Capitalism is war
To stop it, the working class must bring capitalism down

It had to happen, the clash between capitalisms, between the states sharing the world, is inevitable. Ukraine is only the beginning: the clash is global, between imperialist states, not between "democracies" and "authoritarian regimes" as they want to present it. From the United States to China, Russia, to Great Britain, Japan, Germany, France and Italy, they are all arming themselves to the teeth to divide up territories and spheres of influence all over the world. Relations between states are based on force and not on abstract international law.

The distinction between aggressors and aggressed is false, it is an ideological tool to justify imperialist warfare on either side of the front. All national capitalisms are aggressors and aggressed at the same time.

They are all threatened by the global crisis of the capitalist economy, which is inexorably advancing due to the enormous overproduction of goods and capital, aggravated by the pandemic. They are at each other's throats in order to survive, to share the declining profits.

And because capitalism feels threatened by what it itself has produced in its development: Communism. Communism is the spectre maturing within the modern world itself, looming materially over every aspect of life. Capitalism has formed and magnified its gravedigger, the international proletariat, destined to revolt under the conditions of misery into which the crisis is leading it.

What drives capitalisms to war is not a particular political ideology or culture or national tradition: these are just the lies with which bourgeois regimes try to justify conflicts and absolve capitalism of its infamies.

Russia, which was communist in October 1917, has counterrevolution and the defeat of the Bolshevik old guard, has degenerated to become a capitalist state among others.

What provokes the imperialist war are the immense economic interests of big capital. Every day for these interests billions of proletarians are exploited, laid off and starved, made to work in conditions that cause their death by accident or disease. In order to save costs and make more profit, the bourgeoisie causes environmental, industrial, infrastructural and health disasters that claim thousands of victims.

The imperialist war is not only a conflict between bourgeoisies to divide up the world market: it is a war of all bourgeoisies united against workers all over the world to keep them divided, subjugated, terrified. The only solution capitalism has to its economic crisis is to oppose life: to destroy not only the surplus goods, but also the living beings themselves, the workforce-commodity, the workers, by the millions.

A few weeks before entering Ukraine, Russian soldiers were sent to Kazakhstan to help the local bourgeois regime smother in blood the proletarian uprising that had broken out over the rising price of gas, a repression that received the unanimous consent of all the bourgeoisies in the world, from the falsely communist Chinese, to the autocratic Turkish, to the Western democracies.

All the interests of capital, and its very survival, are concentrated in the state and military machinery. Their protection leads them inexorably to war. If the working class does not succeed in overthrowing capitalism first, a vast and devastating conflict will turn the world into a battlefield in which the workers will be called upon to shed blood only for the interests of their respective bourgeoisies and the preservation of their political power.

Eastern Europe is only one of the fronts on which imperialisms are clashing: the same glimmers of war are rising from the Pacific, around Taiwan and China, the main strategic adversary of US imperialism.

The war in Ukraine, like the previous one in Yugoslavia, once again dispels the illusion of a peaceful Europe and confirms what revolutionary Marxism has always denounced: there can be no peace as long as capitalism exists; there can be no peaceful coexistence between national capitalisms.

The war in Ukraine is therefore not only caused by Putin's aggressive policy, as they superficially want you to believe: it is caused by the bourgeois regime, which is Russian and worldwide. It is provoked by capitalism, all of which is pregnant with war.

In order to stop it, the workers must not follow the indications of either the nationalist, openly bourgeois parties or the opportunist workers' parties, which always tell them to "choose", and side with the "less warmongering", "less anti-Proletarian", "more democratic" front than the other. Workers must unite, across borders, against all imperialist fronts and first and foremost against their own bourgeoisie. The first communist watchword of 1848 - Proletarians of all countries unite! - is still valid and relevant today.

The communists' watchword in the war is the one that was Lenin's and the left-wing communists' against the First World War: turn imperialist war into revolution.

Workers from today must separate their orientation and attitude from those of their own bourgeoisie, from today they must fight in defence of their living and working conditions, against their own national capitalism.

There is no commonality of interests between the working class and the bourgeois class. The so-called 'common good of the country' is just an ideological cloak that disavows the defence of the interests of national capitalism.

For workers to support their own bourgeoisie today, accepting sacrifices in terms of living and working conditions in order to make the "country system" more competitive, means tying themselves to the wagon of the ruling class, which will lead them tomorrow to shed blood in defence of the social privilege and political domination that oppresses them.

The way to salvation lies not in the prevalence of their own bourgeoisie in the world arena, but in the international unity of the working class against capitalisms.

For this social war we need the weapons of proletarian struggle, we need to rebuild real class trade unions, and to fight under the flag of the International Communist Party.
Looking for the causes of the new crisis on the eastern borders of Ukraine, it is impossible not to take into account the context in which it occurred. The situation affects the major countries of the world: convergent political and economic interests on the various actors who seek their moves all the more bold and awkward.

In the months of last year, Russia began to amass a large amount of men and military assets on their borders. The Eastern European states were the closest. Over the last two years, there were more than 100,000 heavily armed soldiers. Military maneuvers are taking place in Belarus, to the north, and Crimea, to the south.

Faced with protests from the government in Kiev and its Western allies, who cry of the danger of an invasion, Russia responded that these are normal exercises within its territories and that there is no plan to descend on the Ukraine.

The improbability of war would be boundless the Russian state is within the highest levels of the Russian government in Moscow. II Manifesto newspaper reported on January 15: “Everyone in Moscow knows the risks of an open war in a country with 45 million inhabitants, and the repercussions it would have, first of all on internal stability. They are aware of the men of the military apparatus as well as those of the political establishment around Putin, interested in defending relationships and even privileges built over time with European countries.”

The Italian General Leonardo Tricario, former Chief of Staff of the Air Force, in a recent interview to RAI said that “it is not the Russians who are encircling NATO but the opposite (...)”

俄罗斯的演习目前并不是无计划的。它们参与在 maneuvers in Belarus, and even in patrols in the Mediterranean, but Russian troops threatening the Ukrainian border are a pressure, certainly risky, to reiterate that the entry of the country into NATO would be unacceptable”.

The Encirclement of Russia

The Kremlin’s showdown did not come as a bolt from the blue; there had been thunder for a long time. As Wladyslaw Zawadzka wrote there had been thunder for a long time, not to come as a bolt from the blue; it is not accidental but systematic. Russia is aware of the risks of an open war in a country with 45 million inhabitants, and the repercussions it would have, first of all on internal stability. They are aware of the men of the military apparatus as well as those of the political establishment around Putin, interested in defending relationships and even privileges built over time with European countries.”

The former diplomat highlighted the fact that an aggressive NATO policy, even if it would have weakened Russia from the point of view of military deployments, would, however, have strengthened the regime internally by giving voice and strength to patriotic and nationalist anti-Western positions.

United States v. Germany

But evidently the United States had no choice. In the general crisis of the imperialist order that followed the fall of the USSR, a crisis that on this occasion was not due to this day, there was no room and less room for a policy of détente or simple containment. In the event that the countries of Eastern Europe would not incorporate into NATO and the European Union, they were destined to end up once again under the influence of either Russia or, even worse for Washington, China. The latter was a danger the United States did not want to risk. NATO has had to physically occupy the space between Berlin and Moscow, with the aim, as “Limes” wrote in November 2019, “The new Iron Curtain”, of NATO having to “deny resurgent German nationalism (…) any future understandings with Russia. Which have been the case between European powers, forced by proximity and power relations to come to terms (…) The obsession with Germany is, moreover, a characteristic feature of American strategic culture. For one hundred and two years, since the intervention in the First World War against Imperial Germany, it has defined the American approach to Europe”.

Germany, one of the major economic powers in the world and the largest in Europe, still lacks an army corresponding in might to its strength in world markets. Even so, with its industrial and technical capabilities, not to mention nuclear power, it could soon become a counter-hegemonic adversary. Today it is an ally of the United States, but it could very well become one of its most formidable opponents.

The question of the Ukrainian crisis pits United States and Russia against each other, but, more importantly, it affects Germany and the rest of Europe, from the point of view of economic and technical, and the possibility of war. Today it is an ally of the United States, but it could very well become one of its most formidable opponents.

The United States has made no secret, despite the agreements made with Bonn, that one of its objectives is to block Nord Stream II, the new pipeline linking Russia to Germany, in order to push Russian foreign policy in direction decidedly not to our liking.”

The former diplomat highlighted the fundamental imperatives. The Nord Stream II, with its large economic and diplomatic implications in European opinion, and the “(create) a new situation will push the Ukrainian situation in the direction and armed forces. At war with Germany but also in Italy, who has provided UAVs, in addition to sending hundreds of mainly British and American military advisors. Moscow's fear is that this new situation will push the Ukrainian government, which is already implementing a hard policy against the Russian power, to «send» in the country, to try to reconquer the Donbass region, where in recent years ceaseless clashes in an endless war have left 14,000 dead on the ground.

Moreover, the possible entry of Ukraine and Georgia into NATO, as foreseen by the Budapest summit in April 2008, would put Russia in an unsustainable situation of weakness that would certainly have negative repercussions on Putin's government as well. In the press conference at the end of the presidential elections, Putin put it clearly: “A further expansion of NATO towards the East is unacceptable…. The West comes with its missiles to our doorstep,… they keep telling us: ‘war, war, war’, but there is the impression that, perhaps, they are the ones preparing the third military operation in Ukraine”.

A united Europe does not exist

The diplomatic crisis has also highlighted the deep divisions that exist between European countries. On one side is Germany with France and Italy. On the other, Poland and the Baltic countries with the new external support of Great Britain, a bloc that represents the long arms of the United States over the EU.

Against this opposition, France has re-proposed its plan for the creation of a “European security system”, uncoupled from NATO. In fact, Europe, despite its shared currency, does not exist as a military power because it lacks a unitary political direction and armed forces.

We have repeatedly said that there will never be a real unity of Europe: the conflicts of interest between the different states are too strong, and only the proletariat will be able to give life to a Europe without countries and borders.

This crisis has also exacerbated the contradictions that have previously exploded in the allied field, in France and Germany but also in Italy, illustrated by the US withdrawal from Afghanistan (of which they had workers, but also in the petit bourgeoisie and middle class. Shifting the focus to external threats against the Great Motherland, and perhaps seizing some successes in foreign policy, as happened in 2014 with the occupation of Crimea, would certainly lead to a strengthening of the regime.”

In addition to this, it must be considered that in recent years the Ukrainian army has been strengthened thanks to substantial support from the United States and other NATO member nations, including the restless Turkey who has provided UAVs, in addition to sending hundreds of mainly British and American military advisors. Moscow's fear is that this new situation will push the Ukrainian government, which is already implementing a hard policy against the Russian power, to «send» in the country, to try to reconquer the Donbass region, where in recent years ceaseless clashes in an endless war have left 14,000 dead on the ground.
In the U.S. the struggle of freight train drivers is trying to make its way through state repression and regime union leaderships.

The mind of thinking to strike was attempted by the same category of workers who went on strike on February 11 in Italy, the freight train drivers, and they faced similar problems: the anti-strike legislation introduced by the bourgeois regime.

The trade unions present at BNSF - Smart-TD and BLET - found the company's intransigence in the negotiations and called for a strike for the 17 thousand train drivers. As expected, BNSF then turned to the institutions by means of court actions, which guided the federal judge - came to the rescue of the company by declaring the strike illegal, concerned not to aggravate the already precarious condition of the supply chains, such as truckers, porters of the logistics warehouses, etc.

The bourgeoisie regime in the U.S. for a century considers the railways a vital cog in the internal trade and with the Railway Labor Act of 1926 chains to the rails those who make the trains to run. The strike must be preceded by a long series of negotiations, arbitrations and waiting periods designed to dampen the anger and energy of the workers. If the union violates the law, the state can command the court order. We read from a message sent to members: the union's Executive Committee is "instructing all its members not to engage in any act against the company. This means that members must not engage in strikes, work stoppages, picketing, slowdowns, sick leave, or any other activity intended to disrupt rail operations in response to the attendance policy called Hi Viz... anyone who continues to encourage or support such actions will face disciplinary measures from the court order."

What is certain is that the leadership of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and Trainmen (BLET) has gone above and beyond the call of duty to pressure the oppressive labor regime.

In support of a strike action by BNSF train drivers and railroaders, on the other hand, was the National Grassroots Coordination Railroad Workers United (RWU), which pointed out several things that make the strike more favorable, including:  
- the difficulties in finding personnel for various jobs in the industry, a general problem that is occurring in the U.S., but not only, as a result of the power of the repressive labor regime.
- the difficulties in supply chains, which would make the effects of a strike even more pronounced;
- the high profits made by companies in the sector in the last period.

Our party considers these assessments of the RWU to be correct and adds the following:

The absolutism of laws that limit the freedom to strike must be a claim present in every strike.

To prevent repudiation of the strike, the railroaders should build the strike together with the dockers who, in the West Coast of the United States, have also announced through the union that they are ready to go on strike, and try to involve other workers in the logistics chain, such as truckers, porters of the logistic warehouses, postal workers, railroaders, dockers, truckers, porters, postal workers: the workers in the logistics chain that they may be, if they go on strike in isolation can be crushed by boss and state repression; limited instead they have a force that may be able to break bourgeois repression.

HARMER AND SICKLE

Notes on the question of party "logo"

Obviously it is not a matter of principle: we certainly cannot exclude a particular form of expression. Standard and insignia are weapons, tools of war. A horn, a tam-tam, a totem, to comfort friends and threaten enemies, in given circumstances, are indispensable.

But now we are not at war. We are at war, but with words, with printed points, interpretations, and lesions of past wars are compared. For this war of today, symbols do more harm than good. For the point of battle is to turn us against. Symbols, images, can be even more lying and deceitful than words.

The Second International hid its betrayal behind sweet images of radiant dawns, over ears of corn and arvils. Many of us viewed this rhetoric and, believing that they were going towards the rising red sun of socialism, found themselves slaughtered in the trenches of the First World War.

Stalinism, too, drowned communism in a flood of red paint, with scythes and hammers wielded by muscular workers, against the backdrop of the founding saints, from Marx to... Engels! Today we work to distance ourselves contending for those symbols in one of the greatest States of world capitalism.

When the party reorganized in the last years of the Second World War, there was a widespread illusion that the second post-war period would be as far as the time for revolution as the first. Many comrades acted accordingly, preparing for it in every way. Among them they showed themselves to the class adorned with the traditional symbols that had been of communism and the Third International.

This was the result of a too optimistic evaluation of that historical situation. The Party was fully convinced only in 1952. Those who did not want to accept that the revolution had been postponed for the moment abandoned the party.

They gave in, we said, to "activism". This does not mean doing activity, an intense propaganda activity of penetration into the workers' ranks, but the pretension of changing the course of history through organizational tools and, above all, through the symbols, going to school of the "movement".

Since then we have -- temporarily -- put aside even any iconographic problem, because we want to distance the party from the living working class and make it a circle of study and publications. But to present ourselves behind a symbol -- that the first to be seen -- would have only made confusion, would have to some extent bought us closer to our opponents and made the task of defining doctrine more difficult.

The titles of our periodicals were The Soviet, the form of proletarian power in Russia, Prometeo, the man who stole fire from the gods, and Spartaco, the rebel slave. But we wanted to call the party, without a doubt, II Programma Comunista, then Comunismo and Il Partito Comunista. After many decades of Stalinist and post-Stalinist counter-revolution, it is necessary that the program of the Party be published in the most precise way through its original ancient tactical and principled positions.

The solution will be the product of the return to the social scene of real historical forces, of a particularly visible form of organization. The organizational fact, which does have its importance, must not overpower or overshadow the disruptive content of our program. We want to be recognized as the party of communism, not only and not so much an organization, in competition with the others. It is necessary that we not distract the attention of comrades from a rigorous programmatic delimitation, before creating any organization.

The party has an organization but it is not an organization. The party of the trade union is different; first of all, it is an organization: in it, a fundamental element is the numerical strength, of workers only. An army wearing red shirts seems more numerous than it is. The working class organizes itself to go out of the factories, to see itself and to be seen, and to occupy the squares, with every useful tool: flags, shouts, slogans, music, anthems, t-shirts, badges, etc. etc.

How do communists recognize themselves

We call ourselves “International Communist Party”, Three words which say almost everything. And for the moment it’s a bigger name than we have! We have nothing to invent. Tomorrow, when the need arises, symbols and flags will come to us. And today our comrades are not afraid, in any situation, to declare themselves, simply, “internationalists”, individually or in a group.

How in the crowd do we recognize ourselves among communists? We answer that the communists must be so well framed (even in the demonstrations in the squares), supportive and trained, in attitudes, in language, in the battle and in common work, that they know each other very well for a long time, or that they can “smell” each other even at the first meeting. It is too naive to rely on an easily falsifiable little mark on a hat or jacket lapel.

But how will the ignorant masses, who know nothing about Marxism and history and have no time to read the communist press, recognize us? The titles of our periodicals must have a form that will follow our flags. But this will happen when, through the development of the working class, our workers will be able to recognize them, to associate them with a given battle direction, which they have searched for, experienced, and could achieve.

For the moment, in the media abuse of symbols and images, we can only be recognized by our words and our characteristic attitude of seriousness and consistency.

Clothes, in class societies, are important, because those are seen. It is no accident that priests wear cassocks and judges wear ermines. We communists, who are not ideologists, know this.

Communists, on the other hand, have never worn uniforms. But the revolution is not the product of a well-organized advertising campaign, better than that of the bourgeoisie. Otherwise we would be lost. It will be the practical experience of the working class, in social warfare against the bourgeoisie and its State, during which it will have been able to transform the party's direction, that will make possible the reunion of the party with the class.
ON THE COLLAPSE OF PITTSBURGH'S FERN HOLLOW BRIDGE

On the 28th of January, while we were preoccupied with our tri-annual international Rumiome Generale, President Joe Biden came to Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania to give a speech about the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, in his typical incoherent presentational style. A few hours before he was to give his speech, however, a major arterial bridge in the city, the Fern Hollow Bridge, which carries four lanes of traffic, 14,000 cars per day, collapsed into Frick Park. 10 people were injured, but fortunately nobody had died (dare we say because it happened during the Winter, in the early morning, before rush hour?) The park underneath is generally very active; had it collapsed during any other season of the year, we would have a much bigger problem.

The spectacle made both national and local news, which used the event as a pretext for drumming up support for Biden's infrastructure programme and measures for the strengthening of and improvement of government organs related to infrastructure presented by city council representative Corey O'Connor. (We should briefly mention that both O'Connor and the city mayor, Ed Gainey, have received thousands of dollars worth of election campaign donations from construction companies, most notably general contractors, alongside which companies - the bridge collapse also disrupted a gas line - and city developers.)

Nobody can deny that the collapse of the bridge was neither an isolated incident nor a freak accident. The bridge had been considered in poor condition since at least 2011 and it existed in the broader context of a Pennsylvania-wide bridge infrastructure crisis. But - and surely, this is one of the ways in which we suffer from both the Republicans and the Democrats - we acknowledge that the collapse was, like a large number of disasters under this wretched and decrepit mode of production - from nuclear disasters (see Communist Left, no. 31-32) to train derailments (see The Communist Party, no. 27) - ultimately a result of the general social tendencies deriving from the capitalist relations of production. In this case, it was a result of the tendency (resultant from the division of society into classes) of all bourgeois States towards an ever-greater bloating of their repressive apparatus: the military, and, in this case, specifically, the police.

O'Connor has said the city was unable to properly repair the bridge due to lack of funds. Fair enough; in 2019, there were minor repairs to the bridge, costing $100,000, so it's not like the government failed in any effort. But well, Mr. O'Connor, you see, it was discovered that, between 2012 and 2019, 4.25 billion dollars worth of funds had been siphoned off from bridge and road repairs and towards the Pennsylvania state police. Pennsylvania's auditor general at the time, Eugene DePasquale, had the following choice remark: "More than 2,800 state-maintained bridges across Pennsylvania are structurally deficient and our bridges average over 50 years in age - beyond what they were designed to last. That $4.25 billion could have cut that list in half and if Pennsylvania could use all of the gas tax money for roads and bridges we could get that number to zero in about 5 years."

But enough about the causes. Any story on the side that has heard these conclusions plenty of times from our favorite gentleman, Monsieur Captain O'Apple. It does not require a so-called "expert" to draw the necessary connections. It interests us much more how the government representatives of construction capital and of the national bourgeoisie in general, most notably our beloved and luminous Joe Biden, are exploiting the spectacle of the collapse and the particular interests of the "American" proletariat - for the sake of pre-empting the exploitation of the capitalist relation derived from the capitalist relation of the bridge collapse was, like a large rush hour? The park underneath brought to the front the common interest of the entire proletariat, independently of nationality. (The Manifesto of the Communist Party) We are an international party, we represent an international class, and consequently our policies have an international character.

You know another way to "create" new jobs? A general shortening of the working day and regulations on the intensity of work and upon foreign employment: measures which the bourgeoisie as a whole and its government would not dare to implement - because it would increase the demand for labor, and thus an increase in wages - unless compelled by force by the collective might of a militant and unified world proletariat.

The rise of the right in Quebec

On January 13, new data on voting intentions in Quebec was analyzed and it is an indicator of the vast amounts of seats for the Coalition Avenir Quebec would be: 93; an increase of 19 seats (which it needs only 63 to get a majority). As for Quebec solidaire, the same poll projects eight seats, that is, two fewer than in the 2018 election. So we are quite far from an orange wave, and even further from a red wave. The same goes for the Liberal Party, which would drop from 31 seats to 21 and the Parti Quebecois from 10 to 3. The CAQ would be the big winner, stealing seats from all the other parties, which is not surprising with an approval rating of 57%.

Conservative Party a new force?

Voting intentions for the governing party - the CAQ - are estimated to have declined by about 4 points between December 9, 2021 and January 13. This was immediately followed by the announcement of the curfew - a widely denounced and very unpopular measure among the population - has affected the popularity of the party. And to put to rest the view that the Conservative Party of Quebec's (PCQ) voting intentions rose from 5.1% to 8.5%. One could therefore hypothesize here that there has been a shift in the electorate from the Coalition Avenir Quebec (CAQ) to the PCQ, and thus a shift from the right to the right. The Conservative Party's demagogic opposition to the curfew seems to have allowed it to swell its ranks to 40,000 members by December 31, 2021, and to counter the PCQ's 8.5% increase during January 15, 2021 - a spectacular increase. By comparison, the PartiQuebecois currently has 43,000 members. The PCQ and Quebec solidaire are close to 20,000 members. While everything is still up in the air, it seems clear that the Conservative Party will be a new political force in the years to come, and that it is in fact this party that has the "wind in its sails."

Upcoming Elections

Quebec has officially began its election year. This October, the people of Quebec will be called to the polls. While the data available to us, we do not believe that the election will cause a general surprise and that a Caquist majority government remains the most likely scenario at this time. In any case, what is not in doubt is the dominance of "the right" in the province's political landscape. The "left" has effectively failed to present a credible opposition to the government's failed measures. So the forces opposing this right-wing government have coalesced... even further to the right, and this is evident in the growing membership of the Conservative Party. Mired in debates about the national question and petty issues, Quebec Solidaires is still unable to convince Quebec of its relevance as a party. This should serve as a wake-up call to the more advanced elements of the working class and the population at large that this electoral charade and parliamentary antics ultimately always serve reaction and that it is through a revival of the class struggle that real progress can be made.
American Imperialism is seeking to perpetuate world capitalism. It is implementing the Truman doctrine and the Marshall plan for that purpose. We cannot help but recall the Dawes Plan after World War I, initiated by the U.S., and the restoration of the imperialist powers in Russia, foreshadowing World War III. The Truman doctrine and Marshall Plan are a part of the struggle of the working class under democratic imperialism. It is an important task for the capitalists to understand that the domestic policies of American capitalism are part and parcel of the Truman doctrine and Marshall Plan. A significant sign of these plans is the loss of sight of the glories of international imperialism. It is important to establish the fact that along with its plans for Imperialist domination abroad, U.S. capitalism has its domestic plans all over the world for the benefit of its own ruling class. The present foreign policy of American imperialism cannot be understood apart from an understanding of the significance of these plans in the gloating of international imperialism. It is an important fact that the domestic policies of American capitalism are part and parcel of the Truman doctrine and Marshall Plan. It is an important fact that American imperialism is an Imperialist power politics. It is implementing the Truman doctrine and Marshall Plan to capture the world for the benefit of its own ruling class. The road to this party is not a simple one. The essential task is to turn the present strain against the bourgeoisie in the U.S. and the workers in the U.S. to the need for unity among the workers to form a workers state as the solution to all problems of the workers in the U.S.
With an inflation rate of almost 50%, Turkey has been hit hard by the capitalist economic crisis. Two major events marked the beginning of the response of the workers. The first was the “end of the wages of the month” demonstrations, organized first by DISK (Confederation of Progressive Workers’ Unions) for increases in the minimum wage, and then by KESK (Confederation of Public Employees’ Unions) for increases in public workers’ salaries. The demonstrations organized by the leftist union confederations can be thought to have had an effect in the relatively high raises to the minimum wage (50%) and public workers’ salaries (30%). The second was the negotiations between the three metal unions, Türk Metal (Turkish Metal Workers’ Union) belonging to Türk İş (Confederation of Turkish Workers’ Unions), the largest confession of regime unions, Birleşik Metal (United Metal Workers’ Union) belonging to DISK and Öz Çelik İş (Real Turkish SteelWorkers Union) belonging to the Islamist regime union federation Hak İş (Confederation of Real Turkish Workers’ Unions), and the MESS (Metal Workers’ and Engineers’ Union). The bosses’ organizations could strike during the negotiations, and Birleşik Metal actually announced concrete plans for a strike. MESS had offered 12% first and the 17% after the strike was declared and eventually 22%. Türk Metal, Birleşik Metal nd Öz Çelik İş, representing a total of 150,000 metal workers, demanded something around 27-30%. Many metal workers thought the unions’ demand was not high enough. The duration of the strike was expected to be announced at the tens of thousands strong central Türk Metal demonstration that was held in Kocaeli on the 2nd of January. This didn’t happen. However, Birleşik Metal first announced it would go on strike on four factories on January 14 in Mersin, Izmir and Kocaeli, and later declared six other factories in Gebze, Istanbul, Kocaeli, Bilecik and Bursa would start a strike on the 18th. Eventually, however, the three metal workers’ unions signed the contract for 27%. Only the Çimşatx factory in Mersin and Gebze, among the members of the union in Gebze, went on strike. Birçeşme steel on January 12, demanding a total of 62% and occupying the factory. 13 workers were sacked without severance pay, and Birleşik Metal strove to end the strike and the occupation without the sacked workers being rehired or the workers’ demands being met. Birçeşme workers went on strike against the tide, but it was to become the first of a so far small but significant strike wave.

On January 17, 700 iron miners in Sivas Divrik went on a three-day wildcat strike, demanding an increase in their salaries that all workers were promised from the mine after representatives of Bağışma İşen (Independent Mine Workers Union), a rank and file union outside the mainstream union confederations, spoke to the strikers. Police and soldiers were then deployed around the mine. The workers, who were paid about 5,250 TL, demanded a 51 percent increase in their wages, as well as improvements in their benefits. They also made demands such as the minimum salary of 8,000 TL, acknowledgment of the night shift, a raise every six months, and the granting of leave and bonuses during the holidays. The three-day strike ended in a compromise as the company made some concessions while refusing to grant all the demands. Nevertheless, the workers experienced first hand that they could improve their situation by striking, and also learned how much of a threat rank and file unions are considered to be in Turkey.

On January 19th, about 2,300 workers at the Farplas Automotive plant in Gebze, Kocaeli, stopped production in protest of the low raise they were offered. Farplas management, which has factories in seven countries and supplies parts to companies such as Ford, Mercedes, Renault, Volvo and Tesla, informed the employees that only 15% of the company’s representatives that wages would be increased and no workers would be laid off. However, about 150 workers who became members of Birleşik Metal during the strike were laid off. In response, workers occupied the factory. More than 100 workers were beaten and detained and then released an operation in the early morning. Workers from the surrounding factories marched to the Farplas factory gates to show solidarity. The Farplas workers continue their struggle. Farplas workers struggle demonstrates that the strike wave of Winter 2022 does not deem unions irrelevant as it has been claimed by some. DISK, as well as KESK, are confederations representing the edge, that is they are not regime unions today, but at certain times, like during the Çimşatx strike, they don’t hesitate to act like a regime union. Nevertheless, it is not for no reason that some of the most militant Farplas workers still joined DISK at the risk of losing their jobs.

On February 1st, 2,000 workers at the Alpin Socks factory in Istanbul’s Beypılıkızıli neighborhood launched a wildcat strike demanding an additional increase. Workers at the Alpin Socks factory, which manufactures brands such as Adidas, Decathlon, Carrefour and H&M, stopped production after the rate of wage increase was announced. A meeting after the workers’ representatives and the company bosses, the company accepted demands for a 2.500 TL increase and no layoffs. The strike triggered struggles at other sock factories in Istanbul. In a meeting with representatives of the workers’ union, the company’s union announced the acceptance of the workers’ demands. The company also announced it would stop production of the different sock factory in Çorlu also went on strike in Çorlu. Alpin and other sock factories the strike spread to are merely the tip of the iceberg that is the textile industry of Turkey.

About 900 thousand people work all over Turkey as motorcycle couriers. The number of registered motorcycle couriers is 200 thousand people. 190 motorcycle couriers were victims of work accidents in the 2020, and 203 in 2021. A significant part of the motorcycle couriers are employed as “artisan couriers.” According to this model, couriers establish individual companies and make an agreement with the company and provide services with their own motorcycles or commercial vehicles. On January 25, thousands of car couriers working as independent delivery workers at Trendyol, Turkey’s largest e-commerce platform, employing more than 9,000 people, went on strike across the country, rejecting the 11 percent raise offered by the company. Thousands of couriers refused to deliver in cities across the country, such as Istanbul, Izmir, Bursa, Antalya, Samsus, Tekirdag, Esiksehir, Mugla, Diyaburak and Sirt. The fact that Trendyol employees, who demanded a 50 percent raise, received a 38 percent raise made the company announce in a meeting with workers’ representatives that it would not sign an agreement with the workers of the various companies in this sector and up having to recognize a union, they will prefer TÜMİTS. The strike wave we are currently witnessing in Turkey is small, but it nevertheless very significant as it expresses the workers’ impact of the rapidly deteriorating conditions in the face of the capitalist crisis, and moreover carries the potential of expanding and becoming a larger strike wave. If events take such a course, the ongoing struggles will have to link up, bringing together the unions that are capable of struggling together in a united front from below. Only by going through such struggles will the proletariat rediscover its most vital organ of class struggle, the communist party.
This study on the Paris Commune is part of a wider work on the workers’ movement in France undertaken by our International Communist Party, following what had been done in the sixties. Reclaiming our own history, that of our class, is a vital necessity for the objectives we set ourselves, the communist revolution and the establishment of the dictatorship of the proletariat, the logical outcome of the long tormented journey of humanity. The restoration of the doctrine goes through the study of the proletarian movement, of its defeats as well as its victories, in order to draw all possible lessons from it that will be profitable for the resumption of the class movement on these healthy bases. This work is done in conjunction with the vast research on the History of the Communist Left in the 1920s, work and continuity that we are, here again, alone in pursuing...

The following text and the title given to it do not call for further comment. One could not propose only an essay on the millennial oppression of women in class societies because the oppression of women can be solved only in classless and stateless society, by communism. This is how we propose to the reader a text written by several authors of different ages who, in the historical arc of more than a century, represents the organic and univocal interpretations of the "woman question" according to the tradition of and the method of revolutionary Marxism, invariant in time and space, until the day when there will no longer be a single woman crushed by the double oppression to which the regime of private property subjects her. It is the demonstration that we have nothing to invent, to discover, to propose on the question, that the general theory of the proletarian class does not already know.

An assessment of the impact of the Russian revolution, written 50 years later (in 1967-68), reassessing the international nature of the movement that made it possible and refuting the Stalinist doctrine, still prevalent at the time, that socialism can be built in one country. The study unpicks the various false interpretations of the revolution (conservative-liberal, socialist, anarchist, Trotskyist). In the second half it analyses the evolution of the Soviet economy through war communism, the New Economic Policy, the debates (in 1967-68), reasserting the international Communist Left about the burgeoning of Stalinism fade into history, readers will find the admonitions of the Italian Communist Left about the burgeoning calamity of counterrevolution ring true today.

This text is the written report of a meeting on the topic that took place on August 20-21 1953, in Trieste, and which appeared in issues 16-20 of Il programma comunista ("the communist programme"). At that time the "Free Territory" was still uncertain, one of the many political and economic monstruosities of the post-war "settlement" in Europe and the world. The Trieste drama was a small event in the world picture, but nevertheless enormous for those who had to endure it. During the war, Italian Italians had suffered ethnic cleansing at the hands of Tito’s partisans, but this was kept out of mainstream information channels by the Italian Stalinists, who did not want communism to be associated with the persecution of ethnic Italians. These world events and contemporary events gave the International Communist Party the opportunity to present fundamental and classical Marxist theses, as a trenchant way, directly antithetical to the deformation operated on them by opportunism; deformations coming either from the Stalinist counter-revolution or from false left groups; all of them unable to appreciate factors such as those of race and nation which, although not belonging to the totality of direct objectives of the communist revolution, are historically present on the path that dialectically leads to it. In this quality, such factors draw the revolution closer...
The Ukrainian Pretext (cont’d)

"independent class organ" for the defense of the working class, although the political directives of the PCP make it incapable and unwilling to defend anything in the face of the offensive of the bosses. Thus we have two regime union confederations, giving the workers the illusion that one of them is resisting the statist policy of the other.

In this reluctance and inability to defend the workers the opportunistic policy of the CGTP has dispersed the Portuguese movement: in 1978 60.8% of workers were unionized; today only a paltry 15%. To the workers, the CGTP appears useless, as it demonstrated in the port workers' strike of 2019.

The struggle would like to be replaced by parliamentary expediency, designed to be a futile and symptomatic of opportunism. By relying on the PCP to defend their interests in parliament, workers have given up the direct struggle against capitalist exploitation, leaving the defense of their conditions to parliament, the very organ of bourgeois political domination! The role of the PCP within the Portuguese state is clear: to disarm the workers.

While the PCP headlines in its newspapers that "the Socialist Party has failed once again with the workers" at the same time it allies itself with the PS, recognized traitor of the proletariat, in parliamentary disputes "against the right"!

Thus the Portuguese workers are left without means of struggle, they are left demoralized and disarmed to the growing domination! This is what the parliamentary "workers' parties" are, reformist and opportunist. Unfortunately, the PCP's campaign still deceives the majority of workers, with great waste of proletarian energies.

In the Stalinist parliamentary theater the PCP has sworn not to give up the struggle, "the struggle continues", of course in parliament, repeating the same mistakes that led to all this disaster! Yes, it is the fault of the PS, but, come on, you can't hate them too much, we need them to beat fascism! That's why we are alloying ourselves with them.

What is lacking today is a revolutionary party - one that denounces parliament as a counter-revolutionary instrument and proceeds with principled and revolutionary trade union work, the claims of the class, never with national and democratic ones been kept in the dark until the last moment) and the stipulations of the AUKUS pact in the Pacific region, the USA, Great Britain and Australia (without the knowledge of France and Germany and the subsequent replacement of French submarines by Australian nuclear submarines).

Russia is not the enemy of the USA

In this crisis, the US has been the most decisive among the countries of the Atlantic Alliance in opposing Russia and has demonstrated, once again, to use it as an instrument to defend its economic interests and to reassert its grip on Europe. Washington has sought to monopolize negotiations with Moscow, excluding or overshadowing European allies and Ukraine itself. President Biden has given an almost certain indication of war by imposing the withdrawal of US personnel from the Embassy in Kiev, which was immediately followed by Britain and Australia, to the extent that the governments of major NATO powers have had to defend a public opinion by denouncing their unwillingness to send troops to fight in Ukraine in case of Russian invasion. So much so that the Ukrainian president himself had to publicly deny the imminent danger of war.

But Russia is certainly not an existential danger to the United States. It represents today a merely regional imperialism, even if it maintains a formidable military-industrial apparatus and an arsenal, especially nuclear, worthy of fearful respect. In economic potential, Russia can reasonably be compared to the US, but, come on, you can't hate them too much, we need them to beat fascism! That's why we are alloying ourselves with them.

The imperialist order waves

The diplomatic whirlwind that in recent weeks has involved not only Russia and the United States, but also the European Union, for what it is worth, Germany and France, Italy itself, and ambivalent Turkey, confirms that a world order, the one that since the fall of the USSR has seen the United States dominate, no longer exists. The great power can no longer maintain order and control, even if it means new and devastating world imperialist slaughter.

A mad arms race in the lead-up to war

This descent from the precipice into war is confirmed by the growing arms race, which does not spare even states whose monopoly of production, use and trade of weapons and war machinery by merely a fraction of the world's existing states. This race is fueled by a world in crisis.

China is thus the hypocrisies of international diplomacy and its distinction between wars of aggression and defense, between wars which are unjust and just. The former are condemned, while the latter are blessed by States and Churches. This distinction of the current bourgeois regime of rancid imperialism has no correspondence in reality.

In an era of perpetual economic crises, in the reckless drive for ever more resources, energy and supplies and raw materials (and even necessities like land and water), war has become a permanent feature, its momento mori. The regime of capital is persisting in war with humanity; it allocates most of the planet's resources to the manufacture of useless or harmful goods. It produces weapons of all proportion to prolong itself, for the defense of its social order based on exploitation, misery, and war, all the while decrepid and wracked by convulsions, unable to hear the death-rattle of the capitalist world-system.