It only took one night for the thunder of guns and the howling of bombs to resound again in Ukraine, at the gates of the historical cradle of a now rotting capitalism. In a few weeks, this war of unprecedented scale and brutality will have devastated entire cities, thrown millions of women, children and old people onto the frozen roads of winter, sacrificing countless human lives on the altar of the Fatherland. Kharkiv, Sumy or Irpin are now in ruins. In the industrial port of Mariupol, which has been completely razed to the ground, the conflict has cost the lives of no less than 5,000 people, probably more. The devastation and horrors of this war are reminiscent of the terrifying images of Grozny, Fallujah or Aleppo. But where it has taken months, sometimes years, to reach such devastation, in Ukraine there has been no “murderous escalation”: in barely a month, the belligerents have thrown all their forces into the carnage and devastated one of the largest countries in Europe.

War is a terrifying moment of truth for decadent capitalism: by exhibiting its machines of death, the bourgeoisie suddenly removes the hypocritical mask of civilization, peace and compassion that it pretends to wear with unbearable arrogance, typical of ruling classes that have become anachronistic. It is pouring out a furious torrent of propaganda, all the better to conceal its real face – that of a mass murderer. How can one not be seized with horror at the sight of these poor Russian kids, as in Bucha and in other recently abandoned areas? How can we not be indignant when Zelensky, the “servant of the people”, shamelessly takes an entire population hostage by decreeing the “general mobilisation” of all men from 18 to 60 years old, henceforth for the “good cause” of “liberating” Ukraine from “Western domination”. How can we not be scandalised by the brazen mask that Putin and his clique, it was necessary to defend the interests of Russian capital and its place in the world, both of which have been weakened by the West’s increasing advance into its traditional sphere of influence. The Russian bourgeoisie can present itself as a “victim” of NATO, but Putin has never hesitated, faced with the failure of his offensive, to carry out a dreadful campaign of scorched earth and massacres, exterminating everything in his path, including the Russian-speaking populations that he had supposedly come to protect.

Against imperialist war, the class struggle!

The war in Ukraine is being fought according to the exacerbating interests of all the different imperialist powers, large and small – not in the interests of the working class, which is a class of international unity. It’s a war over strategic territories, for military and economic domination fought overtly and covertly by the warmongers in charge of the US, Russia, the Western European state machines, with the Ukrainian ruling class acting as a by no means innocent pawn on the world imperialist chess board.

The working class, not the Ukrainian state, is the real victim of this war, whether as slaughtered defenceless women and children, starving refugees or conscripted cannon fodder in either army, or in the increasing destitution the effects of the war will bring to workers in all countries.

The capitalist class and their bourgeois mode of production cannot overcome its competitive national divisions that lead to imperialist war. The capitalist system cannot avoid sinking into greater barbarism.

For its part the world’s working class cannot avoid developing its struggle against deteriorating wages and living standards. The latest war, the biggest in Europe since 1945, warns of capitalism’s future for the world if the working class struggle doesn’t lead to the overthrow of the bourgeoisie and its replacement by the political power of the working class, the dictatorship of the proletariat.

The stronger imperialist gangsters usually have the better war propaganda, the bigger lie, because they can provoke and manoeuvre their enemies.
Bourgeoisie society, rotten to the core, profoundly sucks. The crudest features of war, involving iron and fire. Each day the Ukrainian butchery displays its cortège of massive bombardments, ambushes, sieges, and massacres, grouped together by the million the constant fire of the belligerents.

In the midst of the flood of propaganda poured out by the government, two features in particular stand out: the first presents Putin as a “mad dictator” reading himself to become the new Napoleon; the second, is presented as holding his hands on the “riches of Ukraine”; the other attributes the main responsibility for the conflict to the “genocide against the Russian-speaking population of the Donbas”.

Historically, Soviet analysts of the type of war associated with this concept (i.e. those that have followed the Second World War) are nothing more than a collection of writings taken from the mass of historical literature of the time.

Russia has made important efforts to provide itself with a more modern army and to reinforce its influence in the Middle East, notably in Syria, but also in Africa with the sending of mercenaries to Libya, Central Africa and Mali, sowing murder and terror. The US is investing heavily to launch a direct offensive in Georgia in 2008, then occupying the Crimea and Donbas in 2014, in order to try to restrict the decline of its sphere of influence, and to push Ukraine onto its borders. Following the US retreat from Afghanistan, Russia thought that it could profit from a situation, therefore, in order to bring Ukraine into its sphere of influence, a territorial entity to its position in Europe and the world, especially since Kyiv was threatening to link up with NATO.

Since the collapse of the Eastern Bloc in 1989, the West was certain that the line that war had been broken on the European continent. The Balkans War in the early 1990s and the conflict in Donbas in 2014 had already brought militarised and destabilisation to the continent. The continued imperialism in Ukraine, Russian, one of the world’s main military powers is, in effect, directly and massively involved in the invasion of a country occupying a strategic position in Europe, up to the frontiers of the European Union. The conflict in Donbas has already lost around 10,000 soldiers and many more have been wounded or have deserted. Some towns have been destroyed and are in the process of being rebuilt. The number of civilian casualties is probably considerable. And this hardly a month in the war?

The war will furthermore see an enormous concentration of troops and advanced military material and equipment, with soldiers and Red Cross coming from all over the place, but also in Eastern Europe with the deployment of thousands of NATO soldiers and the mobilisation of the only ally of Putin, Belorussia. Several European states have decided to considerably increase the number of their soldiers in the face of the Russian invasion.

For its part, Russia regularly threatens the world with reprisals and shamelessly brandishes its nuclear arsenal. The French Minister of Defence also warned Putin that he will have to face “nuclear powers”, before calming down to a much more “non-combative” stance. But even a so-called “non-combative” stance, in case of a nuclear conflict, the risk of a major industrial confrontation is real. The US Air Force is constantly flying over the European theatre, and its bases in Germany and other countries have been mobilised.

All countries and all wars are imperialist

“A new imperialism threatens peace in the world” 1, “The Ukrainians have fought Russian imperialism for hundreds of years” 2, “Russian imperialism”, the bourgeoisie says - as far as the bourgeoisie is concerned what is happening in Ukraine is still “peace”, whereas for the working class it is a real war.

The war in Ukraine carries a major risk of a nuclear conflict, the risk of a major industrial confrontation at the international level. If this conflict doesn’t open up a still more bloody configuration, it can only increase such dangers, with the risk of an uncontrollable escalation that could involve unimaginable consequences.

Is Russia alone responsible for the war?

If the Russian bourgeoisie has opened hostilities in order to defend its world imperialist interests, the propaganda presenting Ukraine and the western countries as victims of “a mad dictator” is a crude tool of the imperialist playbook. The US and western imperialist powers have methodically pushed back the Russian sphere of influence by integrating a number of eastern European countries of into the EU and NATO. This was also the significance of the eviction of the ex-President of Georgia, Shevardnadze, in 2003 at the time of the “Rose Revolution” which brought an American clique to power. The number of civilian casualties is probably considerable. And this hardly a month in the war?

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We are still far from such a revolutionary period. Similarly, the conditions of the proletarian struggle are different from those that existed at the time of the first imperialist slaughter. On the face of it, there seems to be a emergence of imperialist war, the fundamental principles of proletarian internationalism and the duty of revolutionary organisations to defend working class interests, to build up a new world of peace, with the democratic and socialist system.

The political tradition that has fought for, and continues to fight for, internationalism against imperialist war

The villages of Zimmerwald and Kienthal in Switzerland became famous as the meeting places for those defending working class principles. That’s why organizations and groups of the Commune Left today, small in number and not known, have decided to issue this common statement, and broadcast as widely as possible the justifications for the slaughter of the Ukrainian butchery to an end and denounce the patriotic and imperialist conflict in Europe, the political organisations that the Social Democratic Parties. It was at these meetings that the Bolsheviks, supported by the Bremen Left and the Dutch Left, brought forward the principle of internationalism against imperialist war that are still valid today: no support of either imperialist camp; the diplomatic and political leaders; the political and ideological leadership of the masses; the active support of the Western imperialist powers for the movement of the Ukrainian bourgeoisie, inspired by the events in the former Soviet Union or the Balkan crisis, illustrates that only the working class and its revolutionary struggle could put an end to the imperialist war but also of an attack on the power of the bourgeoisie.

It is still too early to predict the duration and extent of the already considerable destruction in Ukraine, but since 1990s we’ve known about the massacres of Srebrenica, Grozny, Sarajevo, Fallujah and Aleppo. Those who start a war is those who are wont to be the most drowned. In the 1980s, Russia paid a heavy price following the invasion of Afghanistan, which led to the implosion of the USSR. The United States has had its own flashes, weakening it militarily and economically. All these adventures ultimately ended, despite apparent initial victories, in bitter setbacks and considerably weakened the imperialists. Putin’s Russia, if it doesn’t suddenly fall back after a humiliating defeat, will not escape the stalemate, even if it manages to seize the major Ukrainian cities.

No support for any side in the imperialist carnage in Ukraine.

All illusions in pacifism: capitalism can only live through endless wars.

Only the working class can put an end to imperialist war through its class struggle against exploitation leading to the overthrow of the capitalist system.

Workers of the World, Unite!

International Communist Current (internationalism.org) - www.internationalism.org

Internationalist Voice (www.internationalistvoice.org)

International Communist Perspective (Korea) (communistleft.jinbo.net/ex)

4 April 2022

1. For a comparison, the USSN lost 25,000 soldiers during the ten years of the terrible war which ravaged Afghanistan.

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Nur there is anything to expect from Zelensky and his entourage of corrupt politicians and oligarchs. This former comedian is now playing to perpetuate his role as the putschist, having played a significant role in the interests of the Ukrainian bourgeoisie. Through an intense nationalist campaign, he has succeeded in raising passions, sometimes by force, and in recruiting a whole pack of mercenaries and gangsters who have been elevated to the rank of “nationals.” It is now a question of exploiting the assets of the Western companies, capitalizing on all the parliaments to beg for the delivery of more and more weapons and ammunition. As for the “heroic Ukrainian resistance,” it does what all the armies in the world do: it massacres, plunders and does not hesitate to beat or even execute prisoners!

All the democratic powers pretend to be indigent about the “war crimes” perpetrated by the Russian army. What hypocrisy! Throughout history, they have never stopped piling up corpses and ruins in the four corners of the world. While crying over the fate of the population victimized by the Russian army, they have never hesitated to buy up the weapons and ammunition, sometimes by force, and in recruiting a whole pack of mercenaries and gangsters who have been elevated to the rank of “nationals.” It is now a question of exploiting the assets of the Western companies, capitalizing on all the parliaments to beg for the delivery of more and more weapons and ammunition. As for the “heroic Ukrainian resistance,” it does what all the armies in the world do: it massacres, plunders and does not hesitate to beat or even execute prisoners!

The proletariat must not choose one side against the other! It has no homeland to defend and must fight nationalism and the chauvinist hysteria of “national liberation” of the bourgeoisie everywhere! It must fight with its own weapons and methods against the war!

To fight against war, we must fight against capitalism!

Today, the proletariat in Ukraine, crushed by more than 60 years of Stalinism, has suffered a major defeat and has allowed itself to be seduced by the sirens of nationalism. In Russia, even if the proletariat showed itself to be a bit more reticent, its inability to curb the warlike impulses of its bourgeoisie explains why the ruling clique was able to send 200,000 soldiers to the front without fearing any workers’ reactions.

In the main capitalist powers, in Western Europe and in the USA, the proletariat today has neither the strength nor the political capacity to oppose this conflict directly through its international solidarity and the struggle against the bourgeoisie in Russia. It must fight against this war by creating the necessary conditions for a general strike and to enter into a massive struggle to stop the massacre.

The proletariat, through the current tide of propagandists with its attendant demonstrations risk leading it into the dead end of defending pro-Russian nationalism or into the false alternative of pacifism, the proletariat of the Western countries, with its experience of class struggles and the shenanigans of the bourgeoisie, will still remain immune to the death spiral of the capitalist system. The Western bourgeoisie has been careful not to intervene directly in Ukraine because it knows that its working class will not accept the daily sacrifice of thousands of soldiers enlisted in military confrontations.

Although disorganized and still weakened by this war, the working class of the Western countries retains the potential to develop its resistance to the new sacrifices generated by the sanctions against the Russian economy and by the colossal increase of military budgets. Raging inflation, the rising cost of most of the products of everyday life and the acceleration of all the other attacks against its living and working conditions.

Already, proletarians can and must oppose all the sacrifices demanded by the bourgeoisie. It is through its struggles that the proletariat will be able to create a balance of force against the ruling class and thus hold back its murderous arm! For the working class, producer of all wealth, is, in the long run, the only force in society capable of putting an end to war by taking the path of overthrowing capitalism.

This is, moreover, what history showed us when the proletariat rose up in Russia in 1917 and in Germany the following year, putting an end to the war in an immense revolutionary wave. And before that, as the World War raged on, revolutionaries stayed at their posts by intransigently defending the elementary principle of proletarian internationalism. It is now the responsibility of revolutionaries to pass on the experience of the workers’ movement. In the face of war, their first responsibility is to speak with one voice, to firmly wave the flag of internationalism, only that one can make the bourgeoisie tremble again!

3. "Decomposition: the ultimate stage of decadent capitalism", International Review 107, internationalism.org

4. "Millitarianism and decomposition", internationalism.org

Continued from page 1

Anti-imperialist war, the class struggle!

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3. "Decomposition: the ultimate stage of decadent capitalism", International Review 107, internationalism.org

4. "Millitarianism and decomposition", internationalism.org

Continued from page 2

United States, Russia, European Union, Ukraine... all states are responsible for the war!

The United States, Russia, China and the European Union are all responsible for the war.

The United States, Russia, China and the European Union are all responsible for the war.
We are currently experiencing the most intense campaigns of war-gg agenda since the Second World War – not only in Russia and Ukraine, but across the globe. It is therefore essential for all those struggling in other countries for the survival of the proletariat to comprehend the nature of this war and the manner in which the proletariat is to respond to it. 

ICT public meetings
Who can put an end to capitalist wars and barbarism?

The need for a coherent analysis

We find ourselves in the midst of a discussion on the conditions for rejecting the argument that we are seeing the reconstitu- tion of stable military blocs. We will simply say that the condition of stability of the new military blocs is not due to the mere fact that we have seen the emergence of a unilaterally hegemonic imperialist bloc, but rather to the fact that these blocs are being held together by the threat of war. The struggle against war can only be taken in hand by the working class through the struggle on its own class terrain and its international uni- fication. Revolutionary organisations cannot wait for a massive mobilisation by the working class against the war: they must act as a determined force on its own class terrain and its international uni- fication and point to the need for the overthrow of the system. This demands that the working class and its revo- lutionary organisations appropriate the lessons of the experience of previous struggles against war. The experience of the Zimmerwald conference is enlightening in this respect.

Zimmerwald Conference
An indispensable reference for the defence of internationalism

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Zimmerwald was a small town in Switzerland, and in September 1915 it was host to a small confer- ence: 38 delegates from 12 countries all the inter- acting in a way which can only be described as Trotsky joked. And even among these few, only a small minority defended a really revolu- tionary perspective: only a small minority of Bolsheviks around Lenin and some of the other German groups stood for revolutionary methods and revo- lutionary organisation. Of course, the Bolsheviks’ war into civil war, the destruction of capitalism as the source of all wars. The other participants had no interest position or even leaned strongly to the right.

The result of the fierce debates at Zimmerwald was that the conference took a position which was in many ways a compromise between the left and the centre, since it did not take up the Bolsheviks’ revolutionary slogans. Nevertheless 1.

1. See readers contributions: “Some impressions of the Zimmerwald meetings of the 5th and 6th of March 2022” and “Brutal and grotesque: the war in Ukraine”, Internationalism.org
Since its passage into the bourgeois camp, Trotsky forcefully sought to attack the consciousness of the working class by pushing proletarians to take the side of one imperialism or the other. The Spartacists, now with the puppet masters, try to have the working class believe that they must, following Lenin’s call, become one of two things: either the “citizens” of a capitalist state, which have been transformed into a dependent and obedient mass by the influence of the bourgeoisie, the “Ukrainian people”, there is the sordid exploitation of the working class, whose men are reduced to cannon fodder, to empty the sacks of those states which have generated the multiple war zones, the impoverishment and mass exodus of populations, the mounting chaos and barbarism.

Stop the War Coalition: an instrument of anti-American imperialism

See page 6

1. Some countries, however, have been more “welcoming” than others. The British bourgeoisie in particular still erected all kinds of bureaucratic barriers to Ukrainian refugees entering the country.

2. With his definition of imperialism as the policy of the great capitalist powers, Lenin was not always clear on his great capitalist powers. On the contrary, the errors of the German Social Democracy, which no nation can hold aloft at will”.

Trotskyism: beating the drums of imperialist war

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Humanitarian rights of Ukrainians to defend themselves, including the right to resist, are essential to the protection of human dignity and freedom. The Russian occupation of Ukraine is a violation of international law and human rights. Ukraine has the right to self-defense and the right to resist occupation. The world must stand with Ukraine and support its sovereignty and territorial integrity.

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Confronted with war and economic crisis, the working class must not make any sacrifices

Stop the War Coalition: an instrument of anti-American imperialism

Unleashing the barbarism of war in Ukraine means unleashing on the whole world is threatened with its collateral “damage”, in particular, in the growth of poverty worldwide and through the mounting attacks - on the real economy - of the rich, increased inflation, inflated prices and widespread unemployment.

As a cause of possible nuclear strikes by Russia and the risk of radioactive gases escaping from Ukrainian nuclear power plants damaged by the war, we risk seeing a new increase: increased exploitation, inflated prices and widespread unemployment.

To address the effects of possible nuclear strikes by Russia and the risk of radioactive gases escaping from Ukrainian nuclear power plants damaged by the war, we risk seeing a new increase: increased exploitation, inflated prices and widespread unemployment.

Austerity, inflation, poverty

“There - We are talking about a serious...”

Raising interest rates to curb soaring inflation - with a growing vulnerability of the economy to the consequences of the 1970-1974 recession - will only be repaid by resorting to new debt, which will cause an increase in the interest rate on the real economy (it jumped to 256% of the value of GDP). This situation is not insignificant. It is a factor in the deviation of currencies and its therefore in the development of inflation. A long-term price explosion contains the risk of social unrest of various kinds (inter-class movement and class struggle) and constitutes an impediment to world trade. This is why the bourgeoisie will increasingly be forced to balance a sinking asset which, although familiar to it, is becoming more and more perilous - in order to respond to two conflicting requirements:

- Sustaining an economy that cannot function without permanent injections of credit.
- Reducing the rate of curbing soaring inflation, which has the consequence of reducing the flow of credit.

We must uphold our struggle in order to prepare the proletarian of the future!

The lies of the bourgeoisie

Faced with each and every catastrophe in the world, the bourgeoisie always has a panoply of surpies and diverse explanations which all have in common the fact that they place no blame on capitalism for the calamities plaguing humanity.

In 1973 (a year that was only a moment in the deepening of the open crisis that has since become more or less permanent) the development of unemployment and inflation was explained by the rise in the price of oil. However, the real cause of the crisis was a by-product of capitalist trade and not of something that is external to this system.

The rise in oil prices is a new illustration of this rule. The war in Ukraine is blamed on authoritarian Russia and not on crisis capitalism, as if Russia were not an integral part of world capitalism.

Faced with the prospects of a considerable worsening of the economic crisis, the bourgeoisie is preparing the ground to make the proletarian feel it should accept the terrible sacrifices that will be imposed on it, presenting them as the necessary consequence of the retaliatory measures against Russia. It has this well-prepared message: “The population can choose to turn down the heating and reduce its income by 10% if it wants to solve the problems of Ukrainian people, because this is the price of the essential task of weakening Russia”.

Stop the War Coalition’s “Stop the War Statement on Ukraine – 2022-02-02”

• “Stop the War Coalition: an instrument of anti-American imperialism”

Stop the War Coalition (SWC), with Jeremy Corbyn as one of its most prominent supporters, has become a movement aiming for peace and to end the war in Ukraine. But reality is far removed from its narrative. Apart from the fact that peace in capitalism is an impossibility, SWC has always contributed to the increase of the military tensions by taking side in the various wars that have taken place since it was founded in 2001.

With the war in Syria SWC refused to campaign against the indiscriminate bombing of cities and towns by Russian imperialism and against the atrocities of the Assad regime. For years, the coalition has either remained silent, or systematically promoted Assad justifications.

Over the war in Crimea, Counterfire, a website founded by leading activists in SWC, approvingly published articles which said that if a side takes the lead in the war in Ukraine, conflict, then it should be Russia: “Russia has more right on its side than the West.”

Over the war in Donbass, in Ukraine, SWC mainly showed understanding towards what it called “the legitimate security concerns of Russia” and underlined the fact that “the conflict is the product of 10 years of failed policies, including major wars of aggression by the USA, Britain and other NATO powers.”

At an online teach-in on Saturday 26th March 2022, Vijay Prashad added that NATO is “Washington’s instrument, a trojan horse for US power.”

SUDDEUTSCHE: So, if the war were to be won, that would make Russia an imperialist, which has provoked Russia’s rival into launching this war. But SWC cannot take the side of the working class against all imperialist camps: on the contrary, it is always looking for one to support. Thus, SWC appeals for British imperialism to project a foreign policy that breaks free of Washington and aligns the UK with a European political and military alliance: “There now needs to be unified efforts to develop pan-European security arrangements”.

Although it operates very subtly, and does not openly say that it supports Russia, SWC actually functions as a means of leading the anti-war movement into the dead end of support for anti-American imperialism.

It is not for nothing that it is attracting more and more supporters - a trend that is moving from its narrative. Apart from the fact that Corbyn as one of its most prominent supporters, SWC actually functions as a means of leading the anti-war movement into the dead end of support for anti-American imperialism.

1. See: “For avoidance of doubt: Here’s a list of some of the lies of the bourgeoisie about the Russian ‘aggression’ regime” (The Eternal Spring).
2. From the game of Great Power politics, if we have to pick a side, let it be Russia” (Counterfire)
3. “Stop the War Statement on Ukraine – 2022-02-02”
4. Quoted from “Stop The War teach-in debates how to oppose Russian invasion – and NATOescalation”
5. “Stop the War Statement on Ukraine – 23-02-2022”

International leaflet

The development of massive and conscious workers’ struggles everywhere in the world. And in particular, these struggles must become conscious of the fact that they constitute a preparation for the overthrow of the system responsible for the wars and all the barbarity that increasingly threaten humanity: the capitalist system.

Today, the old slogans of the workers’ movement, which have been reduced to the extent that the events of 1848, are more than ever on the agenda: Workers have no fatherland! Workers of all countries, unite!

For the development of the class struggle of the international proletariat!

International Communist Current, 28.2.22
heavily depends. Moreover, it has not ceased, with France, to intervene by offering a diplomatic exit to Russia, which Washington is of course seeking to delay. Even Turkey and Israel are trying to offer their “good services” as intermediaries. Eventually, with the increase in their military spending, the major European powers could even seek to emasculate themselves from American tutelage, an ambition that Macron regularly defends through his “European defense” project. While the United States has undeniably scored points in the short term, each country therefore also tries to play its own cards, compromising the constitution of a bloc all the more easily since China, for its part, is unable to gather any significant powers behind it. The war is currently holding back China’s ability to defend its own interests and objectives.

China is the ultimate objective of American strategy

However, the maneuvers of the American bourgeoisie are not aimed solely or primarily at Russia. The confrontation between the United States and China today determines global imperialist relations. By creating a situation of chaos in Ukraine, Washington has above all sought to create a situation of chaos in the major powers of Europe from which to profit. This has been true in the cases of Germany and France, which are now the main countries of the continent and have suffered the consequences (terrorism, migration crises, etc.). But today, the first world power is creating chaos at the gates of one of the main centres of capitalism. This criminal strategy is led by “democrat” and “moderate” Joe Biden. His predecessor, Donald Trump, had a well-deserved reputation as a hot-head, but it now seems obvious that to neutralise China, only the strategy differs: Trump wanted to negotiate agreements with Russia, Biden and the majority of the American bourgeoisie wanted it bled white. Putin and his clique of assassins are no better, just like Zelensky who does not hesitate to take an entire population hostage and sacrifice them as cannon fodder in the name of the defense of the fatherland. And what about the hypocritical European democracies which, while crying crocodile tears over the victims of war, deliver phenomen- onal quantities of military equipment? More than ever, the only alternative available to humanity is: socialism or barbarism! [EG, 21.3.22]

The United States has also succeeded in showing China’s impotence in playing the role of reliable partner on the international scene since it has no other choice but to support Russia in a very weak way. In this sense, the American offensive that we are witnessing is part of its more global strategy of containment of China.

Since the wars in the former Yugoslavia, Afghanistan and in the Middle East, the United States has become, as we’ve seen, the main factor of chaos in the world. So far, this trend has been confirmed first in the peripheral countries of capitalism, although the central countries have also suffered the consequences (terrorism, migration crises, etc.). But today, the first world power is creating chaos at the gates of one of the main centres of capitalism. This criminal strategy is led by “democrat” and “moderate” Joe Biden. His predecessor, Donald Trump, had a well-deserved reputation as a hot-head, but it now seems obvious that to neutralise China, only the strategy differs: Trump wanted to negotiate agreements with Russia, Biden and the majority of the American bourgeoisie wanted it bled white. Putin and his clique of assassins are no better, just like Zelensky who does not hesitate to take an entire population hostage and sacrifice them as cannon fodder in the name of the defense of the fatherland. And what about the hypocritical European democracies which, while crying crocodile tears over the victims of war, deliver phenomen- onal quantities of military equipment? More than ever, the only alternative available to humanity is: socialism or barbarism! [EG, 21.3.22]
Europe has entered into war. It is not the first time since the second world war that this has happened. At the beginning of the 1990s, war ravaged the former Yugoslavia, causing 140,000 deaths, with damages estimated at the equivalent of an amount of money equal to the whole of the name of “ethnic cleansing” as in Serbia, in July 1995, where 8,000 men and teenagers were murdered in one day. The war that has been broken out with the offensive of the Russian armies against Ukraine is not as deadly for the moment, but no one knows yet how many victims it will ultimately claim. As of now, it is much larger in scale than the war in ex-Yugoslavia. Today, it is not militias or small states that are fighting each other. The current war is between the two largest states in Europe, with populations of 150 million and 45 million respectively. The war has already been deployed: 708,000 troops in Russia and over 250,000 in Ukraine. Russia has great powers had already been involved in the confrontations in the former Yugo- slavia, it was in an indirect way, or by participating in “intervention forces”, under the aegis of the UN. They are still in the Caspian Sea and it is Russia that is confronting, but all the Western coun-tries grouped in NATO which, although they are not directly involved in the conflict, have taken significant economic sanctions against this coun-try at the same time as they have begun to send arms to Ukraine. Thus, the war that has just begun is a dramatic event of the utmost importance, first and foremost because it is a war on capitalism! As always, it is the class that produces most of the living conditions collapse in the face of inflation. the exploited, the poorest, have already seen their and hunger, while in most countries of the world, both sides and among civilians. It has thrown away the gains of years of war in the pipeline. It has thrown them up their heads with the ideology of the ruling class. Putin’s lies are crude, and mirror those of the Soviet regime in which he began his career as a KGB officer. He has also inherited his police and spying organisation. He claims to be conducting a “special military operation” to help the people of Ukraine, who today are Russian victims. In reality, he forbids the media, on pain of sanctions, to use the word “war.” According to him, he wants to free the Ukrainian people from “Nazism”. The only reality is that the Russian-speaking populations of the East are being persecuted by Ukrainian nationalists and moreover, notably by preventing Ukraine from joining NATO. In reality, since the beginning of the 20th century, every war, with all the terrible suffering it engenders, has become inseparable from the capi- talist system, a system based on competition be- tween companies and between states, where com- mercial warfare leads to armed warfare, where the worsening of its economic contradictions, of its crisis, stirs up ever more world conflicts. A system based on profit and the fierce exploitation of the producers, in which the workers are forced to pay the price of this system. Since 2015, global military spending has been rising sharply. This war has thus just brutallly accelerat- ed this process. As a symbol of this deadly spiral: Germany has started to deliver arms to Ukraine, a historic first since the Second World War. For the first time, the European Union is also financ- ing the purchase and delivery of arms to Ukraine; and Russia had already threatened to use nuclear weapons to prove its de- termination and destructive capabilities. How can we end war? No one can predict exactly how the current war will end, but it is clear that Russia is a much stronger army than Ukraine. Today, there are many demonstrations around the world, and in Russia itself, against Russia’s intervention. But it is not in these demonstrations that will put an end to the hostilities. History has shown that the only force that can put an end to capitalist war is the exploited class, the proletariat, the direct enemy of the bourgeois class. This was the case when the workers of Russia overthrew the bourgeois state in October 1917 and the workers and soldiers of Germany revolted in November 1918, forcing their government to sign the armistice. If Putin was able to throw the weight of thousands of soldiers to be killed against Ukraine, if many Ukrainians today are ready to give their lives for the “defense of the Fatherland”, it is largely because in this part of the world the working class is particularly weak. The collapse in 1989 of the regimes that constituted the Eastern Bloc, the end of the Cold War, a very brutal blow to the world working class. This blow affected the workers who had fought hard from 1968 onwards and during the 1970s in countries like France, Italy and the United King- dom, but even more so in the so-called “social- ialist” countries, like those in Poland who fought massively and with great determination in August 1980, forcing the government to renounce repression and meet their demands. It is not by demonstrating “for peace”, it is not by choosing to support one country against another that we can bring real solidarity to the victims of the war, the civilian populations and the soldiers of both sides, proletarians in uniform transformed into cannon fodder. The only solidarity consists in denouncing ALL the capitalist states, ALL the pow- ers that call for rallying behind this or that nationall flag, ALL those who lure us with the illusion of peace and “good relations” between peoples. And the only solidarity that can have a real impact is World Revolution is the section in Britain of the International Communist Current which defends the following political positions:

* Since the first world war, capitalism has been a deca- dent social system. It has twice plunged humanity into a barbaric cycle of crisis, world war, reconstruction and new crisis. In the 1980s, it entered into the final phase of this decadence, the phase of decomposition. There is only one alternative offered by this irreversible histori- cal decline: socialism or barbarism, world communist revolution or the destruction of the world.
* The Paris Commune of 1871 was the first attempt by the proletariat to carry out this revolution, in a period when the conditions for it were not yet ripe. Once again, the future of the proletariat, the vanguard of the working class, can only be fully achieved through the instrumentality of the working class and by struggling against the bourgeoisie in all countries. The working class, wherever it is, is the only revolutionary class. The working class, wherever it is, is the only revolutionary class. The working class, wherever it is, is the only revolutionary class.
* In order to advance its combat, the working class has to unify its struggles, taking charge of its own ex- tension and organisation through national or interna- tional assemblies and committees of delegates elected and revocable at any time by these assemblies. In order to advance its combat, the working class has to unify its struggles, taking charge of its own ex- tension and organisation through national or interna- tional assemblies and committees of delegates elected and revocable at any time by these assemblies.
* All the nationalist ideologies – “national independ- ence”, the “right of nations to self-determination” etc. – whatever their pretext, ethnic, historical or religious, are a red herring for the workers. By calling on them to take the side of one or another faction of the bourgeoisie, they divide workers and lead them to massacre each other in the interests and wars of their exploiters. In decadent capitalism, parliament and elections are nothing but a masquerade. Any call to participate in elections only serves to reinforce the lie that presents elections as a real choice for the ex- ploited. “Democracy”, a particularly hypocrisy form of the domination of the bourgeoisie, does not differ at all from other forms of capitalist dictatorship, such as Stalinism and fascism. Workers and employees, wherever the bourgeoisie are equally re- dundant. All the so-called “workers’, ‘Socialist’ and ‘Communist’ parties (now ex-Communists), the leftist organisations (Trotskyists, Maoists and ex-Maoists, official anarchists) constitute the left of capitalism’s political apparatus. All the tactics of ‘popular fronts’, ‘anti-war movements’ and ‘union building’ are based of the interests of the proletariat with those of a faction of the bourgeoisie, serve only to smother and derail the revolutionary impulses that are running through the international arena. These wars bring nothing to humanity but death and destruction on an ever-increas- ing scale. War, a capitalist tool and organ of international capital, engenders, has become inseparable from the capitalist system, a system based on competition between companies and between states, where commercial warfare leads to armed warfare, where the worsening of its economic contradictions, of its crisis, stirs up ever more world conflicts. A system based on profit and the fierce exploitation of the producers, in which the workers are forced to pay the price of this system. Since 2015, global military spending has been rising sharply. This war has thus just brutallly accelerat- ed this process. As a symbol of this deadly spiral: organisation, whether ‘official’ or ‘mink and file’, serve only to discipline the working class and sabotage its struggles.
* The working class is the only class which can carry out the capitalist revolution. Its revolutionary struggle will inevitably lead the working class towards a confrontation with the capitalist state. In order to destroy capitalism, the working class will have to over- throw all existing states and establish the dictatorship of the proletariat on a world scale: the international power of the workers’ councils, regrouping the entire proletariat.
* The so-called transformation of society by the workers’ councils does not mean “self-management” or the nationalisation of the economy. Communist organisation and struggle are the only solution by which the working class can break free from capitalist social relations: wage labour, commodity production, national frontiers. It means the creation of a single state in which all power will be directed towards the full satisfaction of human needs.
* The revolutionary political organisation constitutes the vanguard of the working class and is an active factor in the generalisation of class consciousness within the proletariat. Its role is neither to ‘organise the working class’ by preparing it for future events, nor to participate actively in the movement towards the unification of struggles, towards workers taking control of their organisations and states and, at the same time to draw out the revolutionary political goals of the proletariat’s combat.

**OUR ACTIVITY**

Political and theoretical clarification of the goals and methods of the proletarian struggle, of its historic and its immediate conditions. Organised intervention, united and centralised on an international scale, in order to contribute to the process which leads to the revolutionary action of the proletariat. The regroupment of revolutionaries with the aim of constituting a real world communist party, which is indispensable to the working class for the overthrow of capitalism.

**OUR ORIGINS**

The positions and activity of revolutionary or- ganisations are the product of the past experiences of the working class. It is necessary to understand that its political or- ganisations have drawn throughout its history. The ICC thus traces its origins to the successive contributions of the Communist League of Master and Engels (1847-52), the three Internationals (the International Work- er’s Association, 1864-72, the Social International, 1883-1918) and the RCP (Italy), the political left which began to break up in the aftermath of the Italian Communist Party, forming the International Communist Federation. The International leaflet which defends the organisation of the working class with the aim of...