far from satisfied the separatist groups, both armed and unarmed. This halt was called for at the time by the then governor of Papua, Lukas Enembe. He said that the transmigration program causes a “social gap” between the transmigrants and indigenous Papuans.¹⁵⁰ This is somewhat understandable, as Austronesians who arrive from the relatively more developed islands generally have a higher educational level and technical skill level, and thus they are able to acquire better paying positions usually in Papuan cities such as Jayapura. Yet there is no evidence that anything like a state sponsored practice of discrimination against indigenous Papuans takes place. On the contrary, the Indonesian government has bent over backwards to include Papuans in the mosaic of diverse cultures that are found throughout Indonesia’s over 14 000 islands.¹⁵¹

Ethnic composition (2010)



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Above: A pie graph showing just some of the many different ethnic groups that make up Indonesia. Javans are a majority, but there are many others which combine to make the Indonesian Republic. Socialists do not support the break up of nations based on ethnicity, and instead focus on working class solidarity. www.britannica.com

Leftists above all, should be able to see that “West Papua” *does not meet the Marxist criteria for a nation*. At the least, common language, common territory, a common economy and a common culture are the Marxian prerequisites for a nation.¹⁵² West Papua fulfills not one. The common language that is in fact used throughout West Papua is Bahasa Indonesia. The territory of Papua is in fact split between West Papua and Papua New Guinea. The economy of West Papua is that of Indonesia’s. With around 312 indigenous Papuan tribes in West Papua,¹⁵³ a common culture cannot be spoken of. If there is no West Papuan nation, there cannot be a notion of “national liberation”. Even before such a question is broached, socialists obviously cannot lend *any* support to a semblance of ethnic based conflict or violence. We agree that socialism needs to remain the aim for Indonesia, the Asia-Pacific, and Australasia. Yet the road to the supercession of capitalism lies in the common struggle of working people throughout the region and internationally. The political leadership for such a path can only be illumined by authentic workers’ vanguard parties anchored with the genuine basis of successful socialist struggle in the 20th and 21st centuries – the theory of permanent revolution.



Socialist International

¹⁵⁰ www.ucanews.com/news/transmigration-program-must-end-says-papua-governor/73743 (01-10-2023)

¹⁵¹ www.worldatlas.com/articles/how-many-islands-does-indonesia-have.html (01-10-2023)

¹⁵²

www.marxists.org/reference/archive/stalin/works/1913/03a.htm (01-10-2023)

¹⁵³ www.foreignconnect.net/how-many-tribes-in-papua-new-guinea/ (01-10-2023)

THE WEST IGNITES ANOTHER PROXY WAR IN THE MIDDLE EAST

(Article sourced from www.redfireonline.com)

16-10-2023: The news of a Hamas attack from the Gaza strip into Israel has reverberated around the world, leading to much trepidation about what is to come. Violence begets violence, and none are more prepared to fuel this cycle than the imperialist ruling classes of the West, based in Washington, London and Brussels. It is scarcely believable that Hamas would have been able to launch such an attack without first obtaining the green light from the deep states of the West, replete with assurances that the Israeli Defence Force (IDF) would not respond *in the first instance*. The official story of a massive intelligence failure amongst the IDF is not credible, to say the least. The Gaza strip is arguably the most heavily surveilled geographic area on Earth,¹⁵⁴ and it is inconceivable that Hamas launched a “surprise attack” which included pulling down fences with a bulldozer and walking into military bases without being stopped and taking out army tanks. The Egyptian Intelligence Minister reportedly directly informed Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu 10 days before the attack that “something unusual, a terrible operation” was about to take place from Gaza.¹⁵⁵ The response was indifference.

Hamas terror

The oppressed Palestinians unquestionably have the right to resist and the right to defend themselves against some 75 years of unbearable oppression at the hands of the Zionist Israeli state, even with arms. Yet this time, it is clearer than ever that Hamas is being used as a proxy force by the West to enact massive retaliation and other chaos which could lead to a world war. Regardless of the horrific crimes of the IDF, the reported kidnapping of innocent Israeli civilian hostages, children, grandparents, people with a disability and others¹⁵⁶ – let alone summary executions – *cannot be justified and must be condemned*. These actions are eerily similar to those of ISIS and Al Qaeda, which Western governments activated for years during their still ongoing war of regime change against Syria. As *The New Atlas* points out,¹⁵⁷ Hamas are used as a tool of imperialism in a decades old “strategy of tension”, where destabilisation through terrorism and violence ultimately work to the interests of the benefactor.

In fact, the monstrous retaliation against Gaza and Palestine that will now be unleashed by the Israeli state probably benefits Netanyahu and the imperialist West regardless of how many innocent civilians die needlessly. The IDF have announced a total siege of the Gaza strip,¹⁵⁸ including electricity, fuel, food and water, which could lead to the starving of over 2 million people. The Israeli state can now partially alibi an even greater military suppression of the Palestinian people who have endured arguably more injustice than any other. It is impossible that Hamas would not be aware of this and would not be cognisant of the thousands of Palestinians who will perish under IDF bombardments in response. Even though Hamas has won elections in the occupied territories in the past, today any notion that

¹⁵⁴ www.globalresearch.ca/no-hamas-invasion-not-israeli-intelligence-failure/5835433 (11-10-2023)

¹⁵⁵ winepressnews.com/2023/10/09/nato-leaders-pledge-their-support-for-israel-as-nation-cuts-off-food-and-water-to-gaza-netanyahu-knew-about-attacks-in-advance/ (11-10-2023)

¹⁵⁶ www.zerohedge.com/geopolitical/several-americans-confirmed-killed-israel-orders-complete-siege-gaza-barbarians (11-10-2023)

¹⁵⁷ www.youtube.com/watch?v=ne7Rsa7vba0 (11-10-2023)

¹⁵⁸ www.rt.com/news/584426-israel-gaza-complete-seige/ (11-10-2023)

Hamas is fighting for the Palestinian people or indeed its “national liberation” must be discounted.

The rise of the East and the decline of the West

A deadly conflict at this point in time between Hamas and Israel can only be viewed in connection with the international situation. NATO’s proxy war on Russia via Ukraine has completely failed, and the elites in the West are very much aware that they cannot defeat Russia militarily – short of a nuclear exchange which could destroy the planet. Not only that, it has become evident that the West not only armed Nazis but celebrated the fact. Even this is difficult for the most ardent backers of empire to sustain politically. The US state in particular needed an off-ramp from Ukraine, they needed something huge in order to shift the focus away from what will likely be a “UkroNazi” collapse during a US Presidential election cycle. An orchestrated suicidal Hamas attack on Israel fits the bill to a tee. Israel’s retaliation and spreading of the conflict into Lebanon and Syria will also solve another dilemma for Washington – how to keep their troops in Syria to prevent reconstruction taking place. Syrian President Bashar Al-Assad just returned from a triumphant visit to the People’s Republic of China (PRC), where PRC President Xi Jinping pledged material support for war torn Syria.

This is occurring soon after the ground-breaking rapprochement between the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the Islamic Republic of Iran, brokered by the PRC’s top diplomat, Wang Yi. The prospects of peace between what to that point had been considered eternal mortal enemies was another indicator of the positive benefits to the world from an economically and politically rising China, as the anchor of the non-imperialist BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa) bloc. The US and European Union (EU) former colonial powers obviously cannot sustain a world in which the PRC

and her non-imperialist allies deliver both peace and the prospects of economic development. If the US and the EU cannot rule, they will seek to destroy. It is these forces which are ultimately behind the October Hamas initiated attack on Israel, who are quite prepared for a world war to block the rise of the BRICS allies.

The potential wars on Russia and China, or via the Middle East, launched by the West constitutes yet more proof that the capitalist mode of production is rotten ripe for replacement by its successor – socialism. Indeed, the eminent danger of world war can only be overcome with the working class raising itself to political power over the majority of the globe. While the political leaderships of the BRICS will not undertake this goal, working people should orient towards the BRICS while tackling the task of bringing down the ancient and decrepit Western empires driving us to extinction. It is well acknowledged that these political tasks will be difficult, but the rise of the East and the decline of the West is a material indicator that objective history is moving towards the supercession of class society.

Some demonstrations now taking place in the West are chock full of the faux left, who in backing Hamas and its provoked war are yet again falling for the trap laid for it by “their own” elites. Firstly, many of them should have embraced the Zionist Israeli state, as it was the most enthusiastic enforcer of Covid repression – which they backed. Secondly, most of them also applaud the arming of Nazis in Ukraine against Russia. ENOUGH! What is required is a genuine left wing, headed by internationally linked Marxist vanguard parties based on Permanent Revolution. Today, working people should demand: ***End Western military support for Israel! US troops out of Syria! Abolish NATO! Abolish AUKUS! No war on Russia or China! No war on Iran and the Middle East!***
