Immigration: workers have no country

As 1 January 2014 approached, government, media and opposition cranked up the levels of hype over the lifting of restrictions on Romanian and Bulgarian immigration. Not just in the UK, but in the other nine EU countries that had also imposed temporary restrictions in 2007, there were vivid forecasts of what economic and cultural dangers threatened.

In Germany right wingers said that immigrants who were only coming to the country for benefits should be deported. They call it ‘Armutmigration’ – ‘poverty migration’. The Social Democratic Vice Chancellor of Germany put a ‘balanced’ point of view “We don’t need all-out discrimination against the Bulgarians and Romanians but nor should we ignore the problems some big German cities faced with the immigration of poor peoples.” Like the Labour Party in Britain, they say they’re against racism, but poor foreigners are a problem.

In Britain the government has made sure that new immigrants will not be automatically entitled to benefits, that they can be deported if begging or homeless. On the right, Boris Johnson (who says he’s pro-immigration) wants a two year clamp down on migrants receiving benefits, and for the state to get tough on illegal immigration. From UKIP Nigel Farage puts forward a five year halt to immigration as the way to solve all social and economic problems. The left say that immigration is good for the economy. Farage says that maybe it would be better to be poorer.

‘Benefits tourism’ is the catchphrase in Britain. However, it’s just the latest label used to stoke up prejudice and find new scapegoats. Ed Miliband and other leading figures in the Labour Party say that immigration got out of control under Blair and Brown and that there should be ‘sensible’ controls on immigrants. They agree that immigration can enrich culture and economy, but Shadow Business Secretary Chuka Umunna thinks that there should be ‘sensible’ controls on immigrants. They agree that immigration has been far too much

The left say that immigration enriches culture and economy, but Shadow Business Secretary Chuka Umunna thinks that there should be ‘sensible’ controls on immigrants. They agree that immigration can enrich culture and economy, but Shadow Business Secretary Chuka Umunna thinks that there should be ‘sensible’ controls on immigrants. They agree that immigration has been far too much

deportation, and more wanting a big rather than a small reduction. Labour says that cheap, unskilled foreign workers are taking jobs that could go to cheap, unskilled British workers. If you’re unemployed you could put your situation down to one of many causes. You might feel it’s because of some personal inadequacy, or you might listen to the media and politicians telling you that foreigners have taken all the jobs. Neither explanation gets close to understanding the roots of unemployment in the basic workings of the capitalist system.

The effects of the economic crisis, imperialist war, ecological disaster, social problems like urban overcrowding and rural desertion, cultural impoverishment – all these flow from the reality of capitalism, not from workers travelling to find work and other opportunities. On the contrary, the more capitalism sinks into crisis, the more the exploited will be forced to move from country to country in search of work, shelter or security. This is something built into the condition of the working class, which has always been a class of immigrants.

Capitalism poses everything from a national standpoint. If workers’ wages are reduced the bourgeoisie wants workers to blame workers from other countries, not the bourgeoisie’s system of exploitation. Workers can’t let themselves go along with nationalist ideology, whether it’s of the right or the left. The most dramatic example of how nationalism can be used against us is in times of war when workers have been taken in by calls to sacrifice their lives in defence of the nation – in other words, the interests of the national capitalist class and its state. But any time that capitalism tries to divide workers, the only response can be by uniting to resist exploitation, by waging a common struggle of all proletarians, ‘native’ and ‘foreign’, employed and unemployed. Workers’ struggles ultimately have the potential to do away with all frontiers, all nation states, and to build on the rich cultural diversity of all humanity. Car

11/1/14

An immigrant worker on strike at Grunwicks in the 1970s

One hundred years since 1914:
Right and left justify imperialist war

The sailor’s mutiny in northern Germany in 1918 sparked the German revolution and helped end the war

See page 6

Inside this issue

The spying game part 2

“Recovery”: once again the bourgeoisie administers the drug of credit

Cut: capitalism has no alternative

Ukraine: Russia’s offensive against its great power rivals

Mali, Central African Republic: behind the democratic alibi, imperialist war

1914 commemoration - Right and left justify imperialist war

Life of the ICC

From junk food to fascism: a system that poisons and starves, part 2
The spying game part 2

It is part one of this article, *The Spying Game*, September 2013, which provided an overview of the history of spying throughout civilization and the way that it’s been perfected by the capitalist ruling class in recent times. This is a continuation. The goal is to outline the various ways in which surveillance and security machinery are actively used in capitalist society. We looked at the factors which underlie the spying activities of the New Security State (NSS) or post-9/11 surveil-


2. It’s beyond irony that Snowden has been welcomed to Russia by the Putin regime whose agents still monitor and instruct his Stasi-like Interior Ministry building in Moscow. The investigative journalist and anti-secrecy campaigner, Uwe Tellkamp, recently revealed that the FBI Spy agency employs 200,000 people. The same could be said about Snowden’s elevation to hero in the US. *And it wasn’t just the Americans - all of whom are involved in using the latest global surveillance tools.* Snowden is the first to use it to go after NSA as it was - of course - in order to push theNSS’s surveillance machinery to its weakest element to be distracted, tracked and spied upon. Technological developments have made this spying easier and more extensive as shown by the example of the US and Britain tapping directly into fibre optics at the bottom of the sea. This is a major part of everyone’s communications.

3. Against this trend increases in the security apparatus of the state throughout decadent capitalism, between the wars, the US, wary of covert state activity in the 1920s, set up illegal road blocks and vandalised cars and properties belonging to those who object to this surveillance, the ‘whistleblow-

4. This article concludes with an account of the extensive spying and surveillance that has taken place in the US and elsewhere. It is a testimony to the scale and reach of the NSS. It is a response to the disaster of the ‘war on terror’ and the continued existence of the military-industrial complex. It is also a call for international solidarity and an end to the present world order.

5. In relation to the ‘official’ secret services, but no less part of the ‘unofficial’ secret services, but no less part of the...
The British bourgeoisie have recently become aware of the fact that there is an economic recovery underway – at least long ago – in Great Britain. Nonetheless, when the matter is looked into in more detail, the sense of relief amongst bourgeois economists and commentators is still tempered with some reserve, even though there is a general acknowledgement that the recovery is taking place. A Financial Times poll of economists at the beginning of the year gives a good sense of the current view of matters held by the bourgeois economists.

"After 3 gruelling years of stagnation and almost seven after the financial crisis started, economists have been given a good deal of confidence that Brit- ain's economy is on the move. A large majority believes the recovery will at least maintain its recent strength and household incomes will begin to feel better off in 2014, as wages begin to grow faster than prices and unemploymen continues to fall. Few think there are clouds on the horizon in 2014, although more worry about the longer term ..." (Financial Times, 2/01/2014)

There is no doubt that the term "recovery" is being used here in a specific and restricted sense. Seven years on from the start of the current financial cri- sis, the recovery is still well below the level prior to the crisis – 2 percentage points or so. In fact, therefore, there is no "recovery" as yet, if recovery means (as it is often taken to mean) getting back to the level before the crash. If the present recovery, in the sense of a period of sustained growth, does indeed continue, then the economy might actually recover (in the sense of getting back to where it started) sometime before the end of 2016.

It is necessary to see matters in a wider context. The British economy is not isolated from the rest of the world economy. The European economy, for example, was in recession for no less than 3 years and it is not really out of the woods yet.

"The [UK] was one of the few to beat expecta- tions last month and half of 2012, when the recovery was in its infancy, was not as de- sirable as it appeared. The economy was on the upturn in the euro area and Japan faltered." (ibid)

It should be noted that this holds true only where capital is trapped in a downward spiral.
Russia: Ukraine’s offensive against its great power rivals

Since 21 November, Ukraine has been going through a difficult period. It looks like a lot so-called ‘Orange Revolution’ of 2004. As in 2004, the pro-Russian faction is at the time placed in the center of the attention, while the opposition parties are boycotting the presidential elections. According to the exit poll, the winner is Viktor Yanukovych of the pro-Russian party, who has been declared as ‘the winner of opening up to the West’. There is the same sharpening of diplomatic tensions between Russia and several countries of the European Union and the USA.

However this remar is not a simple revolt. In 2004, the opposition in Kyiv rose to power on the basis of a small number of pro-European leaders, who have chosen the confrontation with the pro-Russian faction. Russia is not the only country that has been in the process of taking a decision on the geopolitical situation in Ukraine. The main question is the choice of the pro-Russian faction.

Ukraine: an imperialist prize

In 2005, with regard to the Orange Revolution, we wrote: “Behind this barrage, the essential question has nothing to do with the struggle for democracy. The real issue is the growing confrontation among the great powers, in particular the US, Russia and the EU. The EU is a powerful economic and political force, and has the main interests in Ukraine. The EU is not only interested in the economic development of Ukraine, but is also interested in the political and social stability of Ukraine. The EU is not interested in the freedom of the Ukrainian people, but in the stability and predictability of the situation in Ukraine.”

The situation in Ukraine today is similar to the situation in 2004. The main question is the choice of the pro-Russian faction. Russia is not the only country that has been in the process of taking a decision on the geopolitical situation in Ukraine. The main question is the choice of the pro-Russian faction.

Ukraine is still a state that has been a part of the Russian Empire. It is the largest country in Eastern Europe and the second largest in the world. It has a population of over 45 million people. Ukraine is a member of the United Nations and the European Union. It has a strong economic potential, with a diversified economy and a large industrial sector. The country has a rich natural resource base, including significant coal, oil, gas, and agricultural potential. Ukraine is a major exporter of natural gas and coal, and is one of the world’s largest producers of wheat. It is also a leading exporter of steel and other heavy industrial products.

However, Ukraine has faced significant challenges in recent years. The country has experienced a period of economic instability and political unrest. It has also struggled with issues such as corruption, poverty, and political violence. These challenges have been compounded by the international situation, which has seen a re-emergence of Cold War-like tensions. In particular, the relationship between Ukraine and Russia has become increasingly fraught, with allegations of interference in Ukraine’s domestic affairs and the threat of military action.

Despite these challenges, Ukraine has a rich cultural and historical heritage. It is home to a diverse population, with people from different ethnic backgrounds living together. The country has a rich artistic and literary tradition, and is known for its music, dance, and literature. It also has a vibrant sporting culture, with a strong tradition in football and other sports.

In conclusion, Ukraine is a country with significant potential, both in terms of its natural resources and its cultural and historical heritage. While it faces significant challenges, it also has the ability to overcome them and to continue to develop as a nation.

1. Appeal by Julia Timoshenko, the head of the clan in power between 2005 and 2009, issued from prison


3. The ideological grip of the different factions of the bourgeoisie, from right to left, has no other perspective than to force the working class into poverty. To take part in elections for this or that political party is like taking part in the attacks. Above all, by resorting itself behind a political faction of the bourgeoisie and behind democratic slogans, the workers lose their capacity to struggle on the basis of their own interests.

4. The ideological grip of the different factions of the bourgeoisie, from right to left, has no other perspective than to force the working class into poverty. To take part in elections for this or that political party is like taking part in the attacks. Above all, by resorting itself behind a political faction of the bourgeoisie and behind democratic slogans, the workers lose their capacity to struggle on the basis of their own interests.

5. The ideological grip of the different factions of the bourgeoisie, from right to left, has no other perspective than to force the working class into poverty. To take part in elections for this or that political party is like taking part in the attacks. Above all, by resorting itself behind a political faction of the bourgeoisie and behind democratic slogans, the workers lose their capacity to struggle on the basis of their own interests.

6. Resolution on the international situation from the 11th Congress of the CP of the Ukraine: http://en.internationalism.org/int/133/ukraine.htm

7. See, Ukraine, the authoritarian prison and the trap of democracy: http://en.internationalism.org/int/127/authoritarian_democracy
Mali, Central African Republic: behind the democratic alibis, imperialist war

As capitalist society slowly unravels, its inner nature as a war of all against all continues to be expressed in a particularly savage form in its weakest regions, where pogroms, inter-ethnic and intraregional conflicts and wars for control over the social fabric. In the Middle East, in Pakistan, Iraq, and Syria, the divide between Sunni and Shia Muslims has been deepened by a mushrooming of attacks by al-Qaeda type groups on Shia mosques and gatherings. In Africa, the ‘world’s youngest state’, South Sudan, is a war zone — a country marked by massacres between Nuer and Dinka tribal groups — in the Central African Republic, the Chad-Bangui association, and elsewhere, with each other in brutality. But as this article written by our French comrades shows, these expressions of barbarism at the local level are exacerbated and even manipulated by the bigger imperialist powers who are responsible for such costs. In Syria, for example, the forces on the ground are sustained by players on the global stage, and aided by Shia/Alawite regime by Iran, Russia and China; the ‘moderate’ Sunni rebels by the US and Britain, and the radical (Sunnis) Islamists by countries like Saudi Arabia, Qatar, and Turkey. In the Central African Republic, France has been supporting Muslim militiamen against their own former pawn who had come forward to help to the rival South African imperialism, which is in turn backed by China. The permutations and alliances change constantly, but what stays the same is the way that imperialist powers will make use of any local dictator, army or armed gang in the never-ending struggle against their rivals.

Peace does not reign in Mali! On the contrary, French imperialism is getting more and more dragged into the chaos there. But at the same time the French are trying to intervene in the region, in the nearby Central African Republic, in order, it claims, to ‘protect’ the population and ‘re-establish order and allow an improvement in the humanitarian situation’. The media have been showing images of the massacring taking place in the CAR, with the UN state department talking about a ‘pre-genocidal’ situation. But the press doesn’t talk about the responsibility of France in the explosion of this barbarism, even though France has long been active, indeed is the major power in its former colonies and spheres of influence (the Rwandan genocide being a prime example).2

In addition, under economic pressure from financial organisations like the IMF, and supported by the French military, there has been no ‘victory’ over the terrorist groups. France has certainly obtained victories against the ‘cliques to organise ‘Free and Democratic’ elections (presidential last August and legislative in November) in order to “restore the Malian state and ensure peace”, but this propaganda is at total variance with the facts.

Radio silence on the new war in Mali

‘Why commit 1500 soldiers to this “reconquest” of North Mali?’ Supplemented by some elements of the Malian army and UN French force, whose French component deplores the presence of its general Marc Focureau, commander of the French expeditionary force, he carefully avoided fixing a date for France’s withdrawal, explaining that it was necessary to ‘test the water and to de-escalate the conflict’. This is not ‘a simple counter-terrorism action’ as claimed by Jean-Yves Le Drian, minister of defence (Le Monde, 11.12.13).3


2. Since this article was written, Djotodia has himself been convicted of ‘crimes against humanity’ and ‘war crimes’.

3. This conflict has taken on an inter-religious form because the Seleka is mainly Muslim and has been carrying out atrocities against Christians. This led to the formation of the ‘anti-balaka’. Christian militias who are in turn been attacking Muslims and destroying mosques.

Radio silence on the new war in Mali

‘Why commit 1500 soldiers to this “reconquest” of North Mali?’ Supplemented by some elements of the Malian army and UN French force, whose French component deplores the presence of its general Marc Focureau, commander of the French expeditionary force, he carefully avoided fixing a date for France’s withdrawal, explaining that it was necessary to ‘test the water and to de-escalate the conflict’. This is not ‘a simple counter-terrorism action’ as claimed by Jean-Yves Le Drian, minister of defence (Le Monde, 11.12.13).

2. Since this article was written, Djotodia has himself been convicted of ‘crimes against humanity’ and ‘war crimes’.

3. This conflict has taken on an inter-religious form because the Seleka is mainly Muslim and has been carrying out atrocities against Christians. This led to the formation of the ‘anti-balaka’. Christian militias who are in turn been attacking Muslims and destroying mosques.

Radio silence on the new war in Mali

‘Why commit 1500 soldiers to this “reconquest” of North Mali?’ Supplemented by some elements of the Malian army and UN French force, whose French component deplores the presence of its general Marc Focureau, commander of the French expeditionary force, he carefully avoided fixing a date for France’s withdrawal, explaining that it was necessary to ‘test the water and to de-escalate the conflict’. This is not ‘a simple counter-terrorism action’ as claimed by Jean-Yves Le Drian, minister of defence (Le Monde, 11.12.13).

2. Since this article was written, Djotodia has himself been convicted of ‘crimes against humanity’ and ‘war crimes’.

3. This conflict has taken on an inter-religious form because the Seleka is mainly Muslim and has been carrying out atrocities against Christians. This led to the formation of the ‘anti-balaka’. Christian militias who are in turn been attacking Muslims and destroying mosques.

Radio silence on the new war in Mali

‘Why commit 1500 soldiers to this “reconquest” of North Mali?’ Supplemented by some elements of the Malian army and UN French force, whose French component deplores the presence of its general Marc Focureau, commander of the French expeditionary force, he carefully avoided fixing a date for France’s withdrawal, explaining that it was necessary to ‘test the water and to de-escalate the conflict’. This is not ‘a simple counter-terrorism action’ as claimed by Jean-Yves Le Drian, minister of defence (Le Monde, 11.12.13).

2. Since this article was written, Djotodia has himself been convicted of ‘crimes against humanity’ and ‘war crimes’.

3. This conflict has taken on an inter-religious form because the Seleka is mainly Muslim and has been carrying out atrocities against Christians. This led to the formation of the ‘anti-balaka’. Christian militias who are in turn been attacking Muslims and destroying mosques.

Radio silence on the new war in Mali

‘Why commit 1500 soldiers to this “reconquest” of North Mali?’ Supplemented by some elements of the Malian army and UN French force, whose French component deplores the presence of its general Marc Focureau, commander of the French expeditionary force, he carefully avoided fixing a date for France’s withdrawal, explaining that it was necessary to ‘test the water and to de-escalate the conflict’. This is not ‘a simple counter-terrorism action’ as claimed by Jean-Yves Le Drian, minister of defence (Le Monde, 11.12.13).

2. Since this article was written, Djotodia has himself been convicted of ‘crimes against humanity’ and ‘war crimes’.

3. This conflict has taken on an inter-religious form because the Seleka is mainly Muslim and has been carrying out atrocities against Christians. This led to the formation of the ‘anti-balaka’. Christian militias who are in turn been attacking Muslims and destroying mosques.

Radio silence on the new war in Mali

‘Why commit 1500 soldiers to this “reconquest” of North Mali?’ Supplemented by some elements of the Malian army and UN French force, whose French component deplores the presence of its general Marc Focureau, commander of the French expeditionary force, he carefully avoided fixing a date for France’s withdrawal, explaining that it was necessary to ‘test the water and to de-escalate the conflict’. This is not ‘a simple counter-terrorism action’ as claimed by Jean-Yves Le Drian, minister of defence (Le Monde, 11.12.13).

2. Since this article was written, Djotodia has himself been convicted of ‘crimes against humanity’ and ‘war crimes’.

3. This conflict has taken on an inter-religious form because the Seleka is mainly Muslim and has been carrying out atrocities against Christians. This led to the formation of the ‘anti-balaka’. Christian militias who are in turn been attacking Muslims and destroying mosques.

Radio silence on the new war in Mali

‘Why commit 1500 soldiers to this “reconquest” of North Mali?’ Supplemented by some elements of the Malian army and UN French force, whose French component deplores the presence of its general Marc Focureau, commander of the French expeditionary force, he carefully avoided fixing a date for France’s withdrawal, explaining that it was necessary to ‘test the water and to de-escalate the conflict’. This is not ‘a simple counter-terrorism action’ as claimed by Jean-Yves Le Drian, minister of defence (Le Monde, 11.12.13).

2. Since this article was written, Djotodia has himself been convicted of ‘crimes against humanity’ and ‘war crimes’.

3. This conflict has taken on an inter-religious form because the Seleka is mainly Muslim and has been carrying out atrocities against Christians. This led to the formation of the ‘anti-balaka’. Christian militias who are in turn been attacking Muslims and destroying mosques.

Radio silence on the new war in Mali

‘Why commit 1500 soldiers to this “reconquest” of North Mali?’ Supplemented by some elements of the Malian army and UN French force, whose French component deplores the presence of its general Marc Focureau, commander of the French expeditionary force, he carefully avoided fixing a date for France’s withdrawal, explaining that it was necessary to ‘test the water and to de-escalate the conflict’. This is not ‘a simple counter-terrorism action’ as claimed by Jean-Yves Le Drian, minister of defence (Le Monde, 11.12.13).

2. Since this article was written, Djotodia has himself been convicted of ‘crimes against humanity’ and ‘war crimes’.

3. This conflict has taken on an inter-religious form because the Seleka is mainly Muslim and has been carrying out atrocities against Christians. This led to the formation of the ‘anti-balaka’. Christian militias who are in turn been attacking Muslims and destroying mosques.
The year of ‘commemorating’ the 100th anniversary of the outbreak of the First World War began with a controversy between Right and Left which illustrates rather well how both wings of the ruling class intend us to understand the significance of the 1914-18 war.

1914 ‘commemoration’

The Right and left justify imperialist war

The working class against imperialist war

In an article in the Daily Mail (where else?), an education secretary, Michael Gove, gave it to us straight. Denouncing the traditional ‘left wing academics’, TV shows like Blackadder and The Monocled Mutineer and the musical Oh What a Lovely War! for belittling Britain and denigrating patriotism, Gove insisted that for all its attendant horrors, the Great War was “plainly a just war”. Picking up the torch from a weighty tome by Max Hastings published last year, Gove insisted that the main cause of the war was aggressive Prussian militarism and that it was right to resist it. As Hastings put it in an article in the Daily Mail: “The purpose of the 1914 commemorations should be ‘to explain to a new generation that World War One was criti-
cally important to this country’.”

But Gove’s article was criticized both in the lead and in an editorial in the Observer of 5 January, where the Right and left agreed that the purpose of the shadow education spokesman Tristram Hunt, a cultural historian who has written a rather sympathetic account of the First World War, was ‘entitled “using history for politics is tawdry, Mr Gove”, and its central theme is that while Gove is sowing political divisions by attacking the Left, the commemorations should be a time for national reflection that will lead to an “understanding of the meaning and memory of the First World War”.

Hunt’s article was swiftly followed by the assertions of Michael Gove and the Daily Mail, the left needs no lessons on ‘the virtues of patriotism, honour and courage’; the Right placed the role of ordinary working class people in the conduct of the war. The Right blame trade union leaders to oppose Ger-

Hunt also reminds us of the important changes brought about by the war – the vote was extended to women over 30 in 1918, “culture and technology at all levels were transformed by the war and colonial frontiers re-
drawn, with Irish independence signposting the final defeat of empire”.

Hunt doesn’t agree with Gove’s one-sided view that the war was all the fault of the Kaiser and “Prussianism”, citing other historians who have shown the rather sordid role played by Russia and Serbia in the outbreak of the conflict. Rather significantly, British imperialism’s equally sordid role is not analysed. But Hunt does argue that it’s false to play the “First World war blame game.” Hunt is right in neither case to look into the origins of the war but to contribute to a national commemo-

After this article was written the Guardian pub-

This means that looking for solutions at the local and individual level, in the short or medium term, to an impasse. Acting as a responsible and well informed “citizen”, that is to say as an indi-

2. Catastrophe: Europe Goes to War 1914


4. From junk food to famine: a system that poisons and starves

International Review 152

Social movements in Turkey and Brazil

Indignation at the heart of the proletarian dynamic

20th congress of the ICC

- Balance sheet of the congress

- Report on imperialist tensions

- Resolution on the international situation

Bilan, the Dutch left, and the transition to communism (II)

"No, the population of capital call on us to ‘improve our eating habits’; to ‘reduce weight’ in order to prevent, to eliminate the ‘junk food’ in the schools... No word on raising wages! Nothing to ameliorate the material conditions of the op-

The thread with the most views in the recent period was started by Lern, who posed a question about when the counter-revolution was completed in Russia. This led to a further discussion about whether the October revolution was bourgeois or proletarian in the first place, with Liberd defending the first position, and Leo and others the second, and in this exchange:

1.Bird: That’s fair enough, Leo. You think that the revolution was proletarian. I’m merely pointing out that other Marxists think it wasn’t. Including me.

Leo: Sure. Of course. I’m not saying that marxists can’t think the Russian Revolution was bourgeois. I think they would be mistaken, but I wouldn’t say they aren’t marxists because they do so.

1.Bird: The best way to carry the discussion forward (for the world proletariat, if not for those who look to Bolehivism) is to examine what we mean by ‘proletarian revolution’. If one defines ‘proletarian revolution’ to be a revolution carried out by the class conscious majority of proletarians (ie. following Marx, that the emanicipation of the class must be the act of the class itself), then clearly 1917 was not a ‘proletarian revolution’.

Leo: I disagree, based on the same definition.

1.Bird: Firstly, the proletariat was a very minor class (the peasantry was the vast majority).

Leo: The proletariat wasn’t the biggest class in Russia as a whole, it might be argued. Yet it wasn’t a minor class in Moscow, Petrograd and other cities, it was in fact the major class. Can the proletariat in the cities not make a revolution just because there is a countryside in the country? By this approach, one can’t claim to defend the idea of a world revolution but a Western revolution.

1.Bird: Secondly, the proletariat did not contain a Communist majority, even within itself (never mind a majority within the entire society).

Leo: Don’t try. By October there was a communist majority in the Soviets which is, in my opinion, the place to look at if we are inquiring on whether the proletariat had a communist majority or not...

And in contrast there is an extract of Baboon’s blog on imperialism:

In order to kick this off I’m submitting here a post I made earlier on libcom regarding a discussion about the role of French imperialism in the Rwandan genocide of 1994:

I don’t think that the 1994 slaughter in Rwanda and the primary role of French imperialism in promoting it can be underestimated. The context of this slaughter and the French role in it was the imperialist push of the United States and Britain in the post-eastern bloc collapse and capitalism’s “New World Order”, ie the role of the US in trying to keep its bloc under control in the face of its former enemy’s economic and military implosion.

Examples of this by no means smoothly coordinated military push by US imperialism in the face of the weakening of the Nato bloc was the Iraq war of 1992, the “humanitarian” intervention in ex-Yugoslavia in 1992 and various manoeuvres on the African continent which included developments of American and British “influence”, which themselves included US training of the Tutsi militant of the Rwandan Patriotic Front, France, which was presenting itself to the world as a亚太 countries and for the aggresive warlike Anglo duo, had already been training its Hutu killers for a number of years (Patrick de Saint Exupery, a journalist for “Figaro” and author of “L’Insaisissable, la France au Rwanda”, see “Le Monde Diplomatique”, March 2004). Rwandan was part of a geo-strategic game between the US, Britain and France within imperialism’s “new world order” (Tony Blair went on to use the 1994 Rwandan war to promote the “benign” Anglo-US intervention against Saddam’s Hussein in 2003).

The “secure humanitarian zone” created by the French in the west of Rwanda at the time became the lair of all the extremist groups and representatives of the Hutu governing apparatus (“Le Monde Diplomatique”, March 2004).

Exact numbers killed and legal definitions of a genocide can be a source of confusion and avoidance of the real underlying issues. Numbers seem pointless when the only difference between a Hutu and a Tutsi is the ID card that they happen to be carrying or not. So called ethnic divisions are often just a cover for imperialist slaughter and also provide a western-backed abject that is racially suggestive that these “ethnicities” are only wanting savages and need the civilising forces of the west. But as we saw in Rwanda - and we constantly see elsewhere - these “civilising” forces are the most brutal and depraved and actively play up or create these “ethnic” divisions. You can see it today with South Sudan, capitalism’s newest nation that has immediately imploded into a heap of warfare and decomposition. It’s “ethnic” the western press tell us – yet of the 70 groups that lived more or less peacefully in the region together there is no word for “tribe”. This was and is an imperialist construct in a country set up by Britain around a century ago in order to contrust French, German and Italian interests in the region and recently involving France, Britain and the US again confronting each other with the tinzel of Hollywood and the Church of England also put to imperialist use. And all this over what was called “the first genocide of the 21st century” and the slaughter of up to 400,000 (according to NGO’s) in Darfur (“Jeune Afrique”, 1-14/4/2007). And this time in Sudan, apart from the usual suspects, Chinese which is becoming militarily adventurous on the continent, is also involved.

I also think that it is important to put the murder or crimes of Stalinism alongside those of fascism rather than oppose one against the other in some sort of political game over body counts. It’s important to do this in order to show that Nazi Germany was not some sort of evil aberration from capitalism but an expression of it, with its own specificities at a particular time - as was Stalinism. And I think that it’s further important, against those who support the “lesser evil”, to clearly state that the murderous crimes of democracy dwarf those of Nazism and Stalinism put together and continue to do so to this day.

Discuss with the ICC and others through our online discussion forum

Donations

Unlike the bourgeois press, revolutionary publications such as World Revolution have no advertising revenue, no chains of news agents and no millionaire backers. We rely on the support of our sympathisers, and those who, in their might not agree with all aspects of our politics, see the importance of the intervention of a communist press.

Recent donations include:

GW £50

Contact the ICC

Write to the following addresses without mentioning the name: COMMUNIST INTERNATIONALIST POB 25, NIT, Fatehabad, 121001 Haryana, INDIA. WORLD REVOLUTION BM Box 869, London WC1N 3XX, GREAT BRITAIN

Write by e-mail to the following addresses:

From Great Britain use uk@internationalism.org
From India use India@internationalism.org
From the rest of the world use international@internationalism.org

http://www.internationalism.org
From junk food to famine: a system that poisons and starves, part 2

It is the first part of this article we saw that the "bazaar capitalism" had a completely different face to justify the persistence of malnutrition and famines. They seek to clear the capitalist system of reforms and laws which, like battery hens, are full of antibiotics and hormones. The mutagenic species with deformed heads or notched fins… But because a minister in the country owns

* The positions and activity of revolutionary or- ganisations are the product of the past experiences of the workers’ councils. The workers’ councils and the various organisations have drawn throughout its history. The ICC thus traces its origins to the successive contributions of the Communist International (1919-43), the three Internationals (the International Work- ers’ Association, 1864-72, the Socialist International, 1881-95, and the Second International, 1895-1914). These national organisations have emerged from the left factions which detached themselves from the degenerating Third International in the 1920s.