



INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE OF PEOPLES' STRUGGLE

Promote, support and develop the anti-imperialist and democratic struggles of the peoples of the world

Welcome to the ILPS Newsletter, Volume 2, Issue 2 (April-October, 2022). The current issue covers a lot of ground, from the fight against imperialist war and an analysis of the upheavals in West Asia to the fightback in Latin America.

We publish a communiqué from the successful Fight Against Imperialist War campaign tour of Europe (June 18-July 3, 2022) that culminated in tour members marching against NATO war-mongering in Madrid and organizing a youth camp in the Netherlands. The ILPS participated in this successful initiative as part of a collection of international anti-imperialist organizations under the banner International Coordinating Network (ICN).

Two other articles look at a new initiative, the International Peoples' Front (IPF), that will involve the organizations that made up the ICN along with many other global organizations. It was launched in person in Phuket, Thailand on Sept 28, 2022 with the ILPS playing a central role in its inception.

These articles are complemented by two short and punchy articles from Australia that look at the terrible cost of unjust wars.

A selection of articles from Argentina, Mexico and Peru expose the growing struggles of working peoples in this region of the world to demand their rights and liberation.

We open this issue with an article entitled "Assessment of the Current Political Situation: The Third World War and its Impact on Kurdistan" by the Academy of Democratic Modernity. The writer, Haki, joins our editorial team, as Erdelan Kurdistan moves on to other tasks. Thank you and best wishes Erdelan! Finally, we close this issue with a comprehensive analysis of the world situation by ILPS Chairperson Emeritus, Prof. Jose Maria Sison.

Enjoy, share, and kindly provide feedback and comments. -- *ILPS Newsletter Committee*

NEWSLETTER

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Kurdistan

ASSESSMENT OF THE CURRENT POLITICAL SITUATION: The Third World War and its Impact on Kurdistan

Academy of Democratic Modernity (ADM)

The first quarter of 2022 has passed which allows us to determine key characteristics and dynamics of the current political phase. A proper understanding of political



developments in their historical context is central for democratic forces to defend societies from being captured by capitalist modernity and to develop an independent agenda.

After the global state of emergency triggered by the Corona pandemic, the far-reaching social consequences of which are not yet foreseeable, the war in Ukraine is now attracting the attention of the world public. War and peace have (again) become the central issues of Western discourse. After the collapse of the Soviet Union and the end of the Cold War, neoliberal thinkers had spoken of the “end of history” and the “victory of democracy.” Yet, today, headlines such as “It’s war again” or “War has returned to Europe” dominate the state and mainstream discourse in the Western hemisphere.

Underpinning this dominant discourse is a basic Eurocentric assumption: the myth that the world has lived in peace since 1945 and that the world order established under the hegemony of the United States has largely kept the bellicose tendencies of competing capitalist states in check. Consequently, interstate competition in Europe, which had led to two world wars, had been largely contained according to this narrative, and West Germany and Japan had been peacefully reintegrated into the

world capitalist system after 1945. Moreover, institutions of cooperation had been created at the international, including European, level (the common market, the European Union, NATO, the euro, etc.).

This dominant reading ignores the other side of the story. For in the meantime, numerous “hot” wars (both civil wars and interstate wars) have been fought since 1945. Beginning with the Korean and Vietnam Wars, followed by the Yugoslav Wars and NATO’s bombing of Serbia, two wars against Iraq (one of which was justified by obvious U.S. lies about Iraq’s possession of weapons of mass destruction), the wars in Yemen, Libya, Syria, and elsewhere in the world. It is no surprise, then, that especially for societies in Asia, Africa, and Latin America, the Ukraine crisis once again reveals the hypocrisy and double standards of the West when it comes to the value of human life, migration, or the sovereignty of nation-states.

The Third World War

For a proper assessment of the current developments around the war in Ukraine, but also of the other (interstate) disputes, the conceptual and theoretical framework of the “Third World War” offers a central orientation. This term, which has been used by the Kurdistan Freedom Movement for over two decades, describes the global reordering process that has been taking place since the collapse of the Soviet Union. The global power struggle, which the Kurdistan Freedom Movement defines as the Third World War and which has now been increasingly used in the mainstream debates in recent months, began with the end of the bipolar world order in 1989/90 and the associated breakup of former equilibria. Societies have since witnessed a brutal power struggle between nation states, but also the resistance of non-state actors. A brief look at the developments of the past three decades confirms this analysis and shows impressively that there can be no talk of an “end of history.”

However, this phase of the new order – the Third World War – has a different character and characteristics compared to the world wars before.

First, in today’s multipolar world order, the political and economic power struggles cannot be described as a struggle between different ideologies or social systems. On the contrary, all nation-state actors and rising power centers, such as China, India, and even Russia, are part of the capitalist logic and the capitalist world system.

Second, in the face of crumbling U.S. hegemony, we are confronted with all nation-states or regional and

international forces taking advantage of the moment to expand their respective hegemonies. Each actor legitimizes these claims and policies in a variety of ways. Here, history often plays a central role, as we can see in the example of the Turkish state's neo-Ottoman expansionist ambitions.

Third, there are no absolute front lines in this conflict; there is a simultaneity of cooperation in one place and confrontation in another.

Fourth, the methods of warfare in World War III are not comparable to those of the wars in the 20th century. Whereas World War I and World War II were still characterized by material battles, international powers today rarely clash directly, but instead conduct their conflicts through proxy wars. The first years of the war in Syria or the Ukrainian civil war after the developments on the Maidan in 2013/14 are examples of such a proxy war.

In addition, media warfare, biological warfare, and trade wars are also important methods of World War III. The escalating trade war that began between the United States and China in 2018, or the recent trade war between the U.S./UK/EU and Russia, can also be seen in this context.

The geographic framework of this global reordering process was summarized by U.S. strategist Zbigniew Brzezinski as the "great chessboard." He had "Eurasia" in mind as the main arena of future power struggles – the huge land complex that Europe and Asia form together. In 1997, the former National Security Advisor to U.S. President Jimmy Carter wrote that the battle for global supremacy would be waged on this chessboard, because the greatest danger for the United States from a geostrategic perspective would arise if a foreign power succeeded in combining Europe and Asia ("Eurasia") into a cohesive power bloc.

After the withdrawal of the Soviet Union, this intra-imperialist power struggle initially focused on the Middle East and was fought in parallel elsewhere in the world. In this context, the war in Ukraine constitutes a continuation of the Third World War in Europe.

The militarism problem of society

With the war in Ukraine, the militarism problem of society has once again come to the fore. Here, a statement by the Kurdish thought leader Abdullah Öcalan is insightful: "Although militarism is a force that has penetrated, controlled and ruled over society throughout history and in all states, its growth has reached its peak in the age of the middle class (bourgeoisie)." (Abdullah

Öcalan. 2020. *The Sociology of Freedom: Manifesto of the Democratic Civilization*. Vol. 3. PM Press: Oakland)

We are currently in a phase in which the international regime for disarmament, which was built up in the last decade before the end of the Cold War, is suffering the most severe blow. The withdrawal from historic disarmament treaties by the United States and Russia in recent years reflects this global trend. Europe, which has been rearming against Russia for years, has recorded the highest rates of increase in arms imports in the world.

The need for a "Third Way" in Europe

The developments in recent months, be it the war-mongering fomented primarily by the media or the strengthening of nationalism and militarism, have once again made clear how great the need for an alternative policy is that distances itself from the agenda of capitalist modernity, nation states and capital interests.

Not only in the context of the Ukraine war, but also in the Third World War, it is necessary to strengthen a third position based on the principle "the main enemy is in one's own country" and supported by democratic forces and societies. This includes a consistent position against the war of the rulers. It is the strategic task of democratic forces in Europe to defend anti-militarism without any concessions. They must defend themselves against the various strategies of states to undermine anti-war attitudes in large parts of the population by means of "social discourses".

A new peace movement must be ignited for this purpose, in the framework of which democratic forces, as an alternative pole, take their position in the Third World War and promote their agenda.

The decline of the nation-state model in the Middle East

The Middle East (or West Asia -ed) is also in the throes of upheaval and the focus of World War III. This is no coincidence but is related to the crisis of capitalist modernity. For crises make themselves felt less at their own center than on the periphery. The Sykes-Picot order in the region, implemented by Great Britain and France over 100 years ago, has become increasingly obsolete in recent decades. The various actors – international powers, regional nation-states, and local forces – are increasingly operating outside the nation-state model imported from Europe.

Abdullah Öcalan analyzed the region's current phase of nation-state decline as follows: "For the nation-states

in the Middle East, the execution of Saddam Hussein in Iraq is comparable to the end of the monarchist regimes that was ushered in by the execution of Louis XVI. Just as the monarchist regimes could not recover from the execution of Louis XVI and entered the epoch of their decline, the fascist regimes of the nation-states have not recovered since the execution of Saddam Hussein and entered the epoch of their departure.

Just as the hegemonic system in Europe used all its power in vain to restore the monarchist regimes in the period from 1815 to 1830, the effort to preserve the nation-states in Iraq and Afghanistan will also be in vain. It is not only these two countries that are experiencing the disintegration of the nation-state. All nation-states, from Kyrgyzstan on the border with China, to Morocco on the Atlantic Ocean, from the nation-states of Yemen and Sudan to nation-states in the Balkans and the South Caucasus, are experiencing similar crises.

There is already no clear division left between Pakistan and Afghanistan. Lebanon, Yemen and Sudan are constantly seething. At the slightest democratic stir, the regime in Egypt faces its possible collapse. Algeria has not yet fully emerged from civil war. Turkey, which calls itself an island of stability, is only able to stay on its feet with the help of NATO special operations. It seems that there is no state in the Middle East that is not experiencing problems.” (Fifth volume of Abdullah Öcalan’s “Manifesto of the Democratic Civilization,” not yet published in English.)

Ongoing revolutionary process in Kurdistan

In this chaotic state, the Arab Spring was a brief awakening of the Arab peoples to ~~take a place~~ in this struggle for new political balances in the region. However, due to interventions by regional and international powers, as well as the weakness of the democratic forces in the countries concerned, a long-term democratic transformation process in these countries failed to materialize.

In contrast to this short-lived democratic revolt in the context of the Arab Spring, current political developments in Kurdistan continue to be co-determined by the Kurdistan Freedom Movement under the leadership of the Kurdistan Workers’ Party (PKK). Contrary to the hijacking by the forces of capitalist modernity, the existence of this freedom movement, which has an alternative social paradigm and political program, has guaranteed the ongoing revolutionary process in Kurdistan.

The struggle for a free and democratic Kurdistan is

thereby also seen as a struggle for a Democratic Middle East Federation. Today, the Kurdistan Freedom Movement interprets the slogan “Freedom for Kurdistan” in the sense of democratizing the respective states (Turkey, Syria, Iraq and Iran) while allowing democratic developments in Kurdistan.

The demonstrations and events around the Women’s Struggle Day on March 8 as well as the mass participation in this year’s Kurdish New Year’s festival Newroz have manifested the central role of the PKK and its mastermind Abdullah Öcalan. The social anchoring of the Kurdistan Freedom Movement in Kurdistan and worldwide was clearly displayed, contrary to all anti-propaganda. The demand for Abdullah Öcalan’s freedom and an end to his isolation in İmralı was once again reinforced as a central national and international demand.

Turkey’s dismantlement plan persists

While Kurdish society clearly demonstrated on Newroz (*the arrival of spring and new year in Kurdistan – ed*) that it will continue its resistance, the Turkish government’s adherence to further massacres and invasions of Kurdistan is also evident. With its aggressive and genocidal war policy against the Kurdish society and the Kurdistan Freedom Movement, Turkey poses a danger not only within its own borders, but also to the people in the Autonomous Administration of North and East Syria (Rojava), in South Kurdistan – and here especially to the Mexmûr refugee camp and the Şengal (Sinjar) region.

In the shadow of the Ukraine war, Rojava in particular is affected by constant attacks by drones, which have again resulted in several deaths and many injuries in recent months. Artillery and drone attacks on residential areas and civilian and military infrastructure occur daily as part of a “low-intensity war” conducted completely in line with NATO counterinsurgency textbooks. The attacks are designed to wear down and displace civilians and aim to expand the Turkish jihadist zone of occupation.

Ankara’s water war against the region also continues. Since the beginning of Russia’s war against Ukraine, relatively active diplomatic activity on the part of Ankara in the international arena has taken place in parallel with intensified air and ground attacks by Turkey and its allies in Rojava. Behind this stands the Turkish leadership’s effort to get the green light for another invasion of Rojava in order to further advance its course of imperialist expansion.

After its unsuccessful military operations against the People's Defense Forces (HPG) in the mountains of Kurdistan, Turkey has been relying on massive bombardments against the Medya Defense Zones in South Kurdistan since the beginning of 2022 and has meanwhile invaded the area again. The colonialist Turkish state launched a new comprehensive invasion attack in the areas of Zap, Avaşin and Metina on 14 April 2022. HPG announced on 17th August its 4-month war balance sheet. According to this, 1454 actions were carried out, 1871 invaders were killed. A large amount of military equipment was destroyed, including 6 helicopters and 2 tanks.

Defending the revolution in Kurdistan

In addition to the foreign policy aspects of Turkey's war policy, the Turkish government also continues to rely on repression and suppression in its domestic policy. The governing AKP/MHP alliance has massively lost support among the population. This is due to fundamental problems such as the economic crisis, the destruction of democratic politics and the complete disregard for justice.

In this context the repression against activists of the Peoples' Democratic Party (HDP) continues. Thousands of them are currently in prison. The ban proceedings against the HDP have been initiated and clearly show the attitude of the Turkish state towards a peaceful and democratic solution to the Kurdish question.

Just as Turkey's occupation operations in various regions of Kurdistan, which violate international law, are legitimized by the "PKK terror" discourse, so too does the banning procedure against the HDP. By legitimizing these attacks as a fight against terror, the Turkish state and its international allies aim to make it impossible to protest in public.

In order to effectively defend the revolution in Kurdistan against all these attacks this year as well, it is therefore even more important to break the terror discourse. The worldwide campaign of the "Justice for Kurds" initiative for the removal of the PKK from the "terror lists" with the goal of handing over more than four (4) million signatures to the Council of Europe at the end of the year thus has concrete implications for the current developments in Kurdistan. For a break with this discourse of legitimacy would destroy the foundation of the Turkish war policy and give the society in Kurdistan air to breathe.

But the "terror discourse" is not only the basis with the help of which the war in Kurdistan has been con-

tinued for decades. It also serves to criminalize the best organized and most experienced democratic force in the Middle East. Strengthening the Kurdistan Freedom Movement, which promotes an agenda independent of capitalist modernity and concretely advances the construction of democratic modernity through the example of Rojava, is tantamount to strengthening all alternative, democratic actors worldwide.

Note: ADM weblink is

<https://democraticmodernity.com/>



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International

COMMUNIQUE FIGHT AGAINST IMPERIALIST WARS CAMPAIGN TOUR OF EUROPE



The International Coordinating Network (ICN) successfully conducted an organizing tour through Belgium, France, Spain and the Netherlands, led by members of the International League of Peoples' Struggle, the International Women's Alliance, the Asia Pacific Research Network and the Resist US-Led War Movement. The tour was held in the context of the International Coordinating Network (ICN) Fight Against Imperialist Wars campaign that launched May 21, 2022.

Over a two-week period, June 19 – July 3, 2022, tour members met with peace advocates, workers' organizations, national liberation, and revolutionary solidarity organizations to unite with all possible forces to fight to end all wars of aggression.

Tour members were immersed in the democratic struggle of the Kurdish people, meeting with representatives of the Kurdish National Congress in Brussels, the Kurdish Democratic Council of France in Paris, and were graciously hosted by families of the French Kurdish community who told stories of intergenerational resistance and strength. On nearly every wall were the honored martyrs of the Kurdish struggle for economic, political, and cultural self-determination.

The Kurdish people are struggling for the self-determination of Kurdistan, currently occupied by the reactionary regimes of Syria, Iran, Iraq, and Turkey. Turkey

continues to attack the Kurdish people with chemical weapons and to massacre their liberation fighters in the mountains. Turkey, a NATO member, is also indiscriminately killing civilians, and conducting airstrikes and drone warfare to target revolutionaries. Kurdish organizers are developing new ideas to fight back and strengthen their mass movement to free Kurdistan.

The tour joined a forum organized by Ugnayan Pilipino sa Belgium hosting Elmer "Ka Bong" Labog with Kilusang Mayo Uno discussing the Philippines election and the inauguration of President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. and Vice President Sara Duterte in the Philippines. They spoke of the widespread cheating, disenfranchisement and media manipulation during the elections, as well as how the Filipino people continue to organize against the killings and other human rights atrocities committed under previous president Rodrigo Duterte.

In Paris, tour members met with Korean peace advocates in exile and learned about the struggle for reunification of the Korean peninsula. Together, they visited the Père Lachaise cemetery where they commemorated the 1871 Paris communards who gave their lives fighting for just and lasting peace.

The tour met with Ukrainian peace advocates exiled in Paris due to government repression of their political views. They decried the conflict in Ukraine as a "vain" proxy war between Russia and NATO countries that began with the 2014 US-backed Maidan coup and condemned the US's ambitions to overtake the European oil and gas market. They called for solidarity of the Ukrainian and Russian people as had existed during the time of the Soviet Union and for international solidarity of all peace and justice-seeking peoples.

The Paris leg continued with a discussion hosted by the largest union in France, CGT, and French communist parties struggling against economic crisis, warmongering, and rising fascism in France, including a forum with community organizations to discuss the impacts on prices of food and gas in France due to the war and inflation.

The tour met with three chapters of the Samidoun Palestinian Political Prisoners Solidarity Network. The Collectif Palestine Vaincra in Toulouse, banned by the French government for their organizing against the Zionist occupation of Palestine, won a legal battle to lift the ban after only 3 months. In Madrid, police officers harassed Samidoun members wearing kuffiyas attending the anti-NATO mobilization. Finally, Samidoun members hosted a mural action in Amsterdam to commemorate the 50th death anniversary of Palestinian resistance

leader and anti-occupation fighter Ghassan Kanafani who was assassinated by Zionist state agents.

All of this demonstrates that the best defense for our movements is to assert the justness of our struggles for liberation.

Tour members spent 3 days in Madrid participating in panel discussions and workshops clarifying NATO as the leading tool of US-led war in the world today. Other workshops included NATO's role in aggravating the climate crisis and increasing the war economy and many more topics. They then participated in an anti-war mass protest of an estimated 10,000 people against NATO.

The counter-NATO activities were followed by a mass vigil condemning the Moroccan police's murder of 37 migrants, who tried to enter the Spanish enclave of Melilla. Members joined an indignation rally in downtown Madrid called by the Sindicato de Manteros y Lateros – a street vendors' union of mostly African migrants.

The tour concluded in the Netherlands with a hybrid forum featuring renowned Philippine revolutionary leader Professor Jose Maria Sison, who explained how imperialism means war. Finally, a youth camp was held in Utrecht attended by youth from the Netherlands, Ireland, Venezuela, the US, and the Philippines and included virtual participation from Kurdistan, Ukraine, Kenya, and the Philippines. The camp included an intergenerational solidarity dinner, a discussion on the international situation, a workshop on mass campaigns and a discussion about how to move forward with organizing an internationalist anti-imperialist youth brigade.

The tour was an unforgettable experience for all participants and has imparted valuable lessons for them to use in strengthening campaigns to fight all wars of aggression. Reaffirming that international solidarity is key in achieving just and lasting peace, anti-war organizations look forward to building and connecting peoples' movements across the globe with a common goal of winning the people's war against imperialism.

NO to NATO! Free the People! Long live international solidarity!

August 8, 2022

Note: The above text is available on-line at <https://internationalsolidarity.org/communique/>

International

INTRODUCING THE INTERNATIONAL PEOPLES' FRONT (IPF)



What is the IPF?

It is a peoples' united front organized at the international level to mobilize organizations and individuals from the local, national and international levels to coordinate, cooperate, assist and together fight imperialism and its agents in all its forms.

IPF is the creation of different international anti-imperialist peoples' organizations who have worked together under the name International Coordination Network (ICN) since early 2022.

How does one join the IPF?

IPF being a peoples' united front is not a structured formation although more than ten international organizations have started it. It is a unity of purpose and action bound to the broad anti-imperialist objectives stated above. Anyone who ascribes to the objectives of the IPF and signs on to the statement published on the websites and social media pages of IPF members can be considered a member.

The secretariat (presently being set up) collects the names of organizations and their contact details for processing and sends confirmation.

Although regular participation in IPF planning and activities is encouraged, there is no mandatory participation in meetings/assemblies. Individuals,

groups, organizations, and other entities can join only certain actions if desired, and disassociate and/or reassociate at any time.

What is the International Coordinating Body?

The IPF is managed by an International Coordinating Body (ICB) which is composed of representatives of international organizations that operate in an unstructured manner including rotating chairing at each regular meeting. The creation of subsidiary working groups composed of members is not limited to the ICB.

How can a member participate?

Any member can participate in activities of the front including sending contributions and proposals for consideration via the website or email info@internationalsolidarity.org. Participation through international campaigns and struggles on different themes are managed through working groups of IPF members with a lead(s) of your choice. Regional coordinated and national struggles draw the participation of members of the IPF (that may be subsumed to already existing national coordination or UF bodies) while linked to the IPF at the regional/international level.

How is the IPF funded?

The IPF is supported by its members in cash or in kind mainly through their cooperation and participation. We welcome voluntary contributions primarily to support the website and other communication initiatives through the secure website.

How may one contact IPF?

To know more about this initiative, you may:

- * Email info@internationalsolidarity.org or contact@internationalsolidarity.org
- * Go to the website <https://internationalsolidarity.org>
- * Follow the IPF social media accounts online Facebook [@internationalpeoplesfront](https://www.facebook.com/internationalpeoplesfront) Twitter [@IPF_info](https://twitter.com/IPF_info)

International

FIGHT AND BUILD AN INTERNATIONAL UNITED FRONT OF THE WORLD'S PEOPLES AGAINST IMPERIALISM AND ALL REACTION! Call for an International Peoples Front!

Humanity and the planet suffer from the scourge of imperialism – imperialist powers of the monopoly big bourgeoisie and their corporations exploit the working people to severe impoverishment, arrogate the resources of the earth, create wars of competition and aggression, create pestilence, and destroy the well-being of the planet.

The Ukraine war and saber-rattling in the Korean peninsula and Taiwan/southeast Asia are symptomatic of imperialist war conflicts (and a ceaseless US war policy) adding to the severe economic depressionary crisis, pestilence, and climate change that scourge humanity and the planet. These are all the products of imperialism.

The US hegemon controls the military security and financial infrastructure of the world and dominates the economy and diplomacy through its imperialist alliances. But to stave off its decline it has engineered proxy wars against Russia and ultimately faces the strategic threat of China as an emerging counter-hegemon.

Fascism is the other face of imperialism as it and its lackeys repress people's democratic rights to ensure that people remain oppressed and ripe for their and the planet's exploitation.

Almost all countries face economic depressionary crises, political instability, and fascism, and the ruling reactionary classes intensify the exploitation of the workers and other working masses. The bourgeois governments practice different forms of fascist oppression of the masses. Workers' strikes and peoples protests are met with severe repression and in many cases with massacres and assassination of their leaders and activists.

People are rising up in all continents. People are anxious and eager to organize and have their voices heard.

It is even more urgent now for people to come together in a united front organized at the international level to mobilize organizations and individuals from the local, to national and up to international levels to coordinate, cooperate, assist and together fight imperialism and its agents in all its forms.

Australia

2% = \$39 BILLION FOR WAR! WHY A PEACEFUL WORLD IS IMPERATIVE



The US has 'asked' its allies to increase their 'defence' expenditure by 2%, for Australia this would mean about \$39 billion for war.

Well, it's a nice tidy sum of money. Thirty-nine billion dollars of the people's money. This is what we will be spending on war toys if we agree to the US Government's request that its 'allies' increase their 'defence' spending to 2% of GDP.

First thoughts are, how many houses, hospitals, aged care, pre-school units, schools, etc. could be built with this money and how many new workers could be employed in these facilities. But there is another aspect which we need to address. Percentages and amounts shock, but we need to think about the 'war toys' that this amount will purchase, and what will they do to people whose only 'crime' is that they are there.

We need to think about who decides on war and who suffers from them. We need to think about why are such wars declared, what is behind them and who benefits from them?

We need to look at what are the needs at home. How could \$39 billion be more constructively utilised. Australia is one of the richest countries in the world, yet 1 in 8 Australians live in poverty in 2020, the Australian Council of Social Services ACOSS, released a report stating that relative poverty was growing in Australia with an estimated 13.6% of the population living below an internationally accepted relative poverty threshold.

Despite this, successive governments either ignore the problem or give lip service to any solution, so the questions must surely be asked how can we afford to spend \$39 BILLION slaughtering people in other lands also suffering impoverishment and why should we do so?

The capitalist system simply cannot exist without expansion and this expansion can only occur through war. Capitalism and peace are simply incompatible, only socialism grows through peace.

Australia

CRIMES AGAINST HUMANITY

There has been a constant barrage of media propaganda since the commencement of the war in Ukraine, most of it centred on outrage at the Russian invasion, and highlighting what they term as the 'terrible atrocities' perpetrated by Russia on innocent Ukraine.

What they don't tell you is that all war actions are atrocities. War itself is an atrocity. War is a crime against humanity, because it is always the people that suffer and those that declare the wars suffer not.

Wars are always waged for one of two reasons. If it is to throw off oppression/colonialism to fight to restore freedom then we call such wars just. All people have the right to fight for their freedom, to fight exploitation and end Injustice.

All other wars are unjust wars and as history demonstrates, without exception, they are always fought for unacceptable reasons: profit, territory, power, control of resources, strategic advantage. These wars can never be justified or accepted.

They always result in terrible sacrifice, slaughter of men, women and children, who never benefit from such wars, but who die or are maimed in huge numbers, in order to enrich and empower the already rich and powerful.

If we are to learn the lessons of history, we need to examine the wars we can still remember, and ask, were they just or unjust. Who made the greatest sacrifices and who benefitted from them?

The First World War left an estimated 16 million soldiers and civilians dead and countless others physically and psychologically wounded. The war also forever altered the world's social and political landscape.

ravaged the national economies of both the victorious European allies and the defeated central powers. Who benefitted? The rich and powerful and armament manufacturers. Who suffered? Ordinary people.

The Second World War followed only 21 years later. According to Wikipedia, World War 2 was the deadliest military conflict in history. An estimated total of 70–85 million people perished, or about 3% of the 2.3 billion (est.) people on Earth in 1940.^[1] Deaths directly caused by the war (including military and civilian fatalities) are estimated at 50–56 million, with an additional estimated 19–28 million deaths from war-related disease and famine. Civilian deaths totalled 50–55 million. Military deaths from all causes totalled 21–25 million, including deaths in captivity of about 5 million prisoners of war. Who benefitted? Certainly not ordinary people.

Since the 2nd World War, the major financial beneficiary of this war, the United States of America, has plundered, slaughtered and instituted bases on many countries around the world all through unjust wars, Vietnam, Korea, Iraq, Libya, Syria, Afghanistan. These involved terrible atrocities, death and destruction of millions of innocent people and their homes and land.

In 1995 Vietnam released its official estimate of the number of people killed during the Vietnam War, (a war they call the American War, not the Vietnam War): **as many as 2,000,000 civilians on both sides and some 1,100,000 North Vietnamese and Viet Cong fighters.** The U.S. military has estimated that between 200,000 and 250,000 South Vietnamese soldiers died.

In Korea, nearly 5 million people died. More than half of these—about 10 percent of Korea’s pre-war population—were civilians. (This rate of civilian casualties was higher than World War II and the Vietnam War.) Almost 40,000 Americans died in action in Korea, and more than 100,000 were wounded.

Syria. At least 350,209 people have been killed in 10 years of war in Syria, the UN says in its first official death toll since 2014. Its human rights chief cautioned the figure is “certainly an under-count of the actual number of killings”.

Afghanistan, the US’ longest war. During the War in Afghanistan, according to the ‘Costs of War Project’ the war killed **176,000 people** in Afghanistan; 46,319 civilians, 69,095 military and police and at least 52,893 opposition fighters.

The war in Afghanistan has cost **\$2.3 trillion** so far, according to the Brown University’s Costs of War Project. That does not include the massive airlift the Biden

administration conducted to evacuate 123,000 people from Afghanistan before the final U.S. military were forced to leave on Monday. 1 Sept 2021.

The cost of these wars in monetary terms is astronomical, but in terms of their impact on the people who suffered them and paid for them from their taxes there are no numbers that can illustrate their immensity.

So, questions must be asked and answered. How did any of these wars benefit the world’s people? How could the enormous sums of money invested in weapons of destruction have been more productively used? Have these wars solved any problems or have they created even more?

We all know the answers to these questions. There was no benefit to the people from these avaricious wars, how could there be, ordinary people have nothing to gain and everything to lose. Their lives, their families, their homes, their country.

Billions have been expended on these wars, billions of dollars that could have fed the hungry, cured the sick, educated the children, saved our environment, housed the homeless worldwide.

None of these wars have solved the problems of the people. Indeed, the chess game played by the powerful doesn’t acknowledge people, it is concerned only with profit and power. They make no sacrifice. They simply move their armies and their obscene weapons into strategic positions and result in the people of each country sacrificing their lives.

Is a world without war possible? Only if ordinary people stand up and refuse to go to war. Only if we acknowledge that our leaders have no commitment to the people but only to the chess game of power. Only if we see through their propaganda, their lies and their corrupt policies and determine our own future.

Only when we insist that ALL governments must prioritise the needs of the people above the demands of the Military Industrial Complex and only when profit and power by a small but powerful minority is stopped.

ONLY WHEN THE EXCESSES OF IMPERIALISM HAVE BEEN CONSIGNED TO THE RUBBISH BIN OF HISTORY AND A NEW SOCIALIST SOCIETY IS ESTABLISHED.

Mexico

HUNGER STRIKE AND CARAVAN UNITE WORKING PEOPLE ACROSS MEXICO



Under the leadership of comrade Miguel Angel Wong, the Mexico Chapter of the ILPS has developed a series of activities that have not only encouraged many organizations throughout the country to join the struggle, but also that have enabled them to enter into working groups with important government agencies at the Municipal, State and Federal level.

In July 2022, In the face of the government's closed-mindedness and persecution, a day of struggle was undertaken, the main demonstration of which was a hunger strike with stitched lips by comrade Miguel Ángel Wong himself in the Plaza de Armas in San Luis Potosí. This came as the demands of the people we being systematically ignored and in during a series of attacks against several comrades, including comrade Gabriela Wong.

After the hunger strike, on August 2, a caravan march was undertaken from San Luis Potosí to Mexico City (CDMX). On the way, ILPS members were joined by comrades from the states of Guanajuato, Querétaro and the State of Mexico and, once in Mexico City, others from the states of Oaxaca and Chiapas as well as those from the capital of the Republic.

The March-Caravan created so much expectation that when we arrived in Mexico City, a heavy police operation was already waiting for us to prevent us from holding a rally in the Zócalo and we were kept in the streets near the National Palace.

However, that was not enough reason to give up, and we continued our struggle in different parts of the city including Santo Domingo square, and marched to the offices of the Secretary of the Interior where a commission of comrades headed by comrade Miguel Angel Wong engaged in a working table dialogue with the second most important man in our country, the Federal Secretary of the Interior, reaching important agreements for all the organisations that are part of this great day of struggle.

We had just finished this task when we had to generate new actions to avoid the arbitrary relocation of comrades from the Sunday market in La Griega in Querétaro and at the same time prepare the necessary arrangements for a new caravan of comrades who left the State of Tamaulipas to defend their right to housing. They were received and lodged in the offices of the CMAP in San Luis Potosí and later accompanied by the UCFCP of Querétaro and by other organisations in Mexico City.

Undoubtedly, despite the ravages that the pandemic has left in many parts of the world, the struggle cannot stop because the needs of the most vulnerable are becoming more acute every day, which is why our commitment to popular unity is growing stronger every day.

ILPS Mexico Chapter
(translated from Spanish)



Argentina

1ST NATIONAL MEETING OF THE WORKERS AND THE PEOPLE (ENTYP) HELD

The ENTYP was born to give a popular and anti-imperialist response to the crisis of dependent capitalism in Argentina.

On July 9, 2022 the 1st ENTYP (National Meeting of the Workers and the People) was held in the city of Resistencia, Chaco, Argentina. The event was held at the headquarters of SOSCH (Sindicato de Sanitaristas del Chaco) and was attended by a large number of trade unionists, internal board members, delegate bodies, groups, organisations of unemployed and activists, with the presence of international guests from the International League of the Peoples' Struggle (ILPS).

The meeting was held to propose a patriotic, popular and anti-imperialist solution to the crisis, based on the struggles in progress and to break with dependence, plunder and hunger once and for all. It was an important united step to give shape to the struggles of the sectors committed to liberation, setting up a project led by broad sectors of the workers and the people towards the conquest of a true popular and anti-imperialist democracy.

Among the conclusions of the meeting was the call to build a day of struggle on a new national date, August 17, 2022, the formation of provincial ENTYP Promoting Committees and the discussion of the final Declaration of the meeting to continue building this alternative.

The ILPS supported and promoted the national day of struggle voted by the ENTYP for August 17, promoting measures of struggle throughout the country. We took to the streets and roads in defence of wages and work, against hunger and the criminalisation of those who struggle.

We are proposing that the basic measures to solve the problems of the people include the suspension of the payment of the foreign debt, the nationalisation of the banks, foreign trade and strategic resources. And mainly by promoting the formation of the political force that is capable of applying this programme among the employed and unemployed workers, defeating the projects of the monopolies and imperialism in order to impose a popular solution.

The approved document states:

“On the eve of the 40th anniversary of the end of

the dictatorship, this “democracy” is already beginning to be widely questioned. It is seriously at odds with its own people, the cause of enormous social inequality, condemning to misery and despair of the majority of the population.

Election after election the situation is getting worse and the control of the state is in fewer and fewer hands, demonstrating that not only is there no “government of the people”, but that it is more and more a government of the few, of the powerful, of the monopolies, something that in the 1970s they could only impose with state terrorism.

We need to move towards a new political project that truly represents our interests and create the conditions to install a New Democracy, with representatives arising from workers' and popular struggles and assembly processes. With the agreement of the IMF, the Fernández government has endorsed and continued the policy of the Macri government, the same policy that was already repudiated with street protests the day it was voted by the “representatives of the people” in Congress.

Paying for such a swindle means an enormous indebtedness, as well as the interference of the IMF in the control of the economic plan, the adjustment of wages and social assistance and the further surrender of energy and strategic resources, resulting in a deepening of economic dependence in a clear attack on national sovereignty. All this for the benefit of financial capital, local and international, at the service of a handful of monopolies and multinationals.

The national government is backing down and cowering before the powerful. This was the case with the announced nationalisation of Vicentín (an agro-export giant -ed.), leaving the state unable to intervene in the grain export market, recover unpaid credits, obtain dollars, regulate supply and domestic prices.

The same with the control, operation and maintenance of the waterways, under concessions since the Menemist era in the Paraná de la Plata river basin...”

“We need to regain the reins of our country, free ourselves from financial capital and perpetual indebtedness, put the privatised strategic companies in the hands of the state and away from the corrupt, nationalise the banks and foreign trade, give a strong boost to the shipbuilding industry, the merchant navy and fishing by recovering control and the wealth of our seas and rivers, to advance with industrial development towards full employment with good salaries and pensions.”



“We seek a truly popular way out of the crisis and this necessarily requires a new working class leadership. It is clear that the road towards a break with all dependence, which has lasted for more than two centuries, must be taken up now and driven by our militant commitment arrive at an immediate resolution to provide answers to the thousands of compatriots who, even with stable work and wages, are going hungry and with the understanding that this situation will worsen in the coming years.

We are at a decisive moment in our history: Either we continue to suffer under those who continue to wallow in this monopoly capitalist madness of private appropriation of what we socially produce, or they are expropriated by the organised power of the only truly democratic and supportive class: the working class.”

(translated from Spanish)

Argentina: National Day of Mobilisation Held on August 17, 2022

The National Meeting of Workers and the People held its National Day of mobilisation on Wednesday 17 August, 2022 that was voted at the assembly in Chaco on 9 July. The date coincided with the mobilisation called by the CGT, which forced different political and trade union sectors to take a position on it. This scenario allowed the ENTYP, with its initiative already underway and independently of the ups and downs of the bureaucracy, to take part in the dispute in the direction of imposing an active strike and picketing to confront the ongoing adjustment.

The ENTYP’s call was based on the ongoing conflicts, both of employed and unemployed workers, but its approach was not limited to immediate demands, but sought to raise a platform in the street to work for a political solution from below towards a new democracy: patriotic, popular and anti-imperialist.

One of the peaks of the gathering took place in CABA, where the column left from Plaza Constitución to the General Administration of Ports, where an action was held in support of the struggle of the dockers of Terminal 5 and in denunciation of the role of the monopolies in foreign trade.

The ENTYP delegation was made up of the Body of Delegates of Terminal 5, the Corriente Sindical Jorge Weisz, the Centro de Estudiantes del Profesorado Joaquín V. González, the JR Che, the CUBa-MTR and the MTR Histórico. The day ended at the Energy Secretariat, where the tariff slashing was denounced and the nationalisation of the public utilities companies was raised.

In Resistencia, there was a mobilisation and rally at the provincial water and sanitation company, with the comrades of SOSCh - the hosts of the first meeting - at the head, accompanied by sectors in struggle of occupied and unemployed workers.

In Rosario, there was a mobilisation and rally in front of the government headquarters, with the participation of CUBa-MTR, 17 de Octubre, Alternativa Clasista, JR Che and MTR Histórico. The Agrupación Trabajadores Marítimos de San Nicolás and the Juventud Guevarista (Guevarista Youth) also expressed their support.

There were also mobilisations and acts in San Miguel de Tucumán, Salta Capital, San Salvador de Jujuy, Santiago del Estero and Mar del Plata.

There were also various actions in different parts of the country led by sectors in struggle. The unity of these sectors, in unity with the unemployed movement, is the raw material for the struggle to impose an “active strike and piqueteros” to confront this austerity plan and to propose its defeat.

The ENTYP raises its banner for the unity of the sectors committed to liberation, for a patriotic, popular and anti-imperialist solution that puts an end to the political projects of the monopolies and the IMF, opening the way to the project of the workers and the people.

Peru

US IMPERIALISM'S OPERATIONS IN PERU LINKED TO DRUG TRAFFICKING

As part of preparations for a third world war, the Sixth and Fourth Commands of the U.S. Armed Forces and NATO are reinforcing their 76 (in 2018) bases and quasi-military bases in Latin America, with more than 19,000 officers, 3,200 in Peru alone. NATO now has military agreements with Colombia, Brazil and Argentina. National police forces are subject to intervention of over 5000 members of the DEA, FBI and CIA.

The heads of these Commands say that their counter-subversive strategy is constituted by their National Defence Strategy (2018) and their National Security Strategy (2017-2018).

Structuring its armed and police forces into a "Network of Networks", operated by the Southern Command in conjunction with US and allied law enforcement agencies with three Interagency Joint Task Forces that conduct regular military and police and allied operations.

The 18th edition of these joint military operations led by the Southern Command involved 19 countries by sea, air and ground, including more than 4,200 ships of 60 naval units.

Its objectives, as the manuals say, include, depending on the country, the neutralisation, repression, persecution and elimination of left-wing forces in Latin America.

In Peru, with the intervention of the US government, a Multilateral Agreement was made with the political police of Dircote, the intelligence service of the Navy and sections of the Peruvian prosecutor's office. According to their manuals, this agreement would carry out the political, military, police, legal, imprisonment, elimination and extermination of the opposition forces, especially against The Movement for Amnesty and Fundamental Rights (MOVAREDEF).

This movement, founded in 2009, has become a most important popular force, which is why they are preventing its electoral registration, despite having gathered more than one and a half million signatures of support in more than 75 Department Committees and, until 2014, more than 20% in the polls.

It is for this reason that on 9 April 2014, with the direct intervention of the President of the USA, a McCarthyist policy was initiated against MOVAREDEF in Peru,

within the genocide plan of the Peruvian state headed by its political police, Dircote, which has been linked to drug trafficking (several of its Generals convicted of drug trafficking) and is a centre of torture.

MOVAREDEF demands the end of the state of persecution in Peru, the end of the genocide plan, the end of the killing of political prisoners, and the repeal of the law of forced disappearance.

The popular masses have organized actions, in which ILPS Peru participates, to demand the end of this persecution, the genocide plan, and to defend the programmatic guidelines of MOVAREDEF which are:

Programmatic Guidelines (exerpts):

1. A New Constitution that guarantees the fundamental rights of the people.

a. The Peruvian state has restricted the fundamental rights of the people during twenty years of neoliberalism.

2. Restitution of the freedoms, rights, benefits and democratic conquests that have been violated. Defend the fundamental rights of the people.

We demand the repeal of the anti-labour, anti-popular, anti-subversive laws; and respect for the rights of the people, their political, economic and social rights and their fundamental rights.

With the Constitution of 1993, labour rights were swept away. They opened the way, along with other measures, to arbitrary dismissals, collective dismissals and the disappearance of guarantees.

We demand respect for the rights of prisoners of war and political prisoners. Respect for the International Agreements signed by Peru.

3. Economic freedom for the people. Against the already unmasked neo-liberalism and globalisation, the current manifestation of imperialism. Revision of the contracts with the monopolistic companies. Defend natural resources. National production and work for the people.

Unemployment is the main problem of the people. 75% of the EAP is informal, i.e., they do not receive labour benefits (health insurance, pensions, severance pay, etc.) and 52% are underemployed.

Against the rising cost of living, we demand an increase in wages and salaries to cover the needs of the worker and his family.

The General Labour Law has been under discussion since 2002. At present, various forms of flexible, temporary, short-term and intermittent contracts are in force. In the public sector there are special regimes which deny

the labour rights of the workers (CAS) created in 2008.

We support the struggle of the communities or peasantry against mining that monopolises and pollutes land and water, destroying agriculture.

4. Land for those who work it. Against the concentration of land, especially on the northern coast and the dispossession of peasants or native communities.

There is a concentration of land on the coast and in the jungle. GLORIA has 60,000 hectares in La Libertad and Ancash. The Romero Group has 20,000 hectares in Piura, Huaral and San Martín. There have never been such large estates.

On the other hand, the almost 150,000 hectares of new land gained through irrigation will be transferred to the big bourgeoisie and the monopoly companies.

The lands of the native communities are being taken away to give them as concessions to the imperialist monopolies and the big bourgeoisie, and thus thousands of indigenous peasants lose their lands and are pushed into misery; the lands of the peasants drowned by bank debts are being auctioned; the natural resources are being handed over to the imperialist monopolies and the big bourgeoisie. New concentration of large-scale agrarian property for capitalist exploitation.

5. Political freedom. No to the criminalization of the popular struggles and against persecution.

We claim our right to participate in the political life of the country in accordance with article 35 of the Constitution. We are against persecution for ideas and demand respect for our fundamental rights to freedom of thought, opinion and expression.

Against the reactionarisation of the State; no to the application of the Criminal Law of the Enemy in Peru; we demand the repeal of the unconstitutional Legislative Decree 1095, an expression of the militarisation of the repression of popular struggles and popular organisations. We reject the attempt to criminalise the struggle for a general amnesty.

6. Defend the Nation. Defend national sovereignty and territorial integrity.

7. Political Solution, General Amnesty and National Reconciliation.

Historically, the way to resolve political and social conflicts is a general amnesty to serve for a future national reconciliation. The problems of political prisoners and prisoners of war, the tortured, the disappeared, the requisitioned, expatriates, reparations for the victims and the repeal of anti-subversive legislation that violates the most elementary norms of national and international

law must be resolved. The general amnesty should also include those who have been detained or prosecuted for the social conflicts that have occurred in our country up to the present day.

8.- For the respect of the rights of the working and exploited people.

The right to work; against unemployment. Right to health; against privatisation. Right to housing, electricity, water and sewage services. Respect for labour rights; wages, working hours, working conditions. For the emancipation of women as part of the emancipation of the proletariat. The right to public and free education; for a national scientific and democratic education, resolving the university problem and paying attention to the intellectuals of the people and the rights of children, youth and old people.

After a difficult struggle, gains have been obtained such as the release of all the detainees of the Olimpo persecution, as well as others who have been arrested recently. But the prosecutor's office and the political police Dircote, linked to drug trafficking, continue with the political-legal persecutions Perseus and Olimpo, against more than 150 comrades, with draconian sentences of life imprisonment and 25, 20, 15-year sentences, and their plan of extermination of political prisoners, which for the elderly will mean death and the forced disappearance of their bodies, which will not be handed over to their families.

This is a new Latin American Condor plan, because of its Peruvian and Latin American involvement with the Lima group, the group that intervened in the military and police coup against Evo Morales and Correa along with criminal attacks against Venezuela and today include for the destruction and extermination of the MOVAREF.

We call on all comrades to unite to resist the plans of US imperialism in Peru and elsewhere on our continent, through its police and military forces. We call on all to oppose their plans of extermination and genocide in Peru and demand an end to the persecution and extermination against MOVAREF.

STOP PERSECUTION AND GENOCIDE!

DEFEND OUR RIGHT TO EXIST!

DEFEND MOVAREF!

NO NATO IN LATIN AMERICA!

NO MORE U.S. MILITARY BASES IN LATIN AMERICA!

LONG LIVE ILPS!

ILPS Peru

21 August 2022

(translated from Spanish)

Lecture

ON THE WORLD SITUATION

Jose Maria Sison



Dear Colleagues,

I wish to give you a brief historical background before I discuss our main topic, which is the current world situation. In discussing this situation, I shall present the major contradictions and crises. Then, I shall discuss the prospects of the anti-imperialist struggle and the resurgence of socialism.

Historical background

Free competition capitalism inevitably led to monopoly capitalism in the last three decades of the 19th century in the most advanced capitalist countries. The capitalist class had kept on raising the organic composition of capital by increasing constant capital (plant, equipment and raw materials) and decreasing the variable capital for wages.

Ultimately, monopoly capitalism became dominant in the economy and society. Industrial capital merged with bank capital to form the finance oligarchy. The export of surplus capital gained importance over the export of surplus commodities. The capitalist class formed cartels and syndicates against each other. The capitalist powers formed blocs against other. The division of the world as economic territory (as sources of cheap

raw materials and cheap labor, as fields of investments and as markets, as spheres of influence—as colonies, semi-colonies and dependent countries) was completed.

As Lenin pointed out, monopoly capitalism is the highest and final stage of capitalist development. For any bloc of capitalist powers to redivide the world in its favor is to cause a war, such as World Wars I and II. Monopoly capitalism is decadent, moribund, aggressive and prone to war. But the advent of monopoly capitalism in the late decades of the 19th century and early decades of the 20th century introduced not only the era of modern imperialism and the most destructive wars in the history of mankind but also the era of world proletarian-socialist revolution.

As a result of World War I, an inter-imperialist war of the Allied and Central Powers, the Great October Socialist Revolution won victory and the Soviet Union emerged in one-sixth of the surface of the earth to challenge the world capitalist system. In the course of World War II, the Soviet Union shone as the most decisive force in defeating the fascist Axis powers and enabling the rise of several socialist countries, including those of Eastern Europe and China. The victories of the anti-fascist forces in World War II and the resultant socialist camp contributed as well to the emergence of newly independent countries and powerful national liberation movements in Asia, Africa and Latin America.

By 1956, it could be said that more than one-third of humanity was already governed by communist and workers' parties. But this was also the year that the modern revisionists headed by Khrushchev took power in the Soviet Union, took advantage of the difficult postwar conditions as a result of the deaths of 27 million Soviet people and the grave destruction wrought by World War II to the Soviet economy.

Stalin had practically industrialized the Soviet Union for the second time from 1945 onward and broke the US nuclear monopoly in 1949. But the Soviet modern revisionists chose to play the role of cowards by harping on the line of detente, bourgeois populism and bourgeois pacificism as a craven reaction to the US whipping up the Cold War since 1948.

Upon the postwar consolidation of hardline anti-communists ruling US society with the death of Franklin Delano Roosevelt, the US fortified militarism with the setting up of the Central Intelligence Agency (C.I.A.) and the Pentagon. It sought to intervene in the Chinese civil war and then launched a war against the Korean people in 1950. It was put to a stalemate by the Korean

people and the Chinese volunteers. Thus the People's Democratic Republic of Korea stood beside the People's Republic of China to breach the Eastern front of US imperialism.

Further on, the Indochinese people advanced on the road of people's war, with the Vietnamese people taking the lead in defeating the French colonialists in 1954 and ultimately US imperialism in 1975. It became utterly clear that it is impossible for US imperialism to impose its hegemony on the Asian mainland because of the cross-border advantages of the Asian peoples generated by the October Revolution of the great Lenin and Stalin, followed by socialist China in the time of Mao.

At any rate, the US succeeded Nazi Germany as the strongest imperialist power after World War II, and its industrial capacity was expanded due to the war and was also undamaged by the war. It stood up as the fiercest imperialist power, took over the Nazi-led global anti-communist campaign by spearheading the Cold War and continued the world capitalist counterrevolution against the cause of national liberation, democracy and socialism.

It decided to reconstruct and rehabilitate the capitalist countries that belonged to the Allied and Axis powers in order to confront and fight the socialist cause and the strong wave of national liberation movements. It employed the twin domestic policy of suppressing rising American anti-capitalist and anti-fascist trends among the workers', youth, civil rights, anti-racist, anti-war, anti-nuclear, social justice and socialist movements and placating the American populace with the highest of living standards from 1945 to 1975 among the imperialist powers even as it was spending heavily for maintaining overseas military bases and waging wars of aggression.

It continued to strengthen the overall imperialist front against the Soviet Union and other revolutionary forces and to face the problem of stagflation that had arisen as a result of the economic recovery of its fellow imperialist powers. Towards the end of the 1970s, it decided to adopt the neoliberal policy in order to bring about economic expansion as if without limit and even use the policy to entice revisionist-ruled countries to take loans from the West and import high-grade consumer goods.

The US found it opportune to take advantage of the Sino-Soviet ideological dispute to advance US interests and global capitalism. Although in the aforesaid dispute China and Mao Zedong were on the Marxist-Leninist and socialist side, against the Khrushchovite capitalist

reformers in the Soviet Union and thereafter the social capitalist, social fascist and social-imperialist under Brezhnev, the US strategists found breaches among the Leftists in China and between them and the Centrist-Rightist side to take advantage of.

Thus, by 1971, there was a severe split between the Group of Four and the Chen Boda-Lin Biao alliance which allowed the Centrist-Rightist faction to rise and become dominant with the line of diplomatic prudence and "modernization" through capitalist-oriented reforms and opening up to the US and the world capitalist system. The Nixon visit of 1972 concurred with the counteroffensive to the Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution and rise of the Dengist counterrevolution.

The capitalist romance of the US and China started with sweat-shop operations and gross exploitation of cheap Chinese labor from the late 1970s to the 1980s. This coincided with the dismantling of the communes and privatization of the rural industrial cooperatives. The US was at first careful in giving concessions to China with regard to technology transfer but loosened up steadily after the outburst of the Chinese uprisings against inflation and corruption in 1989. From the early 1990s onward, the US increased its concessions to China as the latter made further concessions on the liberalization of trade and investments and joined the WTO in 2001. The rise of capitalism in China became conspicuous in the last four decades.

The US-China economic and political relations appeared to be going along well until the financial meltdown of 2008. Shortly thereafter, during the Obama regime, the US started to complain of China's economic and military rise and excluded China from the Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement (TPPA). It drummed up the strategic pivot of the US forces to East Asia in order to contain China. When the Trump regime took over, the US declared a trade war on China, withdrew trade and investment concessions from China and condemned her for stealing high technology from US companies and research institutes. It identified China as the chief economic competitor and political rival of the US.

In the case of the Soviet Union, the US induced Brezhnev to plunge into the Afghan quagmire from the late 1970s onward. Biased by its long-running class hatred of the Soviet Union as the first socialist country and its intense rivalry in the Cold War, the main goal of the US was to subvert the Soviet Union and make it rot, lose control over Eastern Europe and ultimately dissolve itself. The Soviet Union collapsed in 1991.

Before the collapse of the Soviet Union, the Soviet revisionist rulers received assurances from the US and other Western powers that NATO would not recruit former members of the Warsaw Pact after its dissolution. But the US and NATO proceeded to expand the NATO in Eastern Europe and tried to extend it to former Soviet republics. They intensified their war of aggression in Iraq in the name of a “new world order” in the 1990s. And before the end of the 20th century, they destroyed Yugoslavia and punished it for being a stalwart of the Non-Aligned Movement.

Subsequently, the US announced its neoconservative policy of taking advantage of its being sole superpower and using the full spectrum of its power to dominate the world. In the name of the “war on terror”, the US unleashed wars of aggression in Central Asia, Middle East and the Balkans. In the name of the global war on terror, it carried out wars of aggression with impunity on a global scale. These are the worst forms of terrorism condemned by the Nuremberg principles.

In trying to take advantage of its moment of being sole superpower since 1991, the US has aggravated and accelerated its strategic decline, incurring more than USD 10 trillion without obtaining more significant amounts of stable economic territory to exploit. It has been compelled to leave Afghanistan after failing to conquer it after 20 years of occupation.

In the meantime, China has moved forward in growing its economy even as this is capitalist and has gained space for maneuver with the BRICS, Shanghai Cooperation Organization, the Eurasian Economic Union and the Belt and Road Initiative, the New Development Bank, and the AIIB as alternatives or supplements to such traditional multilateral agencies as the IMF, World Bank, the WTO, OECD, the G-7 and so on.

II. The World Situation: Major Contradictions and Crises

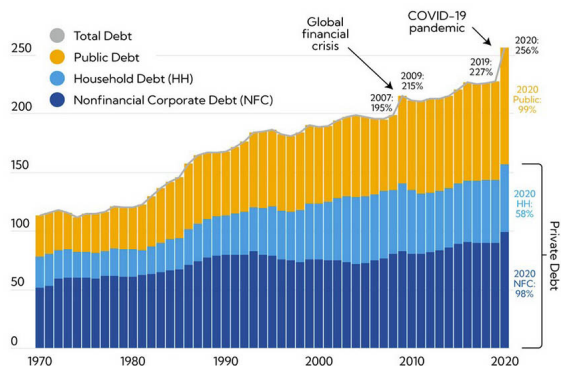
The major contradictions in the world capitalist system are intensifying. They include those between monopoly capital and labor in the imperialist countries, those among the imperialist countries, those between the imperialist powers and the oppressed peoples and nations, and those between the imperialist powers and the countries assertive of national independence and socialist program and aspirations.

It is of great importance to recognize the contradictions of monopoly capital and labor within the imperialist countries in order to understand the limits to

the economic and political expansion of those countries. Within these countries, there are limits to capital expansion as exposed by the recurrent crises of overproduction or cycles of boom and bust. These also set limits to global capital expansion, contrary to the claims of the neoliberal economists that there are no such limits.

Historic highs

In 2020, global debt experienced the largest surge in 50 years. (debt as a percent of GDP)



Sources: IMF Global Debt Database and IMF staff calculations.
Note: The estimated ratios of global debt to GDP are weighted by each country's GDP in US dollars.

IMF

There are limits to cutting down wages and social services to make more capital available to the capitalist class, to enable it to privatize profitable public assets, to flourish in liberalized trade and investments, to plunder the environment, to denationalize national economies and to resort to public borrowing to bail out corporations and entire economies in trouble. Global public debt has leapt from USD 226 trillion in 2020 to USD 303 trillion in 2021. The global debt is more than 320 percent of global GDP and is growing faster.

The US has persuaded its traditional imperialist allies that China is its chief economic competitor and chief political rival; and that the combination of China and Russia as the new capitalist and imperialist powers is their adversary. After casting away socialism in favor of capitalism, why should these two countries be treated by the US and its allies as their enemy?

It is in the nature of imperialist powers to seek world hegemony and to form blocs for the purpose of gaining profits according to the balance of forces gained at every given stage. This is also the obsession of the most powerful imperialist powers to gain control and hegemony over the weaker imperialist powers. The traditional imperialist powers have the notion that they should be at the top of the new imperialist powers.

At the moment, the consensus of the traditional imperialist powers is that Russia is the weakest of the new imperialist powers because it has disintegrated its previous Soviet industrial prowess and lagged behind in industrial development and has an oligarchy that depends on the production of energy, raw materials and agricultural products (wheat, corn, barley, and sunflower oil) in exchange for foreign manufactures.

However, the traditional imperialist powers continue to be wary over Russia's stockpile of nuclear weapons and missile delivery systems. They hope to weaken Russia economically and politically by violating their own dogma of neoliberalism and adopting sanctions against Russia and by instigating proxy wars against it on the basis of the expansion of NATO. Thus the US and the EU have pushed Ukraine to serve as their pawn in their proxy war against Russia and have taken the initiative in imposing sanctions against Russia.

To conjure the illusion that it is still powerful in the whole world, including East Asia, the US has taken the initiative to make provocations against China concurrent with the hot war that has started between Russia and Ukraine. But the shallowness and puerility of the provocations, such as the unwanted visit of Pelosi to Taiwan, have been easily exposed. The US threat to drop the One-China policy is futile, if the goal is to use the Taiwan-ROC flag to justify an imperialist project to retake mainland China, because it has long been proven that any US military expedition to the Asian mainland is futile and is bound to fail.

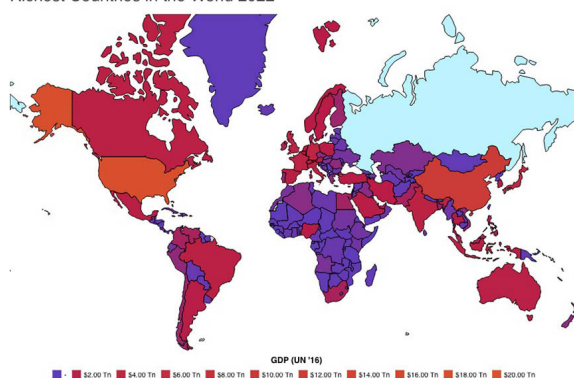
The more effective attack by the US on China has been its ceasing of their long-running neoliberal partnership on a global scale and their bilateral relations as the biggest US economic and trade partner, with China being able to access previously well guarded US technology. As a result of the US-China contradictions, China has suffered internal economic and financial setbacks and adverse consequences on its Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). The US is vigorously opposing the BRI with the AUKUS military alliance of Australia, UK and US, with the QUAD indo-Pacific Initiative (US, Japan, Australia and India) and with the Partnership for Global Infrastructure and Investment, which involves G-7 support.

The crisis of overproduction in the capitalist system is still investigated and measured within the bounds of every imperialist country. And consequently on a global scale, the overconcentration of capital, the deteriorating conditions of employment and life, the overproduction of goods can be determined. As science and technology

raise productivity, the proletariat are compelled to live in poverty amidst the plenty that they create for the capitalists to make profit on.

Even without the necessary tools of Marxist analysis, global economic inequality is starkly obvious in just a cursory review of infographics-style indicators: The ten richest countries in the world are as follows: 1. United States - \$18.62 Tn, 2. China - \$11.22 Tn, 3. Japan - \$4.94 Tn, 4. Germany - \$3.48 Tn, 5. United Kingdom - \$2.65 Tn, 6. France - \$2.47 Tn, 7. India - \$2.26 Tn, 8. Italy - \$1.86 Tn, 9. Brazil - \$1.80 Tn and 10. Canada - \$1.53. Half of the world's net wealth belongs to the top 1%, top 10% of adults hold 85%, while the bottom 90% hold the remaining 15% of the world's total wealth. The top 30% of adults hold 97% of the total wealth.

Richest Countries in the World 2022



The total of 2,153 billionaires in the world have more wealth than the 4.6 billion people who make up 60 percent of the planet's population, according to Oxfam. Neoliberal globalization by the rise of the so-called transnational capitalist class or US-led global monopoly bourgeoisie—actually, new and evolving forms of the same basic imperialist bourgeoisies and their financial oligarchies ruling jointly through international cartels and blocs—has accelerated the overaccumulation of capital in the hands of a few and the immiseration of the overwhelming majority of the people.

It was supposed to solve the problem of stagflation for the US and the whole world by freeing capital from nation-state constraints to profitmaking and to buoy up big and small boats by raising the water level. And as the Oxfam report said, we end up with just one percent of humanity owning over one-half of the world's wealth, the top 20 percent owning 94.5 percent and 80 percent of the people sharing just 5.5 percent.

The extreme overconcentration of wealth in the hands of the capitalist class and the expanded impoverishment of the majority of the people proves that the capitalist class has no way to dispose nationally of the huge amounts of surplus that it has accumulated. The gross disparities have merely led to more financial bubbles, which in turn result in even more mind-boggling economic inequalities when the bubbles burst, to be gradually replaced by new bubbles. This has been exposed by the Great Depression that has unfolded since the financial meltdown of 2008. This has hit hard the imperialist countries and far worse the oppressed peoples and nations of Asia, Africa and Latin America.

Neoliberalism has appeared in imperialist countries as the handmaiden of fascism. The imperialist states prepare themselves to use fascism in order to suppress the mass protests and strikes engendered by unemployment, low wages and decreased social services. We notice now that the traditional and new imperialist powers are prone to use fascism to suppress the mass resistance of the proletariat. In addition, there are factional struggles within each imperialist states which the system can no longer easily do regularly as before. This further drives up the tendency for one ambitious faction of the ruling class to use fascism to further monopolize power, keep itself at the top, and suppress all but the mildest forms of dissent.

New democratic and socialist revolutions are vilified as “communist terrorism” to justify state terrorism or fascism. The danger of a third world war and nuclear war comes mainly from the rise of fascism in both imperialist states and their client states. Unable to solve the serious economic and social problems brought about by neoliberalism, the states of monopoly bourgeoisie engage in fascism to suppress democratic rights and the restive proletariat and other working people. Even the forms of resistance by the spontaneous masses against specific abuses are likewise demonized as “terrorist” or, ironically, “Rightist-led.” These are increasingly met with police surveillance and violence, to further hone the swords and stir the bloodlust of the fascist butchers.

The worst of exploitation and oppression transpire in the intensifying contradictions of the imperialist powers and the impoverished peoples and nations of Asia, Africa and Latin America. In times of global depression or not, these peoples are victimized in their own countries by foreign monopoly capital using them as cheap sources of raw materials and cheap labor, markets of surplus goods, fields of investments for surplus capital and as spheres of influence.

In the past decade, and especially at the height of the Covid pandemic and global lockdowns, the dominant monopoly capitalist groups took advantage of the complex tangle of trade and supply-chain disruptions and depleted finances to further tie down and squeeze the poor countries. Sri Lanka’s recent economic collapse and political convulsion is just a foretaste of a worsening global foreign-debt bubble. Nearly 20 countries have been listed as on the verge of a debt default.

The oppressed peoples and nations are the most motivated to fight for national liberation and democracy and socialism. The most important armed revolutionary struggles against imperialism are being waged today in such countries as India, the Philippines, Turkey, Kurdistan and Palestine. They are in the main waging people’s war along the line of the new democratic revolution with a socialist perspective.

In the countries where the people are still waging the new democratic revolution, the imperialist powers and their puppets use the neoliberal forms of exploitation and the most brutal forms of fascism to oppress the people. The imperialist powers use either puppet regimes to dominate these countries or unleash wars of aggression. In an increasing number of cases, the imperialists are also cunning enough to dress up their interventionist meddling by whipping up certain restive sectors to launch so-called “color revolutions” in order to implement regime change.

Since the end of World War II, the imperialist powers have so far avoided direct wars among themselves because of their fear of nuclear war in both its short-term and long-term effects, including the still barely understood long-term effects on health, environment, and continued viability of most forms of life on the planet. Also, the US made doubly sure to minimize nuclear rearmament by assuring Germany and Japan of its nuclear umbrella and imposing strict bans on nuclear proliferation.

Thus far, the US and its imperialist allies have succeeded in channeling their economic and political rivalries, including territorial redivisions, through negotiated deals within international and regional bodies, while constricting Russia and China. But they have gone into proxy wars to dominate the underdeveloped countries or gain positions of strength. Thus, the imperialist powers have decreased the chances of direct inter-imperialist wars. But for the first time, the US and NATO have openly emboldened Ukraine to provoke a war with Russia, a country with nuclear power, which has put on

maximum alert its nuclear forces. Unlike in earlier Cold War-era crises, there are now so many tiers of “tactical nuke” weaponry pre-deployed in hot spots, which further raises the risks of runaway military escalation.

While for many decades since the end of the US nuclear bomb monopoly, the US has been conspicuously frightened by the nuclear arsenal of the Soviet Union and then of Russia, the US and all other imperialist powers have mindlessly engaged in the plunder and devastation of the environment, especially in the underdeveloped countries, bringing about the current problem of global warming or global heating, which also threatens the very existence of humanity.

The attack on the environment is multi-pronged. It includes the extremely high dependence of capitalist industries on fossil fuels, which emit carbon dioxide and other “greenhouse gases” that hasten climate change, and the use of various extractive and industrial processes that produce toxic industrial wastes, destroy the forests, marine and other biomes, especially those with rich biodiversity, destroy and disturb the various organisms there, and poison the air, water and soil used by local populations and agriculture in order to make way for logging, mining and plantations.

Couple these with the obvious environmental devastation wrought by U.S.-led wars of aggression and maintenance of history’s largest global network of military facilities and globally-deployed armed forces. The U.S. military has in fact been condemned as the world’s single biggest polluter. Not to be discounted as well is the completely unaudited impact on the earth of the indulgence of the world’s military powers in the active but completely covert diabolical weaponization of the weather.

The imperialist powers have also engaged in laboratory research for the purpose of chemical and biological warfare and serious out of control leaks have also occurred, causing pandemics like SARS and Covid-19 in the US, China, and much of the world. Most Western scientific, academic and serious media circles are now saying that the SARS-Cov2 virus is a product of “gain-of-function research”—a euphemism for biowarefare research and development. Russia has recently accused the US of having secretly funded bioweapons laboratories in Ukraine and elsewhere.

Countries assertive of national independence and socialist programs and aspirations still play an important role in resisting the impositions of imperialist powers and the machinations of their local puppets. As they

persevere in their revolutionary commitment and struggle, countries like the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, Socialist Republic of Vietnam, Cuba and other anti-imperialist countries can make important contributions to upholding, defending and advancing the cause of national liberation, democracy and socialism on a world scale.

These countries can rely on their own strength, ally themselves with the oppressed peoples and nations still fighting for national and social liberation and take advantage of the splits between the traditional and the new imperialist powers. We are reminded of historical lessons, both positive and negative, in grasping the class character and the objective balance of forces within such countries and their states. The proletarian revolutionaries in China, for example, saw the class logic and had to learn priceless lessons in united-front tactics in dealing with Sun Yat-sen’s Guomindang in the 1921-27 period. There are other examples among the national liberation movements in the post-World War II period. It is a matter of political wisdom for the revolutionary forces of the world today to do everything possible in order to develop anti-imperialist solidarity with such countries and states and to make up for the deleterious consequences of modern revisionism in subverting and destroying the socialist states in the 20th century.

III. Prospects of Anti-Imperialist Struggle and Resurgence of Socialism

The conditions are exceedingly favorable for the advance of the anti-imperialist and democratic mass struggles in all types of countries, be they imperialist or imperialist-dominated. They arise as a result of the intensifying major contradictions in the world capitalist system. Once more they lay the ground for great disorder and turbulence in this system and the resurgence of the world proletarian socialist revolution.

Confounded by the rapidly worsening crisis of their system as a result of the unravelling of the neoliberal policy regime, the traditional and new imperialist powers are prone to seek solutions through intensified economic plunder and predation, fascism and wars of aggression. The proletariat and the rest of the people in the imperialist countries are suffering grievously the socio-economic crisis of the system and now fascism is being imposed on them to aggravate their suffering.

Even now, there is already a strong trend towards another globally devastating economic crash. The revolutionary forces of the people ought to sharply point

out the criminal all-sided accountabilities of the predatory classes for the currently worsening global economic super crisis, and condemn any obfuscations of their accountability, like making COVID-19 and any ensuing pandemic as the cop-out reason. They have no choice but to fight back with all vigor.

In the US, while the incumbent president Biden is using democratic jargon and wooing other Right and Center forces to dress up the growing fascist werewolf that is the imperialist Deep State, Trump is trying hard to whip up his followers into a frenzy of white supremacist slogans in order to bring him back to the White House in order to use the same Deep State to govern a more unruly and divided empire. In the rest of the imperialist countries, there are trends which favor Rightist, including ultra-Rightist, positions. We must also be carefully exercise class analysis to expose the many forms of Rightist positions masquerading as Center or Left. At the same time, these rouse the proletariat and people to rise up against their worsening conditions of mass unemployment, low income and dearth of social services.

In the new imperialist countries there is a rising wave of discontent and hatred against the oligarchs who have privatized the social wealth created by the proletariat and other working people. The promises of greater efficiency and prosperity through the adoption of capitalism have been unfulfilled for so long. In former socialist countries, which have not been strong enough to become imperialist powers, the conditions have sunk to the level of the third world countries.

The current mass uprisings in Czechoslovakia are a positive signal for the people in Eastern and Central Europe to rise up against the US and NATO and the entire world capitalist system even as Ukraine is manifesting what has gone terribly wrong since the rise of fascism on the back of a chauvinism against the sizeable Russian minority population. Now the oligarchs of both Russia and Ukraine are locked in a prolonged war and the US and NATO are using Ukraine to ensure that Russia is further weakened and become unable to cope with the further advances of US imperialism and NATO in what used to be a wider sphere of the former Soviet Union.

All the turbulence that is occurring and is likely to occur further in the Russian Federation and Eastern Europe will serve to agitate the proletariat and the people to review their history and to recover and reassert their revolutionary will. It is therefore necessary for communists all over the world to encourage the formation of the revolutionary party of the proletariat in these countries.

For a while, the US and its traditional imperialist allies might be able to contain and reduce the economic rise of China even if they entertain the dream of deteriorating economic and political conditions in China, which will cause class struggle to intensify between the dominant Chinese capitalist oligarchy and the proletariat for the purpose of repeating history a la the overthrow of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union. At the same time, the U.S.-led Western ruling elite is actively mobilizing important and strategically-placed pro-Western assets within China to undermine it from within, and to gain from new effective counterrevolutionary measures imposed in China. Within China, the use of fascism against the people will only serve to sharpen the battle for democracy, broaden the revolutionary mass movement, and push the proletarian revolutionaries to assert the theory and practice of Marxism-Leninism-Maoism.

The ever fertile ground for waging armed revolution is in the underdeveloped countries of Asia, Africa and Latin America under the domination of imperialist powers and their puppet regimes. They are the most victimized by imperialist and local reactionary oppression and exploitation. They have their own grounds and circumstances for waging revolution and will certainly be encouraged to wage revolution if the proletariat and the people in supposedly more developed countries are already rising up.

On a global scale, the subjective forces of the proletarian revolution can be established and developed faster than ever before. Optimally, the communist party as genuine revolutionary party of the proletariat must adhere to the theory and practice of Marxism-Leninism-Maoism, and sum up the most vital lessons of the particular revolutionary history and experience, to be able to lead the people in any country where revolution is being waged.

In the course of political struggle, it must be able to unite with the basic masses of the oppressed and exploited people, win over the middle forces, take advantage of the splits among the reactionaries, and isolate and destroy the power of the class enemy or foreign aggressor. It must have a people's army to be able to wage the armed revolution and seize political power.

Those interested in waging revolution in any country must avail of the history and experience of communist parties that have won victories in Russia, China, DPRK, and Eastern Europe. It is not necessary for an International of Communist and Workers' parties to exist for a country to start the development of the armed

revolution. Lenin spent time debating with and exposing the revisionists, the social chauvinists, social pacifists, social fascists and social imperialists of the Second International to be able to clear the road of revolution in Russia.

He had first to win the Great October Socialist Revolution in 1917 to be able to build the most effective International so far in the history of the revolutionary proletariat. He founded the Third International in 1919. The lack of an international should not be an excuse for failure to start and develop the revolution in any country.

Since the dissolution of the Comintern in 1943, because of the inability of the Executive Committee to give directives to so many parties under conditions of World War II, communist parties that could communicate with each other could cooperate bilaterally and even multilaterally.

There is a far longer history of communist and workers' parties that are equal to each other and independent of each other under proletarian internationalism and anti-imperialist solidarity. If there is yet no bulwark of socialism as strong as the Soviet Union or China in the past, the revolutionary parties of the proletariat can devise ways of conferences, consultations and communications in order to exchange information, experiences and ideas and raise the level of revolutionary struggle among the proletariat and the people.

After the success of the modern revisionists in the Soviet Union, they held international conferences of communist parties to spread their revisionist line. For a while, the Communist Party of China had to contend with the pro-revisionist conferences sponsored by the Soviet party by engaging in bilateral relations and hosting Central Committee delegations in China. But alas these were dissolved soon after the success of the Dengist counterrevolution.

Attempts were made by the Revolutionary Internationalist Movement (RIM) and subsequently by the International Conference of Marxist-Leninist Parties and Organizations (ICMLPO) to build an international conference of communist and workers parties. But they dissolved after attempts were made to make the host party the center of the world proletarian revolution despite failure to win revolution in their own country. And groups of small parties also took the fancy of naming their theories after revolutionaries who have not yet won a revolution in their own countries, such as Gonzalo Thought, Prachanda Path, Avakian's New Synthesis and

the like. Such cultist groups are in a hurry to claim some kind of global franchise or hegemony.

Since the undeniable successes of the modern revisionists to sabotage the socialist revolutions in the Soviet Union, China and Eastern Europe, restore capitalism and disintegrate the international communist movement, the most successful anti-imperialist formations have had a mass character, among them the International League of Peoples' Struggle. These can be powerful mass bases for promoting the establishment and development of the revolutionary parties of the proletariat.

Let us not forget that while the Third International existed, Stalin developed the Popular Front as an international democratic and antifascist force starting in 1935. Thus, he helped the communist parties in various countries to prepare against the imperialist and fascist preparations for war by encouraging various types of mass formations according to class and sectoral democratic interests.

There is a big difference between the circumstances of the founding of the Third International and the circumstances when attempts were made to organize an International as successor to the Comintern outside of any country as the bulwark of socialist revolution. The problem is not merely the lack of a socialist bulwark but also the inadequacies of programs to fight the continuing influences of modern revisionism, all sorts of reformism and subjective idealism propagated by the ideologues and publicists of the imperialist powers.

Since then, significant advances have occurred in the objective conditions for waging the revolution and developing the subjective forces of the revolution. And it is not surprising if there are now renewed efforts to organize a new communist international. But let us first evaluate how much advances need to be made by the initiating parties in terms of ideological, political and organizational victories in the revolutionary struggles of the proletariat and people in their own countries.

Note: The author is Chairperson Emeritus, International League of Peoples' Struggle. The above text was a contribution to meeting of the International Coordinating Committee (ICC) of the ILPS held in Phuket, Thailand, September 26-27, 2022.



**INTERNATIONAL
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