

MEXICO – COMMUNIST PARTY OF MEXICO (MARXIST-LENINIST) FPR

We are living in the epoch of imperialism and the Proletarian Revolutions

In the highest stage of capitalism that we are living in, the era of imperialism, the working class and the peoples of the world are fighting against imperialist oppression, manifested through the presence of transnational corporations, economic, financial and commercial blocs that are seen in international organizations such as the World Bank (WB), the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), the OECD, the Davos Forum, G7, EU, BRICS, etc. And in various military agreements and pacts such as NATO and CSTO, the military bases of the capitalist powers and joint exercises between armies of the capitalist countries. Imperialism exercises its domination through docile governments that allow the depredation of their countries by transnational monopoly capital, and that strive to comply with the imperialist tribute, paying their foreign debt on time.

The great imperialist powers have formed military blocs to compete for the markets of the world and expand their spheres of influence: the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), headed by the United States, and the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO), headed by Russia. NATO has devastated countries with its interventions in Yugoslavia, Afghanistan, Iraq and Libya. For its part, the CSTO in January 2022, sent military contingents from its six member states to Kazakhstan to suppress a popular uprising.

In addition to the contradiction between imperialist countries, other fundamental contradictions of the world is the contradiction between oppressed peoples and imperialism. Beside the inter-imperialist struggles, there are nationalities fighting for their independence (Basque Country, Catalonia, Puerto Rico, Saharawi Arab Republic, Palestine, Kurdistan, Baluchistan, etc.). These two fundamental contradictions are present at the origin of the war in Ukraine.

After the death of Joseph Stalin, the counterrevolutionary work of Khrushchevite revisionism (in power in the USSR) and of imperialism was that of the re-establishment of the capitalist system throughout the Socialist Camp and the dissolution of the USSR. After the disappearance of the Soviet Union, Russia was losing influence in Eastern Europe, most of its former partners became allies of the United States, between 1999 and 2007, they joined the European Union and NATO: Bulgaria, Romania, Hungary, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Poland, as did the Baltic states, Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia. When these last two countries joined, Russia felt seriously threatened by having NATO on its borders. Belarus has remained a loyal Russian ally, but the situation in Ukraine changed in the wake of the Maidan coup.

In Ukraine, the United States and its allies followed the coup scheme they had used in Libya, Syria, Venezuela and other countries. The coup process began the day after the Government of Ukraine suspended an association agreement with the European Union, on November 21, 2013. The protest was massive in Kiev, the demonstrators camped in Independence Square (Maidan), highlighted by the participation of the neo-Nazi political parties Svoboda and Pravy Sektor. About 10,000 to 15,000 unemployed young people from the west were brought to Kiev and paid to live there for months, to protest on Maidan Square.

On December 1, after the brutal repression of the previous night, tens of thousands erected barricades around the square, neo-Nazi militias led the occupation of public buildings, taking over the City Hall and the House of Trade Unions, as well as attacking the offices of the ruling Party of the Regions, and its ally the "Communist" Party of Ukraine and persecuting its militants. Between February 17 and 20, firearms were used in the clashes, the dead exceeded one hundred among demonstrators and police.

On February 21, President Viktor Yanukovich and the opposition reached an agreement to deal with

the Maidan protests, which included: re-establishing the 2004 Constitution with its parliamentary system, forming a transitional government of national unity and holding presidential elections that year. The guarantors of the agreement were the foreign ministers of Germany, France and Poland; the Russian president's special envoy was present but did not endorse it.

The next day, Yanukovich traveled to Kharkiv to a Congress of Deputies and Governors of the Eastern and Southern Regions. While in Kiev, the opposition parliamentarians in the Supreme Rada deposed Yanukovich, without complying with the constitutional procedure, consummating the coup d'état and restoring the parliamentary regime by appointing Arseny Yatsenyuk as Prime Minister.

The new government included representatives of neo-Nazi parties: a leader of Pravy Sektor as Vice President of the National Security Council, and five members of Svoboda held ministerial portfolios, including the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defense, apart from the Attorney General's Office.

On February 23, the Rada repealed the law by which the Russian, Romanian and Hungarian languages had co-official status in those regions where they were the mother tongue of at least 10% of the population, initiating the path that would end up prohibiting the use of languages other than Ukrainian.

The first thing that the new government did was to comply with the conditions demanded by the IMF, reduced social programs, increased energy prices and, consequently, transport costs were raised, inflation soared and the delay in the payment of salaries, pensions and social benefits in general began.

In eastern and southern Ukraine, territories that were incorporated into Ukraine in the formation of the Soviet Union in 1922; in the case of Crimea, it was a gift that Nikita Khrushchev gave to Ukraine in 1954; populated mostly by Russian speakers, where the Party of Regions and the "Communist" Party had the largest number of their electorate; opposition to the new regime erupted immediately.

In Crimea on February 24, thousands of protesters deposed the mayor of Sevastopol appointed by the Supreme Rada, and marched to the Crimean capital, Simferopol. On February 27, militants seized public buildings in Simferopol, hoisting the Russian flag over them. The Crimean Parliament elected a new prime minister. On March 11, the Crimean parliament and the City of Sevastopol declared their independence from Ukraine, which was backed in the March 16 referendum by 96.77% of the population. On March 18, in the Kremlin, the accession agreements of Crimea and Sevastopol to Russia were signed. Since the consummation of the coup d'état, Russia has always acted in favor of the annexation of Crimea so as not to lose its strategic naval base in Sevastopol.

March 1, following the example of Crimea, thousands of demonstrators began their protests in the main cities of the East and South, Donetsk, Kharkiv, Odessa, Dnipro, Luhansk, Melitopol, Zaporizhia, Kherson, Mariupol, among others; they disowned the new government and its decrees, they protested against fascism, they demanded respect for their political and social rights, to recognize Russian as a second official language, federalization of the regions and holding a referendum on the future of their regions; they expressed their cultural and political identity with Russia flying its flag, they initiated the development of their anti-fascist struggle for national liberation.

In the mobilizations some were for independence and others for federalization within Ukraine, which was promoted by Russia, the option of not totally subordinating itself to Russia had strong support in Donetsk, Luhansk and Kharkiv.

On April 7, after seizing the buildings of the regional state administrations, the militants supported by the demonstrators proclaimed the Donetsk, Lugansk and Kharkiv People's Republics and announced the holding of a referendum. The next day in Kharkiv, Kiev troops cleared public buildings and detained dozens of militants.

The program of the people's republics of Donetsk and Luhansk to suspend privatization reforms, and

to nationalize Ukrainian state property and the enterprises of the oligarchs was not well liked by the Moscow regime.

The Ukrainian government announced the start of an "anti-terrorist operation" on April 15 against the Donbass insurgents, resulting in the first armed confrontation in Slaviansk. In the suburbs of the cities of Donetsk and Luhansk, human barriers were formed to obstruct the passage of Ukrainian military.

In the other pro-Russian provinces, protest was decreasing due to Russian mediatization and the repression. On May 2 in Odessa, fascist militia members from Pravy Sektor set fire to the House of Trade Unions, where pro-Russian demonstrators had taken refuge, killing 48 people.

The Russian President tried to stop the independence process by asking that the scheduled referendum be postponed, but it was held on May 11, with the vast majority of the population supporting the independence of the people's republics.

The Ukrainian army had been unable to dislodge the Donbass militias from their positions, but after the presidential elections of May 25, it launched a major offensive, which found the militias in a difficult situation; the differences between the political and military leadership of the people's republics and the Kremlin had sharpened, resulting in a drastic decrease in the passage across the Russian border of the military equipment necessary to sustain the war.

"Just as there are progressive demands from the popular side, there are also bourgeois elements within the Republican leaders and constant pressure from Moscow not to move in the more progressive direction, using their ability to control the border and supply or stop the supplies of food and ammunition."

By mid-July, the Ukrainian offensive had reduced the territory of the republics to a third and by August 3 it had the city of Luhansk under siege. In mid-August, when all seemed lost to the insurgents, the border blockade ended and the flow of ammunition, weapons, equipment and volunteers allowed the militias to start a counteroffensive on August 25, which caused the entire Ukrainian front to collapse, breaking the siege of Luhansk and recovering much of the lost territory.

The Minsk peace accords, in February 2015, only lessened the intensity of the war; Ukrainian artillery attacks never stopped, causing many civilian casualties.

Since the end of 2021, Ukraine has concentrated tens of thousands of troops on the Donbass front line and boasted that several thousand NATO special troops were accompanying them to "give them training and advice"; the Russians also reacted by concentrating troops on their border; but the most important reason that led Russia finally to invade Ukraine in February 2022 was that it felt threatened by the warmongering of the Ukrainian government. It declared Russia a historical enemy, expressed its desire to join NATO and to have nuclear weapons, if they were obtained, they would be five minutes from Moscow, with no possibility of intercepting them due to the short response time. For Russia the invasion had a preventive aspect, although there were two other reasons, "to defend what it considers its sphere of influence and to confront those who work to undermine it", and for the imminent general crushing offensive, by the size of forces concentrated on the people's republics, which Putin was forced to face by the pressure of Russian public opinion in solidarity with the Russian speakers of Donbass.

With the Russian invasion of Ukraine, the anti-fascist war of national liberation for the self-determination of the Donbass became an imperialist war, subordinated to the Russian oligarchy, which in this war seeks to preserve its class interests, which is what determines its imperialist character.

"It is proved in the pamphlet that the war of 1914-18 was imperialistic (that is, an annexationist, predatory, plunderous war) on the part of both sides; it was a war for the division of the world, for the partition and re-partition of colonies, "spheres of influence" of finance capital, etc.

“Proof of what was the true social, or rather, the true class character of the war is naturally to be found, not in the diplomatic history of the war, but in an analysis of the *objective* position of the ruling *classes* in *all* the belligerent countries.”¹

“An imperialist war does not cease to be an imperialist war when charlatans or phrasemongers or petty-bourgeois philistines put forward sentimental ‘slogans,’ but only when the *class* which is conducting the imperialist war,... is really *overthrown* and is replaced at the helm of state by the really revolutionary class, the proletariat. *There is no other way of getting out of an imperialist war, as also out of an imperialist predatory peace.*”²

“The Socialist, the revolutionary proletarian, the internationalist, argues... The character of the war (whether it is reactionary or revolutionary) does not depend on who the attacker was, or in whose country the 'enemy' is stationed; it depends *on what class* is waging the war, and of what politics this war is a continuation.”³

Imperialist war is the way to carry out a class policy by applying the methods of armed struggle. This scientific explanation of the war is due to Marx and Engels. They refuted the thesis that war is eternal and cannot be eliminated; they showed that war is conditioned by the predominance of private property, by the policies of the exploiting classes. Marxism-Leninism distinguishes two types of wars: unjust wars, which are waged to maintain the policies of the exploiting classes, to increase their dominance and wealth, and just wars, which liberate the people from class and national oppression despite the suffering and deaths that they cause; they lead to progress for humanity, because they destroy despotic forms of government and servitude.

In the imperialist epoch, world wars arose, due to the formation of the world system of capitalist economy, to the eagerness of the bourgeoisie to conquer markets and colonies. Wars have always been hated by the masses of the peoples, but only with the establishment of the first socialist state in history have the forces of war been opposed by an organized force of peace. As the only reasonable alternative to war, Lenin elaborated the principles of peaceful coexistence. Although after the Great October Socialist Revolution, imperialism ceased to be a single social system – on which the fate of the world depended unchecked – its existence continues to make world war inevitable.

In the political-military disputes between the imperialist powers and the owners of big capital, we cannot take sides in favor of one or another power or bloc that promotes hatred and war, because, by their nature, they are enemies of the workers and the peoples and we denounce them as such, taking a position together with the working class and the peoples.

Serious problems are shaking the world: the slowdown in the growth rate of the world economy, which is hastily leading to the outbreak of a new major economic crisis; inflation had been contained for decades, by the supply chains of the world market, but with the war in Ukraine, when some of the supply chains of commodities were interrupted, there was rising inflation, stimulated by uncertainty in the markets; there is an energy crisis, food crisis and famines in some countries and the danger of similar manifestations in others; unemployment is growing, millions of people are migrating from their countries and millions of men and women are living on the streets. This is capitalism, this is what the big bourgeoisie and the international monopolists give to the workers and the peoples.

The imperialist blocs are regrouping, developing their alliances by strengthening their policy of

¹ V. I. Lenin, *Imperialism, the Highest Stage of Capitalism*, Foreign Languages Press, Peking, 1970, p. 4.

² V. I. Lenin, *The Proletarian Revolution and the Renegade Kautsky*, Foreign Languages Press, Peking, 1972, p. 74.

³ *Ibid.* p. 80.

plunder. Recently the G7, BRICS and NATO held their summits to refine the way to continue placing the weight of the general crisis of capitalism and its cyclical crises on the peoples. The war, health measures and other means will continue to be used to save its decadent and degenerate system.

The general crisis of capitalism creates better conditions for the development of revolutionary activity in each country and internationally. The world economy is facing a new slowdown in its rate of growth, causing concern in monopoly and financial circles which, until recently, projected higher growth rates. But above all, we are witnessing an evident sharpening of the fundamental contradictions of the period and, in particular, the exacerbation of those that counterpose the monopolies and imperialist countries to each other.

Worldwide, we are witnessing a period of growth of the struggle of the masses. In Sri Lanka, Albania, Haiti, Panama, Kenya, Argentina, Mozambique, Ghana, India, Germany, the Netherlands, Korea, the United Kingdom and many other countries, there are uprisings, demonstrations, workers' strikes against neoliberal policies against the high cost of living, for wages and for stability of work. It is the response that the workers and the people are giving to the policies applied by the capitalists; it is their response to bourgeois exploitation. We give our solidarity to the workers and peoples of the world who are fighting for a new life.

Capitalism does not bring anything good to the workers and peoples; only the social revolution of the proletariat can emancipate the working class from capitalist exploitation. This is the struggle that the workers are carrying out all over the world and we are part of it.

Marx, Engels, Lenin and Stalin; Georgi Dimitrov and Enver Hoxha; the International Workers' Association (First International) and the Communist International (Third International), have bequeathed to us, to the working class and the peoples of the world, excellent theoretical and practical lessons in relation to wars in general and to imperialist wars in particular, which will serve us to build our definitive victory in this epoch of imperialism and the proletarian revolution.

The Communist Party of Mexico (M-L) and the Revolutionary Popular Front, together with the International Conference of Marxist-Leninist Parties and Organizations (ICMLPO) and its mass organizations, raise the banners of the international proletarian revolution; therefore, we work every day to advance towards the construction of the Marxist-Leninist Communist International and a great Democratic, Anti-Imperialist and Anti-Fascist World Front. Let us demand the dissolution of the military and imperialist pacts of NATO and the CSTO, which represent the interests of armed suppression of the peoples by the capitalist powers and constitute a potential threat to world peace!!

For this reason, we call on the working class, the poor and middle peasants and the people, the working people in general, the youth, the women of the popular sectors, the progressive and democratic intellectuals to join forces and fight:

- For the right to live with dignity, which implies having a stable and dignified job and with wages and salaries that cover the basic needs of the worker and his family.
- For the reduction of the working day, maintaining the salary and for the right to two days of rest per week.
- For the right to free education and health care.
- For the obligation of the state to guarantee social security.
- For the prohibition of layoffs from work.
- Against policies that make labor relations more flexible, precarious and make work more insecure.
- For respect for the right to free trade union organization, including the general strike and political strike.

- For the guarantee of all democratic rights and freedoms, mainly the rights of expression, organization, the press and demonstration.
- In solidarity with the struggles of the workers and peoples for their material demands, for their political rights, for winning social and national emancipation.
- Against imperialist interventionism in the dependent countries and for the equal rights of nations and peoples.
- Against the arms race driven mainly by the great powers that entails the danger of a new world war between them.
- For the protection of the climate and the environment, for whose destruction the imperialists and the international monopolies are responsible.
- Against the policies adopted by the governments that seek to unload the crisis on the backs of the workers and peoples and against the policies that reinforce the wealth and profits that the capitalists obtain through the exploitation of labor power.

Our struggle is to put an end to the domination of the capitalist-imperialist system and to open the channels for the emancipation of the working class and peoples through the proletarian revolution and the establishment of socialism-communism.

Proletarians of all countries, unite!

Communist Party of Mexico (Marxist-Leninist)

Member of the International Conference of Marxist-Leninist Parties and Organizations (ICMLPO)

For the unity of all the people, for proletarian emancipation!

Revolutionary Popular Front

Mexico, August 2022

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