The Communist Party

The Growing Crisis of the Capitalist System Pushes It Towards War

Covid-19, as we have repeatedly said, did not cause the economic crisis but aggravated it, exciting the tension between imperialism. The crisis in world trade caused by the pandemic, the so-called breakdown of production chains with the shortage of some components essential to production, such as semiconductors, and of some raw materials such as rare earths, the contest for the production and distribution of vaccines, mutual accusations of responsibility for the spread of the virus, etc. they made evident the contrasts between the states and their weaknesses.

The approaching economic crisis will be more devastating than that of 2009 and will occur in this context of growing international tension. Hence the tendency of states to increase their commitment to rearmament, despite the budgetary problems deriving from the decline in the reproduction of capital.

This global tension was confirmed in June by the new US President Biden’s first trip abroad to participate in the G7 in Cornwall and subsequently at the 14th NATO summit. Biden’s goal was to announce that “the US is back” and to reunite the alliance with the major industrialized countries to oppose the threats coming above all from China and Russia. But things did not go according to his wishes.

Not even the subsequent G8 summit, amended by the United Kingdom, Italy, France, Germany, Japan, Canada, the United States and the European Union and, demonstrating the interest shifted to the Pacific, to which Australia, India, South Korea, South Africa and the subcontinent of Brunei were invited, did not give the desired results, that is, the anxiety under the US umbrella that Washington set out to achieve. Despite the inexistence of a common EU foreign policy, it highlighted the differences between the US and the major European states.

Germany, on the strength of its economic ties with China, the primary destination for its exports, declared that “it is better to be in favor of something than against”, and even France did not seem willing to follow the US in this new cold war against China.

In response to the conclusions of the G7 China affirmed that the days are over when “a small group of countries could decide the destinies of the world”. In the meantime, with the unofficial approval of the government, a cartoon has circulated on digital channels, which imitates Leonardo da Vinci’s fresco “The Last Supper”, depicting different animals, each representing one of the world powers, intent on transforming toilet paper in dollars and sharing a cake in the shape of China. The central place is occupied by the American eagle. Trials of the cold war for the “hot one”. The various strategic visions in the Western field also emerged in the subsequent NATO summit. The US imposed its agenda by dedicating much of the final document to condemning Russia and expanding the Alliance’s action to the Pacific Ocean and China’s borders. However, nothing has been decided regarding the nearby and increasingly warmer Mediterranean. In the same document, after heated negotiations, it was declared that China represents a “systemic challenge” for the West, while Washington would have liked it to be openly defined “an adversary”.

Despite The Crisis, World Military Spending Continues To Grow

Data on world military spending published in April 2021 by the International Institute for Strategic Studies in London and the International Peace Research Institute – Stockholm confirm that these diplomatic and trade tensions have prompted most of the major states to expand military spending. In fact, both Institutes agree in their analyses that in 2020, despite the worsening of the economic crisis and the spread of the pandemic, spending recorded a sharp increase in the world as a whole, unlike what had happened in the previous crisis of 2009.

According to the calculations of the SIPRI, in 2020, while global economic production fell by 3.5%, there was a 3.9% increase, in real terms, in world spending on armaments. In proportion to GDP, it went from 1.85% in 2019 to 2.08% in 2020. In absolute values, it would have exceeded 1,830 billion dollars.

According to SIPRI estimates, global GDP would have decreased by 4.4% while world military spending would have increased by 2.4%, reaching as much as 1,981 billion dollars. The increase would be the largest since 2009, at the end of the last global economic crisis.

It must be acknowledged that the rule of capital, in its catastrophic and destructive impetuous phase, despite the economic and health crisis, is spending more and more money on cannons and less and less on “butter”. We Marxists are not surprised.

In 1915, after the outbreak of the First World War, Lenin made ours the famous phrase of Georgy V. Plekhanov, “War is the continuation of politics by other means”. The concept could be clarified by stating that war is also the continuation by other means, by violent means, of the economy, commerce, finance. Militarism is an inseparable part of capitalism and it is an illusion in the capitalist regime to hypothesize the possibility of universal peace, of long-term collaboration between states. For the regime of capital, there is no other way out of the economic crisis than war, the generalized and planned destruction of goods and means of production, including millions of proletarians, to “rejuvenate” and start a new cycle of accumulation. So it happened with the first and, even more so, with the second imperialist war. From this awareness derives the fact that in the programs of the decision-making centers of the military apparatus of the various states there is a demand for enormous resources to keep the armed forces efficient and ready for use.

The size of the expenditure naturally reflects the global power hierarchy.

United States dominates, China follows

It is still the United States that distances itself with a far greater commitment than all other states by maintaining and strengthening their formidable arsenal. In 2020, US military spending rose for the third consecutive year after seven years of slight decline. Reduced due to the crisis of 2009, it has not yet returned to the highs of that time: in 2009 and 2010 it was 4.9% of GDP, then it dropped to 3.3% in 2017 and 2018, to then rise again, at 3.4% in 2019 and 3.7% in 2020. This year, spending exceeded 778 billion dollars, with an increase of 4.4% compared to 2019. It is an effort aimed at confirming control over entire planet and to maintain strategic superiority in the first place over China, identified as the first global opponent.

US military spending alone contributes 39% of the world total. And this has been happening at least since 1989, the year of the collapse of the USSR. Despite all the crunches impetuous phase, despite the economic and health crisis, it is spending more and more money on cannons and less and less on “butter”. We Marxists are not surprised.
China is dedicating great resources to strengthening above all the navy, the air force and the missile arsenal. The Communist Party

But their supremacy comes from afar. Already in 1931, in full economic depression, Trotsky in an interview with the “Manchuria Guard” mentioned: “It is very clear that the two main imperialisms follow what we could define regional powers, India (72.9 billion dollars); Russia (61.7), Great Britain (59.2), Saudi Arabia (57.5), Germany and France (with 52.8 and 52.7 respectively) and finally Japan (48.1) and South Korea (46.0).”

The second country that spends the most on armaments is China, which in 2020 invested 252 billion dollars, about one third of the United States in absolute value. to 1.7% of Chinese GDP against 3.7% of the US. After a few years in which Beijing’s spending in absolute values had increased by 4.5% every year, in 2020 it increased by about 2%

Russia reduced its military spending from 3.9% in 2009 to 3.4% in 2011, before rising to 5.4% in 2016. It subsequently fell again to 3.7% in 2018 and to 3.9% in 2019 to good 4.3% in 2020. Although spending is significant compared to GDP, in absolute values it remains comparable to that of a medium power, denying Putinian patriotism: rhetoric that would aim to meter the glories “imperial”. However, Moscow has a tradition, diplomatic ties, a technological level and a network of military industries that allow it to be in second place worldwide so as an arms exporter, surpassed only by the United States.

The last three years, despite being waging a bloody and costly war in Yemen, Saudi Arabia has greatly reduced its spending on armaments, also due to the fall in the price of oil which has cut state revenues. This allowed Great Britain, which instead continued to spend more and more, to earn third place in the group, leaving France and Germany behind.

It should be noted that France, despite its relative modest spending, last year gained third place in the world ranking of arms exporters. Obviously, all countries export unscrupulously despite declaring that their sales are conditioned by respect for “human rights” by beavers: it is not for nothing that one of the states that is among the largest buyers is Egypt. Pecunia non olet!

Business as usual. The recent death on set of cinematographer Halyna Hutchins and injury of director Joel Souza is a tragedy and illuminates the need for better protections of film crews. While many employees had walked off that very set earlier that day over, among other things, these exact concerns shows that production companies and the bosses will do whatever they can to increase their profit margins at the expense of workers. Rather than meet with the union’s reasonable demands, producers would rather hire scabs. The bosses would rather cut corners than accept that better working and living conditions are essential for the health and safety of all. The recent death on set of cinematographer Halyna Hutchins and injury of director Joel Souza is a tragedy and illustrates the need for better protections of film crews. While many employees had walked off that very set earlier that day over, among other things, these exact concerns shows that production companies and the bosses will do whatever they can to increase their profit margins at the expense of workers. Rather than meet with the union’s reasonable demands, producers would rather hire scabs. The bosses would rather cut corners than accept that better working and living conditions are essential for the health and safety of all.

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South Korea is also engaged in a decisive rearmament process that has accelerated in recent years, also under the pressure of the US, to keep both North Korea and China at bay. Seoul is also trying to reduce its dependence on imports by adopting domestically built weapon systems, as seems to have been able to get excellent results in both the aeronautical and maritime fields.

The total expenditure for the ten states so far is over 1,464 billion dollars, 74% of global military spending.

Minor But Well-Armed Powers

After the two main ones, there is a third group of powers that we can define as minor: Italy (28.9 billion dollars), Russia (25.1), France (21.7), India (20.7) and Brazil (10.5).

These three groups of powers, 17 states in all, account for about 82% of world military spending.

We can therefore confirm what Lenin wrote a century ago: a small group of imperialist and militarist states dominate the world.

Only The Non-Pacifist Proletariat Is Anti-Militarist And Anti-War.

The leadership has shown itself unable to protect the interests and gains of the rank and file. Why else would they immediately call to go back to work? Do they really have our interests in mind? Rushing into an agreement with the AMPTP risks compromising our safety and a steadfast position at the bargaining table.

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Across the US, and indeed the world, workers have attempted to create better working and living conditions for themselves; yet, at every step of the way, our bosses, their lackeys in state and federal governments and the bureaucrats in the regime unions, all work together to keep us down.

We need to expand our struggle. Vote NO on compromising with the bosses. It’s time to STRIKE!

There are also other IATSE members who are inspired by your threatened strike actions because they endure similar conditions to yours. Bring them with you! Make the industry a better one.

The strike presents us with a unique opportunity to connect with other workers and comrades. The union leadership wants to turn a lengthy and compromising agreement with the AMPTP, but we don’t have to wait for them to make decisions that will affect our livelihoods.

We are facing nearly unprecedented adversities at work and home. There is a pandemic, unemployment, homelessness, uncertainty and generalized insecurity. When we work together, we are stronger. When workers organize within their industry, but also with the rest of the labor force at large, we are capable of accomplishing more. We call this the class union.

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IATSE: Kill the Proposal!

IATSE Members!

The struggle for better working and living conditions is crucial, not only in production but in all sectors of the economy. As workers, we have enormous power when acting collectively and in a concerted manner. The bosses are afraid of what we can be if we stand in solidarity with our fellow workers and comrades.

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We have a world to win!
The Paris Commune: First Victory of the Working Class

At the inauguration of the new American president, the Democrat Joe Biden, we wrote in our press that very little would change foreign policy compared to the Republican Trump and his motto "America First". Well, in recent days we have had a new blatant confirmation of this.

Biden announced a new strategic, military and security alliance with the United Kingdom and Australia in the Indo-Pacific area. The new pact, called AUKUS, aims at a greater exchange and integration of defense capabilities and information and to provide Australia with a substantial fleet of nuclear-powered submarines, openly in anti-Chinese function.

Until now, the technology necessary for the construction of nuclear submarines was shared only between USA and UK and this gives the measure of the seriousness and strategic importance of the agreement.

China responded immediately denouncing the agreement as "extremely irresponsible": "Cooperation between the United States, Britain and Australia on nuclear submarines seriously affects regional peace and stability, intensifies the arms race and undermines international efforts for nuclear non-proliferation",

Clear words that show once again that Beijing is not willing to give up its ambitions in the Pacific and that Washington and its allies are willing to do anything to counter them.

But the agreement also has heavy repercussions on Europe, and France in particular. Australia in fact in 2016 had signed the "contract of the century" with Naval Group, a French industrial group 62% owned by the state and 35% by Thalès, for the supply of 12 diesel-electric propulsion submarines for an amount of 32 billion euros, later revalued to as much as 56. The submarines would be built by 1,800 workers in shipyards in Australia.

The Aukus pact implied the immediate Australian cancellation of the contract with France. Obviously Paris took it badly: not only was its diplomacy not invited or consulted for the agreement but it suffered a very serious damage to its military industry. The Minister of Foreign Affairs spoke of a "stab in the back" while the Minister of Defense said: "in geopolitics and defense policy this decision is serious and clearly shows how the United States treats its allies".

But the entire European Union has felt "betrayed", kept in the dark just as it was about to present its own plan of intervention in the Pacific area: US diplomacy has elaborated the new pact without mentioning it to the representatives of European capitalists, not caring about their clamors. It's the second time in a few weeks, after the way of the hasty flight from Afghanistan, that Washington shows it doesn't take into account the interests of the European bourgeoisie when it comes to defend its own. This is how it goes in relations between thieves. The French rooster, pricked by the right-wingers, has recalled the ambassadors from Washington and Canberra "for consultation", but, strangely enough, not from London. Paris thus seems to want to shift the major responsibility to Australia.

European governments sympathize with Paris, but they don't see the billions they pay to NATO and complain about US "selfishness". Aware that they cannot expect Washington to defend the interests of their capitalists, they withdraw the question of common European defense from the drawer. A pious illusion! A European army persists as a political unity that bourgeois Europe will never achieve.

In Europe, each state goes its ow way and when the time comes for general war, it will have to side with one or the other of the two great imperialisms, trying to sell the blood of its proletarians in arms to the highest bidder.

The proletariat will have only one way to save itself from a new useless slaughter on the lands and on the seas, to turn the guns against its own bourgeois bourgeoisie, to oppose the war between states to the war between classes!
UK truckers fight back against lousy pay and conditions

On August 23 heavy goods vehicles (HGV) drivers working for many different firms organised, through a private Facebook group and a national petition, a strike action by 92% on an 80% turnout in a ballot announced on 24 September. The Asbestos and Vehicle Standards Agency (DVSA) backed strike action by 92% on an 80% turnout in a ballot announced on 24 September.

The stay-at-home action went ahead, contrary to claims in the media that the strike had been called off. Who initiated this abandonment of the strike is not clear, but it could only have been the DVSA.

The reason why there are too few lorry drivers is obvious to members of the profession. For decades, wages have been suppressed and conditions worsened in every possible way, meaning that 40% of drivers choose not to work. Long distances, bad roads and the DVSA's mad activity are a few.

This is a chronic problem for capitalism across Europe, though it has become acute in Great Britain during the pandemic and then been confirmed with tougher immigration rules after Brexit.

The Facebook group regularly debunks news articles in the tabloid press about how drivers are paid in other countries. In truth, the best-paid drivers in the world are HGVs in France (€26 an hour), Belgium (€25 an hour), Norway (€25 an hour), Denmark (€20 an hour) and Germany (€15 an hour).

Workers-Toilers’ Rally in Istanbul:

Workers-Toilers’ Rally in Istanbul: A United Front from Above is Not the Solution

On October 24, a “Workers-Toilers’ Rally” was held “For Our Labor and Freedom” in Kartal Square. This was not a demonstration. It was an organized strike by workers in small and medium-sized enterprises, who were demanding higher wages, better working conditions, and an end to discrimination by the employers.

A United Front from Above is Not the Solution

This rally was held to show solidarity with the workers in other countries who are fighting for their rights. The workers are determined to take action to improve their living standards and to fight against exploitation.

The rally was attended by thousands of workers from different industries and all over Turkey. The workers were united in their demand for better working conditions and higher wages.

The rally was a huge success and it showed that the workers are not afraid to take on the bosses. The workers have a strong sense of solidarity and they are determined to fight for their rights.

The rally was a great example of the power of workers to take action and to improve their lives. The workers in Turkey are showing the world that they are not going to accept exploitation and that they are going to fight for their rights.

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Strike at John Deere

10,000 workers at John Deere have been on strike since October 14. It is a massive strike by U.S. standards, and the first in more than a decade. The union, which represents the workers, is the United Auto Workers (UAW). The UAW has been negotiating with the company since July 30, but a strike was looming as the union and the company failed to reach an agreement. The strike has been called by the UAW due to the company’s refusal to recognize the workers’ right to organize and negotiate for better wages and working conditions.

Militancy in the Building Trades

The building trades unions of the AFL-CIO are seen as some of the most class backwards in the union movement. There are many reasons for this. Historically, the building trades have been one of the most conservative unions. The workers in this industry are often seen as the “old boys clubs” of the American labor movement. Even today, the building trades are still seen as being more industrialized, and thus agricultural laborers became proletarianized. The result was a working class that was not in touch with the number of immiserated workers.

This history, which is really the bosses’ strategy, is clearly visible at John Deere. One of the reasons for the strike was the company and the UAW’s need to maintain its current workforce. The company wants to keep its current workforce and avoid any layoffs. The UAW wants to ensure that workers keep their jobs and are not laid off. This means that the union and the company need to come to an agreement on wages, benefits, and working conditions.

Workers Struggles in Tuscany, Italy

The struggle against the redundancies at GKN in Campi Bisenzio has taken on national importance in these months of struggle. The redundancies at GKN in Campi Bisenzio, which is located near Florence, Italy, have sparked a wave of solidarity and support across the country. The workers have been fighting against the redundancies and have organized a series of protests and strikes. The struggle has been led by the CGIL, UIL, and CISL unions, which represent the workers at GKN.

The GKN workers are part of the larger class struggle in Italy, which is characterized by a strong labor movement and a tradition of social democracy. The workers at GKN are part of a larger movement for workers’ rights and social justice. The workers are fighting not only for their jobs but also for a better future for all workers in Italy. The workers at GKN are part of a larger movement for a better future for all workers in Italy.
**October 11 2021**

**Workers Struggles in Italy - ICP Leaflet**

**HURRAY FOR THE RANK AND FILE UNION GENERAL STRIKE!!**

For a Class Union Front in defense of the immediate interests of the working class.

For the rebirth of the One Big Union: outside and against the regime unions.

**The ICP argues for a class union, dedicated to protecting the economic interests of the entire working class. The class union organizes workers across employers, industries, and national boundaries. It encompasses all occupations no matter if “skilled” and “unskilled”, “blue-collar” and “white-collar”. It is a simple principle of action of the entire working class. It maintains a completely combative position against the bourgeois, never collaborating or cooperating with them under any circumstances. It pays no respect to the laws that protect the bourgeoisie, especially those that limit the workers’ right to strike.**

The class union should be as widely-based as possible. In this respect it differs from party-unions and parties in union of which, as are both promoted by the various opportunist factions. This is not to say that it should be apolitical, but it is not a partisan goal. Not every worker is willing or able to join the communist party at any given time. Even so, they can still be of great help in workers’ struggles.

**The IWW: ONE BIG UNION OR CLASS UNION?**

For the most part, the Industrial Workers of the World (IWW) is mired in the anarchist and “libertarian socialist” ideologies which failed so badly in the post World War One revolutions and, more importantly, the Spanish Civil War. The concept of “autonomy” of local unions, individual workplaces, etc was alien to the classic IWW and abandoned the industrial outlook of the Original IWW. So they “unite” individual workplaces, workplaces in one industry with even other workplaces in identical industries.

The logic of ideology autonomy means the IWW currently lacks the ability to capitalize on its strengths. For example, its members and amongst workers in Education is not insignificant – 1300 across the US. Members of IWW’s “Educators Industrial Union #620” – were leaders in the 2013 West Virginia School Strike. IWW’s also took lead in an important Grad Student Workers wildcat in November 2020. But there is no strategy for turning isolated groups of IWW militants into an organization fighting for the unity of all workers and unions. As long as it holds onto local autonomy it cannot become the power it should be. Instead of unity of actions, there are small handfuls of Educational workers working on their own individual and regular agendas.

**Local Autonomy** also encourages IWW projects like the “Burgerville Workers Union” – a union of fast food restaurant workers in Portland, Oregon in one business. It encourages them to think it is ok to negotiate a No Strike Clause in their contract with employers, even though such a clause is in direct contradiction to the IWW’s constitution. Instead of attempting to spread their occasional successes to other workers, these are duplicate autonomous unions for every workplace – a different burger chain is a separate and isolated union. One donut shop in a business of 10 shops (VooDoo Doughnuts Workers Union). As well as a bar going out of business! Each union is a little more temaceous and isolated for the collective power of workers to be effective.

**The failures outlined above don’t mean that the IWW should be written off. It still does many good works despite the above weaknesses. For example, within a number of major Canadian unions encouraging workplace actions which have won significant workplace improvements in a very hostile political environment.**

For a Class Union Front

**SOUTH AFRICA (cont)**

The auto industry directly employs 110,000 workers in South Africa and accounts for nearly 7% of the country’s GDP, while the steel industry along with metallurgy accounts for nearly 15% of GDP, about $4.4 billion. The biggest employers in Auto and Steel South Africa.

Striking steelworkers will have the concrete help of millions of workers who will participate in a strike day called by the Congress of South African Trade Unions (COSATU), to put pressure on the government of the African National Congress (ANC).

With this strike, COSATU will probably try to give vent to what promises to be a growing movement of the South African working class. As we know there were widespread riots in July, triggered by the detention of former President Jacob Zuma, but fueled by the very real threat of the auto and steel working class at rising prices, the crisis over the coronavirus pandemic and decades of stalled wages and unemployment.

**Turkey**

With an estimated membership of 105,000 members, the Workers’ Party of Turkey (YPY) is the largest union in the country. It has a strong presence in the automotive, metal, and construction industries.

The union has been active in a number of strikes, including the 2011 nationwide general strike, which was organized in response to the government’s move to privatize the state-owned enterprise, the Turkish Steel Company. The strike was the largest in Turkey's history and lasted for 16 days, involving over 3 million workers.

Recently, the union has been involved in a number of labor disputes, including a strike at the state-owned steel company, which is one of the largest employers in the country. The union is also active in the automotive and construction industries, where it has a strong presence.

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