

On Some
Recent Important
International
Events

Socialist Unity Centre of India (Communist)

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Publisher's Note

Based on Marxism-Leninism-Shibdas Ghosh Thought, our Party, SUCI(C), has been providing political analyses of various developments at the international level to enable people world over to get an insight into the truth. These analyses are published in our Party organs from time to time. Now we are publishing five such analyses on Russia-Ukraine war, Situation of Sudan, War tension centering on Taiwan, Israeli war of ethnic cleansing in Palestine and latest happenings in Syria, published in Proletarian Era, our central English organ, in the form of a booklet. We hope these articles will help the readers in understanding the concerned issues.

January, 2025
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Ukrainian crisis is reflection of acute crisis of world capitalism – imperialism and their warmongering

On 24 February morning, Russian forces launched a military assault on neighbouring Ukraine, crossing its borders, and bombing military targets near and within big cities. This Russian military aggression and intervention in Ukraine has been vehemently condemned by all peace-loving people of the world. Two days back, Russia gave recognition to the Donetsk People’s Republic and the Lugansk People’s Republic in the Donbass region of eastern Ukraine, established in 2014. These two breakaway regions were seized by Russian-backed rebels after Russia invaded Crimea in the same year after an US-backed coup ousted pro-Russian President Yanukovich and installed their pliant regime. Russia even declared that it would send troops to protect the two republics if they come under further attack from either the present pro-US Ukraine regime or NATO. Within no time, US and some of their European allies imposed stringent economic sanctions on the two republics. In fact for last two months, the US had been propagating that Russia would invade Ukraine. But the Russian authorities continued to deny that. French President Macron tried to mediate between the US and Russia for an amicable diplomatic solution through dialogue. Once it appeared that the tension might be diffused by successful bilateral talk. But now, these aggressive postures on either side have made the situation further complicated and finally an aggressive move towards military settlement is in display.

Ukraine — hotbed of imperialist intrigue

Ukraine, now a capitalist country after collapse of Soviet Union following counter-revolution, has been a playground for

imperialist intrigues and machinations for long. Right from the day Ukraine was dismembered from erstwhile USSR, the US imperialists have been trying to establish their hegemonic control on this country rich in natural resources and remarkable agricultural production. Much more is its strategic importance as its boundaries touch Russia, Belarus, Romania, Slovakia, Hungary, Moldavia, Black Sea and Azov Sea. Although Ukraine is not rich in oil and natural gas, it is one of the main regions in the world over which oil and natural gas of Russia and Caspian Sea are transported to Europe and other countries. Ukraine also possess a highly developed infrastructure and cheap but highly educated and equipped labour power — both endowments of Soviet socialism. So, both economically and strategically, it assumes immense importance to the US imperialists and their allies. Hence, the Pentagon rulers, the US corporate houses, multi-nationals as well as the big business of the Western imperialist countries have been having an eagle's eye on Ukraine for last three decades. To bring Ukraine to their side, the US imperialists were making frantic efforts to rope it in the NATO. In fact, NATO was expanded to almost every country of Eastern Europe to lock in place capitalist restoration of the formerly socialist countries. But their efforts to woo Ukraine totally to their side did not materialize as Russia, which gradually emerged as a formidable imperialist power after dismantling of socialism and having similar economic and political interests, appeared as their *bete noire*. However, US did not spare any possible means to bring Ukraine under their fold by orchestrating coups, planting rebels, installing pliant regime and so forth. On the other hand, Russian imperialists too were trying to keep Ukraine aligned to them by blowing hot and cold. Trouble began when on 21 November 2013 Viktor Yanukovich, the then and subsequently deposed President of the country, announced his sudden decision to postpone signing the “association agreement” with the European Union in favour of aid and natural gas agreements with Russia, even though he had earlier agreed to endorse it. Following that there was mass unrest and came out on the streets in protest and also opposed tilt of Ukraine towards the

EU. Before long the constantly growing confrontation and increasingly deadly clashes, in a series of events dubbed ‘Euromaidan’ (a wave of demonstrations and civil unrest in Ukraine, which began on the night of 21 November 2013), seemed to push Ukraine to the brink of civil war. In February, Yanukovich left for Crimea and from there went into exile in Russia. The following year parliament deposed him as President and subsequently in 2019 he was condemned for treason in absentia. Though the monopoly controlled media was trying to paint the conflict as one between democracy and corruption and between nationalist west Ukraine and the majorly Russian-speaking east Ukraine, in fact it was basically a political reflection of contradiction between the two imperialist camps vying with each other over domination on that country. This can be gauged also in the way the US and European capitalists had earlier been supporting Yuschenko who was trying to bring Ukraine into NATO in his standoff with Yanukovich both in the 2004 presidential elections, and during the latter’s two stints as prime minister in parliament. On the other hand, Yanukovich seemed to be tilted towards Russia. Since restoration of capitalism, the people of Ukraine have been subjected to ever-increasing suppression and oppression. On the other hand, Russian interference in their internal affairs and nascent Russian imperialism’s domineering attitude during the tenure of Yanukovich’s rule gave birth to mass discontent which erupted in the form of massive demonstrations. Capitalizing on this discontent among the people, the Yuschenko group finally managed to win the election in December 2004. But from then on, a serious political crisis ensued even posing threat to the integrity of the country and creating a situation with the possibility of direct confrontation gripped Ukraine, that culminated in the Euromaidan events.

Crimea episode

Here a special mention needs to be made about developments in Crimea, a peninsula along the northern coast of

the Black Sea in Eastern Europe. It has a population of 2.4 millions, made up mostly of ethnic Russians with significant Ukrainian and Crimean Tatar minorities. The peninsula was reorganized as the Crimean Autonomous Soviet Socialist Republic in 1921. Later, it was downgraded from an autonomous republic to an *oblast* (region) of the Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic, and in 1954 it was transferred to Ukraine to mark the 300th anniversary of the Pereyaslav Agreement, a treaty that had submitted Ukraine to Russian rule. After sad dissolution of Soviet Union, the Crimean Peninsula, on which the *de facto* republic is located, became a part of post-Soviet Ukraine in 1991, upon the latter's independence, by virtue of Ukraine's *uti possidetis* inheritance of the territory from the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, of which Crimea was a part since 1954. In 2014, Russia recognized and supported the separatists, the secessionists — the overwhelming majority, apparently, being ethnic Russians who wanted to join Russia at that time and did not want to stay under pro EU-NATO regimes. Two federal subjects were established in that peninsula, Republic of Crimea and the federal city of Sevastopol. But the territories are still internationally recognized as being part of Ukraine. But they continued to remain the centres of a stand-off. Pro-Russian and pro-Ukrainian demonstrations clashed with each other. While the former, apparently larger in number declined to go with 'Ukrainian fascists', the latter chanted slogan against 'illegal occupation' of Crimea. Pro-Russian lawmakers stood for a referendum on 16 March 2014, a move that has been dismissed as 'illegitimate' by the new Ukraine government backed by the western imperialist powers. Thus, people of Ukraine continued to be strangled by capitalists-imperialists and their brute power game. The spate of incidents in succession exacerbated the situation further. While clamouring against Russian incursion, the US imperialists nakedly imposed sanction and warned those undermining the 'democratic processes', dictated terms and thus nakedly intervened in Ukraine's internal matters.

Again at the end of the 'Euromaidan' protests in February

2014 when a series of violent events involving protesters, riot police and unknown shooters in the Ukrainian capital Kyiv led to the ouster of the Yanukovich pro-Russian government and he fled to Russia, a new pro-US government was then formed in Ukraine. Pertinent to mention that it was not merely an event of ‘people’s rebellion against an autocratic rule’, nor just a ‘struggle for democracy’ as the US imperialists and their lackeys with the help of pliant media tried to make the world believe. Their cries for democracy rather prove to be in the same refrain in which they raised the hype whenever they come out to force a change of regime be it in Iraq, Afghanistan, Libya or Syria. Nor, was it triggered merely in response to uncalled for Russian military intervention in the neighbouring Ukraine ostensibly to protect people of Russian origin or speaking Russian. In fact, Russia was having concerns for its national security because of aggressive presence of NATO inching forwards towards Russian doorsteps. It is pertinent to mention here that after being thoroughly discredited in the oil-rich Middle-East and beating retreat in Syria, US imperialists have been trying to switch to East Europe in pursuit of their hegemonic design. On the other hand, Russia, which gained success in militarily aiding the President Assad-led Syrian regime in combating US aggression, derived confidence of its own might and ability. Thus the two major imperialist powers have been in confrontation for quite sometime. What is most regretful is that around 14,000 precious innocent lives of Ukrainian people were lost in this sustained virtual civil war orchestrated by the two major contending imperialist camps.

The Ukraine crisis has thus been deep enough to draw in the major powers of the capitalist- imperialist world, namely the US and the European majors led by Germany, France, on the one side and Russia on the other. They are embroiled in a crisis that seemed at one stage to be one of the severest of confrontations since the days of the “Cold War”, between the western imperialist power bloc and Russia, now itself a capitalist-imperialist power. Though China, which also turned into an imperialist power after completion of counter-revolution in 2004, did not involve themselves directly

in the conflict, their tacit support has been to Russia. India, another imperialist power, so far has not sided with either US bloc or Russia, abstained from voting against Russia at UN Security Council and only appealed to Russia for eschewing violence. This skilful equidistance is to keep the scope for bargaining with either side in deriving economic-political advantage in future. Thus, Ukraine continued to remain a hotbed of imperialist-imperialist contradiction and intrigue surcharged with war psychosis.

Nord Stream 2 project

There is another formidable issue on which the imperialist-imperialist contradiction is so accentuated as to result in war threat. The advent of hydraulic fracturing or “fracking” has transformed the US into an oil and gas superpower. Though the environmentalists are staunchly opposed to fracking because the extraction process poisons local groundwater quality and causes seismic events, most of US gas production is by fracking. To store and transport natural gas extracted through fracking, it is chilled to minus 162 C (minus 260 F), which transforms it to liquefied natural gas, which is 1/600th of its volume in a gaseous state. The liquid is shipped in reinforced massive tankers called LNG carriers in large, onboard, super-cooled (cryogenic) tanks to the special LNG terminals in Europe. LNG needs to be transformed from its liquid state back to gas and then transported through pipes at high pressure. With fracking technology in operation, the US has become the largest exporter of LNG (Liquefied Natural Gas) in the world. The US have also surpassed Russia as the world’s largest gas producer. US oil and gas giants, as well as their pliant bourgeois leaders have been pushing European countries to increase their capacity to receive LNG by framing it as an energy security issue since that enable them to dispose of excess domestic production conveniently as well as profitably. Shifting purchases to the US would make all the European economies dependent on US pricing.

But a thorn in their neck is a 1,230-kilometer-long natural gas pipeline project called Nord Stream. It runs from Russia to

Germany's Baltic coast pipeline under the Baltic Sea, parallel to an earlier Nord Stream pipeline and would double its capacity, to 110 billion cubic meters of gas a year. It is a joint German-Russian energy project which is now complete. At present, Germany imports 35% of the gas it needs from Russia, and Angela Merkel, former German Chancellor thought that Nord Stream 2 would be a way of getting much more Russian gas delivered directly to Germany through transmission under the Baltic Sea bypassing Ukrainian transit infrastructure. Ukraine, in that case would stand to forego approximately \$2bn in transit fees from Russia. The loss of the fees, the US rulers fear, could further destabilize the country now having a pliant regime of theirs. This newly laid pipeline is set to double the gas supply. It was awaiting final certification by German regulators who hitherto maintained that the pipeline was solely a commercial project. But now, perhaps under pressure of US, the German government is withholding the clearance as it took the step after Russia formally gave recognition to two breakaway regions in eastern Ukraine, and sent troops there to establish control over those areas. Though Germany badly needs the pipeline for its energy transition from coal and nuclear until it can build or import enough renewable energy and has already closed down three of its last six nuclear power stations. The present German chancellor Olaf Scholz said that "With regard to the latest developments, we need to reassess the situation also with regard to Nord Stream 2. It sounds very technocratic but it is the necessary administrative step in order to stop certification of the pipeline". So there is a stalemate. The fact is that Russia already provides around a third of Europe's natural gas through other existing pipelines. While it is far cheaper, environmentally preferable and more direct to build pipelines from Russia to European customers than to export from North America, US corporations are driven to offload liquefied natural gas (LNG) gas in Europe, Asia or elsewhere. The Pentagon rulers apprehend that Russia would use Nord Stream 2 as a tool for influence over Germany and Europe and undercut the ability of giant US energy corporations to sell their far more expensive natural gas extracted

through hydraulic fracturing or fracking. It would deprive them of enjoying financial and geopolitical advantage in the region. So, the US imperialists have been trying to sabotage the project at every turn as they are frantic to short-circuit any European plan to connect more with Russia and China which would hinder the prospect of exporting domestically surplus natural gas to Europe and other countries. Both the US and their allies had been pressuring Germany to publicly state that the future of the pipeline would be at risk if Russia moved against Ukraine. In fact, daily US announcements of ominous information on Russian plans to invade Ukraine have dominated the media for two months. Breaking news headlines used to announce secret information of U.S. intelligence about mobilization of 150,000 Russian troops on the Ukrainian border. It clearly indicates that US imperialism badly needs a war threat to block expanding European trade with Russia and China. On the other hand, in the global competition for expanding natural gas market, Russia would cease to derive the expected advantage if the project would fall through. It also commands enormous military might and possesses highly developed nuclear weapons. So, it is not cowed down by US war threats as it knows the balance of military power in the present global situation does not affirm to any of the superpowers' indulgence in a largescale war. So, military action at local levels might well nigh be a strong bargaining strategy. The pro-US Ukrainian president Volodymyr Zelensky has already called Nord Stream 2 "a dangerous political weapon". It might therefore be so that in order to create pressure on the pro- NATO government, that Russia has opted to undertake aggressive military action as it can hardly afford to lose fuel trade advantage in Europe.

Ukraine has imposed a state of emergency and told its citizens in Russia to leave immediately, as Moscow began evacuating its Kyiv embassy in view of the Russian military onslaught. The US, as expected, has described Russia's actions as the start of an "invasion". Along with their allies they have unveiled incremental economic sanctions against Russia. US President hastened to add that they would impose sanctions on the company building

Russia's Nord Stream 2 gas pipeline as well.

From spectacular rise in socialism to debacle in capitalism

After joining the USSR in 1922, Ukraine transformed itself into a giant industrial force from a backward agricultural and simply mineral-rich region with the planned socialist economy of the Soviet Union. It became the second most industrialized state in the USSR after Russia. And it was that planned socialist economy free from exploitation and hence from market crisis by dint of which Ukraine could rise again after the unthinkable destruction and devastation of World War II. After the fall of socialism in the USSR, the constituent states, including Ukraine, fell away from Russia to establish bourgeois rules of their own just like Russia. At that time, Russia formed the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) to keep those bourgeois states under its hegemonic fold with its imperialist ambition. Along with others, Ukraine also joined CIS for its own capitalistic interests. The US and the Western imperialists at that time did not oppose that move of Russia but with the passage of time, Ukraine came closer also to Western and US imperialist countries in spite of its closeness with Russia for its speedier capitalist development.

The table had been turned after the demise of great Stalin and usurpation of the leadership of Soviet Union and Soviet Communist Party by the revisionists. When no one could initially make out that Khrushchevite leadership would be pursuing revisionist line, it was Comrade Shibdas Ghosh, an outstanding Marxist leader and thinker and founder General Secretary of the SUCI (C), who warned way back in 1956 that "floodgate of revisionism" was being opened under disguise of denigrating Stalin and his authority. This indeed proved to be true. As against development along socialist line, the revisionist leadership reversed the direction and the concomitant evils were manifest at all levels of economy and society. From 1965 the industrial growth in Ukraine decreased, and finally stagnated. Ukraine's economy contracted further severely following the years after the Soviet dissolution. The transition from socialism to

capitalism only meant sufferings and downfall for the majority of the population, of which nearly 25% plunged into poverty. A significant number of citizens in rural Ukraine survived by growing their own food, often juggling two or more jobs and buying the basic necessities through the barter economy. More than 60 million of Ukrainians were reported to have gone abroad in search of livelihood. Mortality rate rose fast; scope of decent education receded from common people. Ukraine was hit by the economic crisis of 2008 and the country which once developed without foreign aid had to live on a humiliating IMF approved stand-by loan of \$16.5 billion. The hyper-inflationary levels in the 1990s pushed Ukraine to hold the world record for inflation in the calendar year of 1993. Thus, the capitalist rule in Ukraine after dismantling of socialism was bringing forth crisis in people's life as elsewhere in the capitalist world. The government was unable to address people's problems and demands. This generated huge resentment among the masses. Proper political consciousness among people was marked by its absence; taking advantage of it, ethnic-linguistic tension and strife had been incessantly fanned up; correct revolutionary leadership to guide people was lacking. All this helped the reactionaries of the country to come to the forefront and the imperialist vultures to find a fertile ground to carry through their designs and engineer supine submission of the country to western imperialist dictates in the name of bringing change. What is further painful that the people of both Russia and Ukraine who once worked hand in hand in cementing socialist construction as constituents of Soviet Union, are now made to turn guns against each other because of imperialist conspiracy after collapse of socialism.

**Ukrainians are now pawns in imperialist —
imperialist contradiction**

The growing acute market crisis and recession made it urgent for the imperialists to look for newer markets even in the unipolar world and bring in more and more countries into their fold. Among others, Ukraine market has become their target. At the same time, Russian capitalism which had long consolidated its power after the initial chaos of the counter-revolution was also out to pursue its

hegemonic aspiration for developing and expanding its own sphere of influence. This conflict between the Russian imperialism, EU and US imperialism is plainly centred on grabbing market and extending spheres of influence. Torn apart by the ruthless capitalist exploitation and oppression, as in other capitalist country of the world, compounded by the clashes and skirmishes precipitated by the imperialist powers to buttress their respective narrow economic-political interests, the common people of Ukraine are now pawns in the hands of the brigands and hegemon engaged in power duels.

But the capitalist rulers of the country as also the imperialist hawks, including the Russian rulers care a fig for suffering of the Ukrainians. In fact, they thrive on escalated suffering, mutual distrust and disaffection among the people. But whoever may gain out of this conflict of imperialists and whoever loses out—the hardship of the people would not be mitigated thereby. Rather, it would sustain ethnic-nationality conflicts, escalate war tensions in the region and subject people to more and more suffering. With the rabid anti-communist, anti-Russian and even anti-Semitic fascist forces rising to power, the progressive democratic minded working people including those sympathetic to socialism are sure to face severe coercion and oppression. Already the omens are there. The US imperialist rulers are spitting unbridled venom against the progressive democratic minded section of the population branding them as opponents to their progressive schemes.

So, the Ukrainian crisis is nothing but the reflection of the crisis of world capitalism and imperialism in a new context. In such a situation the patriotic people of Ukraine must now realize that the conflict and contention between the two groups of Ukrainian bourgeoisie have nothing to do with their interest because both these groups dismantled their working class state to restore capitalism for exploiting them. Both US and its allies as well as Russian imperialism are out to fish in troubled waters and hence backing this or that bourgeois leader of their country. Also, the right thinking peace-loving people of the whole world can easily make

out that the armed invasion by the Russian imperialist rulers is triggered by nothing else but the objective of expanding their sphere of influence just like what the US imperialists are engaged in globally. It also once again proves that contradiction between the capitalist-imperialist camp and the socialist camp was never the cause of outbreak of any war. On the contrary, as shown by great Lenin, "Imperialism generates war". So long as the mighty socialist bloc, notwithstanding its many limitations, was in place, it worked as a bulwark against imperialist war machination. But, now, in absence of that, imperialist powers are unbridled in their war-mongering.

Way out for suffering Ukrainians

In the circumstances, the toiling people of Ukraine need to imbibe the truth that the capitalist rule that have ushered in with counter-revolution would bring no respite to them from any problem, any exploitation. Rather, they would be squeezed more and more between the two war-monger imperialist camps fighting over grab of market. From experience, many now understand what they have lost with the fall of socialism and how ruinous has been the consequence of drifting away from the invaluable teachings of Marxism- Leninism. The situation has unequivocally upheld the lesson that only true socialism is the real alternative for people; neither revisionism in the cloak of socialism nor capitalism-imperialism can free people from exploitation, disunity, discrimination and oppression. Hence the goal is singular and that is to overthrow of capitalism again along with throwing down these imperialist demons from their shoulder. For that, they will need to isolate the anti-people forces and give rise to a strong revolutionary leadership which will uphold their cause, their rights, thwart the bourgeois design to create linguistic and regional cleavage in working class solidarity, and will seek friendly and a unified family-like relation with the peace-loving people of the erstwhile Soviet Russia of which they were also once an integral part. Certainly they need no guardian or overlord. It is heartening to note that a sizeable number of Russian citizens are out on the streets of Moscow and Petrograd with anti-war slogans and demanding of Russian President Putin to take

hands off Ukraine. This solidarity of working people against war-mongering of imperialist forces is a silver line. Alongside asking for stopping Russian military attack on Ukraine immediately, the peace-loving people of Ukraine as well as the entire world should raise voice against US imperialists and their allies and demand dismantling of NATO. Ukrainian people must not let themselves get drawn into the lap of the US imperialists or for that matter any other imperialists in the name of resisting Russia or vice versa. Only spearheading a revolutionary struggle afresh on the basis of Marxism-Leninism and its developed and enriched understanding provided by Comrade Shibdas Ghosh, the worthy continuer of Marx-Engels-Lenin-Stalin-Mao Zedong, can bring back socialism in their fatherland and remedy all their problems.

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Sudan is beset by power conflicts between imperialist — backed aspirant army commanders

African country Sudan is in boil again. A power conflict between the regular army of Sudan, the Sudan Armed Forces, led by General Abdel Fatah Al Burhan and the para-military Rapid Support Force led by Mohammed Hamdan Dagalo, or Hemedti, both having tacit backing of imperialist powers, is ravaging Sudan, causing death of several hundreds of innocent people and grievous injury to several thousands more, including women, children and senior citizens. Between 10,000 and 20,000 people have fled the fighting to neighbouring Chad, Eritrea, and Ethiopia. Vast parts of the capital of Sudan, Khartoum, are already devastated by war, people is perishing not only due to war, but due to absence of electricity, water and severe food crisis. Apparently, the devastating civil war seems to be merely domestic affair of Sudan. But, in fact this African country with its vast oil fields, repository of natural gas, biggest gold mine and other mineral deposits, has been the hunting ground of imperialist powers particularly US imperialism for long. And the common Sudanese have been victims of the long drawn overt and covert struggle between imperialist powers for establishment of their domination over the huge natural resources of this land.

Backward Capitalist Country Sudan had to bargain between imperialist and socialist Camp after independence

Since 1959, China then a socialist country, had been a close friend of Sudan people. After Sudan achieved independence from British colonial occupation following a treaty between Britain and Egypt, socialist China under great Mao Zedong provided the

nascent capitalist state of Sudan with technological assistance as well as humanitarian and economic aids. After sad dismantling of socialism in post-Mao China following completion of counter-revolution in 2004 hatched by the revisionist capitalist-roaders, China has emerged as a formidable global imperialist power. Using its friendly ties with Sudan, imperialist China began exporting capital to Sudan on a large scale, in the form of FDI to tighten its grip on it through neo-colonial route.

US imperialists had a hawk's eye on Sudan

Before we enter into further discussion on present situation, a brief recap of the spate of events in Sudan from the mid of the 20th century is considered necessary. After the full-fledged arms assistance and military support to Israel by US imperialists in the 3rd Arab Israel war in 1967, most of the Arab countries including Sudan but excluding Saudi Arabia and UAE, tore off all links with US and gradually became closer to the erstwhile USSR, for technological and military support. After painful collapse of Soviet socialism in 1991 following counter-revolution orchestrated by the defeated bourgeoisie aided and abetted by global imperialist powers with the revisionists acting as their agents, the US, in the new unipolar world, geared up its imperialist machination to establish control over the oil rich countries of the Middle-East. First it overpowered President Saddam Hussein of Iraq by unleashing full-fledged military assault and occupied that highly oil-rich country. Then, in the same manner, it assassinated Muammar Gaddafi, President of Libya, and captured another oil-rich East African country bordering Sudan. Next target of US was to bring Sudan under its domination. In fact, the US sharks were slobbering and added momentum to their intriguing activities in 2008-09.

President Al-Bashir stood staunchly against US intrusion

But the then Sudanese President Omar Hassan al-Bashir who assumed power in 1989, was unbending to US pressure. In fact, to counter US move, Bashir had fostered close ties with

China and India to play an important role in developing the country's oil sector in the 1990s. Then when Russia became an imperialist country after counter-revolution, and gradually started to challenge the unchallenged global domination of US imperialism, particularly as a military power, Omar al Bashir quickly built up close ties with Putin's Russia also for technological and military support. In spite of his pro-capitalist military dictatorial rule by 2010 Bashir emerged as a hero within the Arab world and Africa, for his staunch anti-US imperialist stance. Thus, on the one hand, imperialist China held the largest FDI in Sudan, with technological support invested in variety of development sectors including construction of dams, bridges, power stations, oilfields, etc., in Sudan and provided Sudanese army with arms and ammunitions as well, while, on the other hand, Russia too lent considerable military assistance to Sudan. According to SIPRI (Stockholm International Peace Research Institute) data, in around 2010, only 8% of arms under the control of Sudan Government was supplied by China, while Russian supply rose to 87%. Thus, the closeness of Sudan government under President Omar al Bashir, with rival imperialist powers like Russia and China, and greed to control the rich oilfields of Sudan made the western powers led by USA to find and exploit the cracks and fissures in the Sudanese social polity with no concern for the well-being of the people.

Imperialists sowed the seed of disunity among people

Moreover, Sudan is a land of great ethnic diversity, with people having lived in harmony over centuries, intermarrying and sharing common cultural and religious traits. However long under the yoke of the British imperialist rule from 1899 to 1956, it remained undeveloped and poor, despite its resources. Moreover, famine, drought, and other calamities caused acute food shortage followed by rampant starvation and malnutrition. Naturally, accumulated grievances among the poverty-stricken hungry tribal people were seething to break out in revolt. Lest this outrage should be directed against the exploiting British

imperialists and their local servitors, the imperialist rulers in pursuit of their age-old policy of divide and rule to perpetuate their colonial rule, instigated various ethnic groups against each other to divert the outburst of rage. They, in a planned way, fomented mistrust and division among the different ethnic groups so that they are locked in internecine clashes, and remain ever poor, underdeveloped and weak. Thus, the tribal-populated south Sudan has remained a hotbed of sinister imperialist machinations and torn apart by sustained ethnic conflicts and clashes shattering normal life. The situation so worsened that being instigated by the imperialist sharks, ethnic conflicts and divisive mentalities not only lingered on but have led to protracted war between the north and south Sudan ever since the British left the country in 1956. Fratricidal bloodshed has so far taken a toll of around two million lives, millions more were displaced. The imperialist powers, principally Britain, France, and the US, have kept alive this internal conflict by playing off one group against the other. Independent Sudan, fostered by a nationalist fervour, tried to follow a policy of development of its economic resources not guided by the imperialist dictates. As a result, the Muslim and Arab dominated North Sudan and black Christian dominated South Sudan, in spite of being in one nation, remained virtually separated. The US and other western powers started to perpetrate rebellions, instigate communal and ethnic conflicts in Sudan, through underhand financial and military assistance to different rebel groups.

The US supported the demand of secession by black African Christian dominated South Sudanese political forces against the Muslim and Arab dominated Khartoum based north Sudan. But at the same time, it fanned up both Christian and Islamic fundamentalism and all sorts of ethnic racial fanaticism. US imperialism is intensely involved behind the scenes in an effort to sabotage the revolutionary struggle arising in this strategic African country. The U.S. can draw on its vast financial leverage, global military reach, intelligence agencies, capitalist media and a web of NGOs and other well-funded organizations.

Division of the country

Ultimately, in the year 2011, Sudan got divided into Sudan and South Sudan as two separate countries. Meanwhile, after overpowering Iraq and Libya, by the beginning of 21st century, the US in collusion with its Western allies, started to fan up conflict between Arabs and black ethnic groups in Darfur province. It provided military and financial support to different rebel groups, like Justice and Equality Movement, Sudanese Liberation Front, etc., within Sudan, particularly in the Darfur province bordering Chad. In 2008, the JEM became so powerful that it organized a direct attack to the capital city of Sudan, the Khartoum and its twin city the Omdurman and during that campaign the JEM guerillas, with their sophisticated weaponry did shot down a Russian fighter plane piloted by a Russian Air Force trainer, fighting along with the forces of Sudan Government.

US backed coup to oust Bashir

In order to combat the rebellion in Darfur, Sudan government also resorted to a method of forcible suppression deploying the regular army and an Arab dominated chauvinist militia group 'Janjaweed' armed majorly with Russian arsenal. In 2007 China convinced the President of Sudan to accept the entry and presence of a joint peace keeping force in Darfur by UNAMID (Composed of the Forces of United Nations and African Union). However, making the oppression of Sudan Government an excuse, with highly exaggerated reports of excesses by official government forces and government backed forces in Darfur, US and its allies created a widespread campaign of human rights violation in Darfur by Omar Al Bashir. They even moved International Criminal Court, regrettably pliable to their dictates, to have him falsely indicted of war crimes and crime against humanity in the same way they had attacked and occupied independent sovereign Iraq under fraudulent pretext of President Saddam Hussein possessing Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMDs). ICC, in humble obedience, issued arrest warrant against the seating President Omar Al Bashir on 4th March 2009 and a second warrant on 12th

July 2010.

The China and Russia, from their respective imperialist aspirations to keep Sudan under their control, opposed UN sanctions upon Sudan and ICC arrest warrant against Omar al Bashir in charge of war crimes in Darfur. In return Bashir government provided political support to Russia's military intervention in Syria and annexation of Crimea. Furthermore, Wagner group, Russia's private military force, which is active in Ukraine war, made a deep inroad into the internal affairs of Sudan during the last parts of Bashir's regime. In the last phase of his regime, US imperialists were visibly irked at Bashir's closeness with Russia. After Sudan signed \$ 1 billion arms agreement with Russia, US moved its nuclear-powered battleship to Red Sea. Bashir signed an agreement with Putin in 2019 to allow Russia build a naval base in Port Sudan on Red Sea much to the chagrin of the Biden-led US imperialist rule. US military envoys met some of the officers of SAF (Sudan's Armed Forces) and immediately after that, the SAF led by General Burhan and the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces led by Hemedti, jointly organized a Coup on 11 April 2019 to oust President Omar Al Bashir.

After ouster of Bashir, military rule was clamped again on Sudan. While common people of Sudan had been demanding end of military dictatorship and establishment of democracy, the US imperialists, adept in exporting 'democracy' to other countries on gunboats, announced that they would help terminating military rule and firm up democracy in Sudan. It was evident that like many other countries, the Pentagon rulers were out to establish a pliant regime in Sudan camouflaged as democracy.

Accordingly, a pro-US Government with Abdalla Hamdok as the new Prime Minister was installed in Khartoum in September 2019. Hamdok government declared that it will handover ousted President Omar Al Bashir to ICC which showed its extent of allegiance to western powers. The government and the Sudan Armed Forces also declared that they would review the Port Sudan Treaty with Russia. But again, in October 2021, the military dismissed the civilian ministers in a

coup but restored Prime Minister Abdalla Hamdok following a month of protests. Most civilian parties refused to support the new power-sharing deal. Countrywide protests against Hamdok's cooperation with the military led Hamdok to step down permanently in 2022. Al-Burhan has since pledged to establish a technocratic government and dismissed the five civilian members of council. Thus, a military rule was re-established in Sudan. Although US champions itself as protagonist of democracy, the US, as well as imperialist China and Russia tried to maintain good relations with Sudan and win it over to their sides all the military rulers howsoever oppression and repression they bring down on the respective people.

What is happening in Sudan now?

In fact, now a power conflict is going on between the partners of the 2019 coup, that is the SAF and the paramilitary RSF. Although the personal aspirations of the belligerent leaders have triggered this fratricidal war, both the forces are backed by imperialist powers, directly or indirectly. For example, the RSF was developed by former President Omar Al Bashir from the remnants of Janjaweed militia. In 2013 he gave it shape of a regular paramilitary force. Afterwards, SAF developed close links with the Russian Wagner group. Actually, Hemdeti, the leader of the SAF reaped fortunes from the gold mines of Sudan through cooperation with the Wagner group. Hemdeti visited Russia on the eve of Russia's invasion of Ukraine. On the other hand, Burhan sent high level military envoy to Israel just before the October coup of 2021. Fact is that both RSF and SAF used the Treaty of Port Sudan with Russia, as a bait and bargaining tactics. Virtually, both of them are now making hectic parleys with both US and Russia in order to obtain their support for their military rule. Recently Burhan, the Chief of SAF and Chief of the military government, announced a decree that the Port Sudan will be exclusively under the ministry of defence, meaning the SAF will be the sole authority to bargain with US and Russia, in deciding the fate of the treaty of Port Sudan. This decree

enraged Hemedti and RSF.

Brunt is borne by the common suffering people

The imperialist rivalry in Sudan shows that the US and western imperialist powers versus the Russia-China imperialist combine is the main global imperialist-imperialist contradiction today. Whatever may be the reason behind the jockeying of the imperialist forces and Sudanese military leaders, the life of common people are beset with rising death, misery, poverty, starvation and endless uncertainty. In the first and second civil wars, more than 50 lakh (5 million) people had died. During the Darfur crisis, more than 3 million people had lost their lives. The death toll is increasing daily now as a result of rivalry between US and Russian imperialists. Rivalry between the two imperialist super-powers has become a curse for the people of Sudan. A ray of hope in this pervading darkness is that since 2021, oppressed people of Sudan have been bursting forth in widespread mass movements in different parts of the country, against fundamentalism and in demand of peace, democracy, food, shelter and education. Many teachers, students and youths have been taking to the streets demanding end of military rule and abolition of misery and penury of Sudanese people. As usual, the military rulers are arraying their entire coercive arsenal to subdue people's protests, killing and injuring many. But, the mainstream media all over the world are trying to suppress this truth and continuing to highlight the power struggle of two warring military heads. It is pertinent to mention that economic shortages, spiralling food prices and hyperinflation, created by years of US sanctions and competing separatist movements have been wreaking havoc in people's life. There was an uprising in 2018 involving millions of Sudanese workers, peasant farmers and herders, youth and oppressed nationalities. The mobilization also pulled in US funded organizations, middle-class business councils and moderate political parties. But then it had faded out.

Now also, conscientious people of Sudan have been voicing protest against the gory power struggle. 42 organizations in Sudan

had issued a signed statement on 19 April calling for ending this ongoing fight in Sudan. The statement, inter alia, mentioned that *“We, in the resistance committees and democratic political, civil, and professional forces, hereby declare that our country has slid into the abyss of total war, in which generals use their weapons to eliminate everything in their path, and excessive violence has been used by the regime forces as a tool to settle the disputes and conflicts over power. This is contrary to the rules of democratic transition and peaceful power-sharing”*. *“Despite our differences in political views, we are completely united in our stance against the war and its continuation, and in our opposition to the return of the remnants of the previous regime to the political scene.”* Expressing deep concern, the Sudanese communist party also released an appeal which, among other things, said: *“This clash is a result of the deviation of the military and civil forces that assumed the leadership and rule of the country since the beginning of the revolution in April 2019.... What is happening now is a continuation of the struggle over power and the country’s wealth encouraged by some foreign powers, and being carried out by armed groups subservient to these foreign powers... the Communist Party considers it necessary to expedite the dissolution of all militias, collecting the weapons deployed in cities and rural areas, and rebuilding a unified professional national army... The Sudanese Communist Party also calls upon the peoples of the world and the democratic and Communist forces to raise the banners of solidarity with the struggle of the Sudanese people and to restrain the forces hostile to the glorious December Revolution.”*

While hailing the struggling people of Sudan, the resistance committee members and the Sudanese communist party, our appeal to them is to ponder over an all-important issue.

**Correct path under correct revolutionary
leadership is imperative**

In many parts of the world, people’s struggles, even

upheavals, are surging forth against ruthless repression and merciless exploitation of the imperialist-capitalist rulers. But all these movements are fizzling out after some time and the forces of reaction are emerging triumphant. Why so? Because, to lead people's struggles along right direction and culmination, it is imperative that a correct revolutionary leadership is established over them and the battles are developed as united, organized, protracted struggles, rising above all divisiveness and basing on higher proletarian culture, ethics and morality, against capitalism-imperialism, the root of all evils, to ultimately overthrow them from power. This alone can bring succour to the toiling masses all over the world including Sudan. Moreover, the ideological-organizational guideline of bringing about anti-capitalist socialist revolution is ingrained in creative application of Marxism-Leninism and its contemporized as well as enriched understanding contained in the thought of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh, Founder General Secretary of SUCI(C) and an outstanding Marxist thinker of the era. This historical truth needs to be imbibe in right earnest.

(Source: menasolidaritynetwork.com, Oxfam 07-07-21, Workers World 02-11-21, 04-05-23, BBC 17-04-23, idcommunism 17-04-23, foreignpolicy.com 20-04-23, The Economist 22-04-23, Al Jazeera-22-04-23, Newsweek 23-04-23, 27-04-23, theigc.org, cbs-25-04-23, The Telegraph 25-04-23)

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A new war tension is brewing in Taiwan because of imperialist machination

There is no sign of abatement of Russia's aggressive war on Ukraine even after six months. Already over 10,000 people are reported to have lost their life. There is no exact estimate of destruction of properties. As we explained in Proletarian Era dated 01-03-22, this war is basically a political reflection of contradiction between the two imperialist powers, the US and Russia, vying with each other over domination on Ukraine to establish economic and political hegemony. Now another rumbling of war is heard centring on Taiwan. Here too the contending forces are two imperialist super-powers—the US and China. As the war cries in the Middle East fomented by the US imperialists are a bit subsiding, a new front is opened in Eastern Asia. It is evident that both the US-led NATO and / or Russia would act to prolong the war in Ukraine as long as possible with a view to fuelling militarization of their respective crisis-ridden economies, diverting brewing people's discontent in their respective countries and fomenting national jingoism. The war-monger US imperialists want to open another front in Taiwan while imperialist China also threatens with countermeasures. All these confirm and reconfirm the teaching of great Lenin that "*imperialism generates war*".

Historical background

Taiwan is an island, roughly 100 miles from the coast of south east China. To the south of the island is the Bashi Channel, part of the Luzon Strait, one of the few international waterways through which China's naval forces can safely tread their way among the island chain and reach the expansive Western Pacific. Taiwan first

came under full Chinese control in the 17th Century when the Qing dynasty began administering it. Then, in 1895, after losing the first Chinese- Japanese war, it gave up the island to Japan. The island was handed back again in 1945 to China, then still under Kuomintang rule headed by Chiang Kai-shek, after Japan lost World War II. But when the revolutionary struggle in China under the leadership of great Mao Zedong achieved victory in 1949 and declared establishment of People's Republic of China (PRC) in Beijing, Chiang Kai-shek, the defeated chief of nationalist party known as Kuomintang (and communist hater) and his army retreated to Taiwan, where they ruled for the next several decades calling Taiwan as the Republic of China (ROC). Chiang declared Marshall law in ROC. Initially, a one party bourgeois rule under Chiang Kai-shek was established there. Later, bourgeois democracy, that too, strictly speaking, not a full-fledged one, was established. Both socialist China and Taiwan were then recognized as 'one China'. While great Mao Zedong, the architect of Chinese Revolution, attempted to resolve, what the Chinese Communist Party considered as continuing civil war going on in Taiwan, peacefully through negotiations, even offering Chiang Kai-shek a role to play in the mainland government, Chiang on the other hand was completely opposed to socialism and any solution other than infiltration of the mainland and overthrow of the socialist regime. Taiwan got huge economic aid from US and with that, projected its rise in per capita income to flaunt its economic growth. On the other hand, US imperialists right from the beginning have been placing its naval fleet in the Taiwan Strait, its military in Taiwan to make it military protectorate. One flashpoint is that in 1958, Chiang used his American naval and air weapons to harass Socialist China's shipping, and was trying to land spies, saboteurs and armed gangs on Matsu and Quemoy islands adjoining the mainland always dreaming of capturing power in mainland China thinking 'starving' people would welcome him. Chiang was massing more than one fourth of his troops there. US also ordered its notorious 7th Fleet stationed there to be ready for war in support of Chiang. In defence, the then socialist China under Mao

Zedong had to retaliate militarily to protect socialism and demanded withdrawal of US military from the Taiwan strait. Socialist China also called for renewing the Sino-American ambassadorial talks which was agreed upon in Geneva conference in 1954 but then suspended from 1955. At that time, Soviet Union also threatened to engage itself militarily to repeal US aggression. Under pressure, US imperialists de-escalated its war initiatives but did not withdraw its fleet.

At that time, the then US Secretary of State John Foster Dulles while spelling out US policy toward socialist China declared that Americans were obliged to “do all that they could to contribute to the passing of the Chinese People’s Republic” However, by 1970 Canada and some other western countries had established diplomatic relations with socialist China. In 1971, US reversed its policy and announced that it favoured UN membership for both Communist China (PRC) as well as Nationalist China (ROC) meaning Taiwan. The same year the UN voted to admit socialist China and to expel Taiwan. In 1972, US President Nixon visited China and agreed to gradually withdraw US military forces and installations from Taiwan. However, pertinent to mention here, though the US for the last 51 years, has only recognized one China—that is the People’s Republic of China, it has maintained unofficial relations with Taiwan, guided by the Taiwan Relations Act (TRA) instrument through which the US conducts legal arms sales to Taiwan, in the name of ongoing commitment to the island’s self-defence against socialist China. US imperialists held that they wanted to ensure future of Taiwan as determined by peaceful means “consistent with the wishes and best interests of the people on Taiwan”. TRA also stipulates that US would maintain its own “capacity to resist any resort to force or other forms of coercion that would jeopardize the security or the social or economic system of Taiwan”. In fact, despite recognizing one China policy, the US have been selling huge arms to Taiwan, thereby keeping up an ambiguous, if not suspicious, stand. Armaments worth of \$750 million were sold in April 2021, of \$100 million in February and of \$95 million in April.

Diplomatic position

When China, a people's democratic republic under stewardship of great Mao Zedong, talked of 'One China' policy, the leadership of socialist China held, as mentioned, that there would be only one Chinese government. Under this, the then Chinese government stated that Taiwan is a part of the country, and set to be reunited with the mainland soon. India was first to acknowledge this policy in 1949. Then other countries like the members of the powerful imperialist bloc G-7 also recognized the "One China" policy. G-7 countries, that include the United States and Japan, say even today that there is "no change in the respective one-China policies, where applicable, and basic positions on Taiwan of the G7 members". In between, however one significant event has taken place in China. After demise of Mao Zedong, and close thereafter of Zhou Enlai, the revisionist clique led by Deng Xiaoping usurped power and initiated the process of counter-revolution which was finally completed in 2004. Thereafter, China gradually developed as an imperialist power. So, the objective with which socialist China viewed "One China" policy is not the same with the contention of the present imperialist Chinese rulers. Socialist China held that there would be only one sovereign state under the name China, with the People's Republic of China (PRC) serving as the sole legitimate government of both the lands. It rightly regarded the rule of Chiang Kai-shek, the agent of reaction and arch enemy of socialism, in Taiwan as continuation of long and bitter civil war, and an internal affair of China. So, it rightly gave call of 'one China' to prevent imperialist powers befriending Chiang. The present Chinese imperialism also pretends to be following that legacy but their intention is to gain supremacy through aggressive moves and emerge as a leading imperialist superpower, and thus to prevent US-led intervention or dominance in that part of the globe by using Taiwan as a springboard. Naturally, the present Chinese rulers, as is typical of imperialism, are also aggressively extending their sphere of influence and have emerged as a

powerful contending force against US imperialism. It is also strengthening its grip over Indo-Pacific Ocean and neighbouring countries through its notorious scheme of BRICS. Against this growing threat of Chinese imperialism, US is also combining Japan, India and Australia within QUAD bloc. Taiwan issue is also viewed by them from that perspective. Yet, if one sees impartially and logically, “One China” policy would obviously look legitimate. US also signed three different agreements – Joint Communiqués it made with China in 1972, 1979 and 1982 – affirming that China is one country and Taiwan is a province of China. On the other hand, Taiwanese rulers hold the “One-China principle” and maintains its claim that under the ROC Constitution (passed by the Kuomintang government in 1947 in Nanjing), the ROC has sovereignty over most of China, including, by their interpretation, both mainland China and Taiwan.

Chinese authorities at present claim that Taiwan is bound by an understanding known as the 1992 consensus, which was then reached between representatives of the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) and the Kuomintang (KMT) party that then ruled Taiwan. However, the current bourgeois rulers of Taiwan do not agree on the content of this consensus and argue that it was never intended to address the question of Taiwan’s legal status. In any case, it is evident that both US and China have interest in Taiwan, both from economic as well as geo-political angles. Moreover, imperialist China is also engulfed in severe economic problems. So, like other imperialist powers like US, Russia and those of Europe, China also needs war tension. As in Europe, there is rivalry between US and Russia as to who would have more domination there, similarly there is a conflict between US and China over domination in the Indo-pacific region,

Economy of Taiwan

As indicated above, Taiwan is by now a highly advanced capitalist economy having received huge amount of US economic aid, and producing an estimated \$786 billion in goods trade ties,

which advance US interests and help create economic opportunities in the United States. Last year, Taiwan moved up one place to become US's eighth-largest trading partner. Taiwan is important for the rest of the world because much of the world's everyday electronic equipment - from phones to laptops, watches and games consoles - is powered by computer chips made in Taiwan. By one measure, a single Taiwanese company — the Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Company or TSMC — has over half of the world's market. TSMC plans to build a \$12-billion chip factory in the U.S. The semiconductor industry is a priority for the U.S. “containment” of China. But reality is that Taiwan's annual exports to China come to \$126.2 billion, almost double its exports to the U.S. of \$65.9 billion. The Chinese consumer goods manufacturing industry depends on exports from Taiwan but Taiwan depends on heavy energy and consumer product imports. So, hostility towards China might cost its economy dearly. Secondly, if any armed conflict in the Taiwan straits creates a split in the chip supply chain and semiconductor industry, both imperialist US and China would face setback, let alone the severe blow to Taiwanese economy.

Why is India non-committal so far?

India does not have formal diplomatic ties with Taiwan yet, as it formally follows the “One China policy”. But India has an office in Taipei for diplomatic functions — India-Taipei Association (ITA)—which is headed by a senior diplomat. Taiwan has the Taipei Economic and Cultural Centre (TECC) in Indian capital New Delhi. Both were established in 1995. Thus, India has been maintaining ties with both the sides. However, in recent time, Indian imperialist rulers who are clearly tilted towards US imperialism and soliciting its help to emerge as a superpower not only in Asia but in the world, is trying to play up its relationship with Taiwan as its ties with China have been strained—not only because of border conflicts but also from the perspective of imperialist-imperialist contradiction. India has even handpicked its joint secretary hitherto looking after deplomatic relation issues with

USA in the Ministry of External Affairs — to become its envoy in Taipei, the Taliwan Capital, to better relationship with that country. The ruling BJP also asked two of its MPs to attend the swearing-in ceremony of new Taiwan President Tsai Ing-wen through virtual mode on 20 May 2016. Yet, India has so far been non-committal on the tension building around Taiwan following sudden visit of Nancy Pelosi, the Speaker of the United States of America's House of Representatives, to its capital Taipei and has refrained from issuing any politically-loaded statement.

What triggered present war tension in Taiwan

The Indo-Pacific region is on the boil a week after a Taipei visit by Nancy Pelosi, third in the US hierarchy of power, and the highest-ranking American to visit Taiwan in 25 years. Pelosi's visit was announced in March last but reportedly postponed because of resurgence of Covid 19. Her visit to Taiwan came days after Chinese President Xi Jinping had asked US President Joe Biden not to send Nancy to Taiwan as it might escalate tension. But US refused to pay any heed to that. Naturally, it has sparked anger among the Chinese authorities. For Chinese imperialism, the presence of a senior American figure in Taiwan is indicative of some kind of US support for Taiwan's independence. So, it warned of "resolute and strong measures" if the visit took place. The Western as well as Indian mainstream media have been making a one-sided propaganda that China has been extending military drills in the waters around Taiwan, shooting missiles over the island, and flying multiple jets well across the median line that has traditionally served as their maritime boundary. The signs are worrying, they contend. But the fact they are suppressing, knowingly or unknowingly, is that the U.S. Navy's Seventh Fleet has so far this year sent an average of one guided-missile destroyer per month through the Taiwan Strait. The US naval command RIMPAC (Rim of the Pacific Amphibious Assault Training) was carrying out manoeuvres involving 170 aircraft, 38 ships, four submarines, and 25,000 military personnel from all the G7 imperialist countries. Some 19 other Asia Pacific countries

were pulled in for symbolic participation. RIMPAC is the world's largest international maritime exercise. According to its commander, their massive training is meant to deter escalation by China's military. This aggressive maritime action took place from 29 June to 4 August meaning even while Nancy Pelosi was visiting Taiwan. As usual, this military exercise involving hundreds of ships and aircrafts and massive display of vast and deadly arms are described by the US authorities as simply participating in "routine" or "business as usual" activities. It is also revealed that in March last, senior US military and intelligence officials visited Taiwan. Afterwards, six US legislators from the military, intelligence, foreign affairs, justice and finance committees including the hawk of all wars, Lindsey Graham went to Taiwan in April last. A third U.S. delegation led by Indiana Governor Eric Holcomb has landed in Taiwan on 21 August. In a statement, Holcomb's office said the trip was focused on economic development and building deeper ties with Taiwan, the world leader in semiconductor manufacturing. But to anyone acquainted with US policy of inciting war on foreign land from its hegemonic objective, has every reason to question the efficacy of the apparently benign statement. All these incidents are clear signs of provoking China to undertake countermeasures. The Chinese response also took the form of military drills which are aimed at showing that China's military is capable of blockading the entire island. And once that happened, the air has become surcharged with war psychosis. Thus, while the flames of war are burning in Ukraine, a new hotbed of armed conflict is being instigated.

Militarization of economy and precipitation of wars are signatures of imperialist machination

As we have been repeatedly saying, capitalist-imperialist countries being enmeshed in acute economic crisis created by capitalism's own laws of operation have been increasingly resorting to militarization of economy to artificially stimulate the sinking economy and somehow carry on. Militarization artificially stimulates industry and thus the economy; but at the same time, it

demands that wars consume the military products, open scope for fresh production and thus maintain industrial production and fuel the economy. So, imperialism continuously requires a war-psychosis to prevail and even local or regional wars to take place, not least to create a market for its military hardware. So, whether it is US, the European majors, Russia, China or India—militarization of economy is a common feature. And the US, as the chieftain of global imperialism, has long chosen war-mongering as a principle of global policy, albeit under the garb of exporting democracy to “rogue” countries. This time also, Pelosi said that her visit comes at a time when “the world faces a choice between autocracy and democracy.” And the pliant bourgeois media is pressed upon releasing a false campaign to justify this, or some or other kind of deception. Público, the newspaper of US monopoly tycoons, has all along been defending the wars launched by imperialism, including the invasion of Iraq. Whether it is FOX News, CNN, AP, *The New York Times* or *The Washington Post*, the multibillion-dollar media are part of and totally intertwined with U.S. military industries. It is indignant at those who raise suspicions about war propaganda. But fact is that the US imperialists have been fostering wars in the entire Middle East with a view to grabbing their oil and gas resources and establishing hegemony in the region. They have also been waging a proxy war through their biggest ally, Zionist Israel, to suppress the just demand of the Palestinian people. Engineering coup, precipitating racial-ethnic armed conflicts, assassinating political heads refusing to bend before their dictates and establishing client regimes in Africa and Latin America have been part of the US war machination for long. It may be recalled that when China, under revisionist Deng leadership, undertook military exercises in Taiwan straits in the 1990s, the then US President Bill Clinton immediately moved aircraft carriers towards that area. But with China becoming a full-fledged imperialist power with the largest navy in the world, current US President Joe Biden would not have dared to do so today in the context of changed balance of power. But, he has said repeatedly in recent

months that the US would come to Taiwan's rescue, if attacked. As US imperialism has set up roughly 750 military bases in 85 countries and naval bases in 8 countries round the world, imperialist China has also, of late, started installing naval bases. In 2017, it established its first overseas military base in Djibouti, on the coast of the Horn of Africa. Now it is planning another military base in Equatorial Guinea. China has already taken over the Hambantota port in Sri Lanka not only for a 99-year lease but also with a provision for extension for another 99-years. As we know, no imperialist country can become a global superpower without establishing regional hegemony. So, geopolitically, Taiwan is central to the power ambition of both US and China. Thus, apart from economic questions, it is also a question of which imperialist super-power takes control of the Taiwan straits and keeps Taiwan regime. This sharpened imperialist-imperialist contradiction is again threatening the world of holocaust of war.

Spurt of powerful anti-imperialist global movement alone can deter this war-mongering

Democratic-minded peace-loving people round the world are visibly upset over one after another orchestration of war on this or that flimsy pretext or for buttressing narrow sectarian economic-political interest of the ruling monopolists and multi-nationals of imperialist powers. They sincerely want some proactive steps to stop Russia-Ukraine war and defuse the brewing crisis around Taiwan at a time when acute crises are pummelling the global capitalist economy, the brunt of which are borne by the oppressed millions. But mere wishing would not beget the desired result as anything uttered in supplication or solicitation would not work on the imperialist-capitalist sharks, the worst enemy of mankind. In absence of the mighty socialist camp which provided some sort of bulwark against imperialist machinations, the imperialist powers are unbridled in unleashing their aggression today. The wicked is never starved of subterfuge! On one pretext or the other, they will flagrantly violate all established norms, rules and practices to

overrun the countries they think are ‘recalcitrant’, mercilessly kill innocent people, take recourse to all kinds of devilry and despotism in pursuit of hegemonistic aspiration and expand sphere of influence. So, if this murderous run of the imperialist warmongering is to be combated and stopped, that is possible only if the peace-loving people develop mighty and well-organized anti-imperialist movements led by revolutionary leadership throughout the world and exert pressure of that movement on the imperialist war merchants.

Also, it should not be forgotten that if the imperialist powers are in possession of sophisticated arms of destruction, people too have an invincible weapon in their armoury—the invincible philosophy of Marxism-Leninism. Let us recall that Comrade Shibdas Ghosh, one of the foremost Marxist thinkers of the era, repeatedly emphasized that only an organized people’s movement under the correct revolutionary leadership can provide effective bulwark against this imperialist onslaught. Conducting people’s struggles under correct leadership is imperative for taking the movements to their logical culmination. Immediate task is to build up worldwide powerful anti-imperialist militant peace movement involving all sections of the anti-imperialist freedom-loving patriotic masses and forces. Genuine communists must work as the core of this movement to guide it properly. When tensions in the Taiwan Strait are spiralling alongside ongoing Russia’s war of invasion against Ukraine, this task need to be undertaken in right earnest to save human civilization.

(Source: Newsclick 02-07-21, Workers’ World 29-04-22, 09-08-22, Newsweek 03-06-22, brookings July 2022, BBC 06-07-22, Council on Foreign Relations 03-08-22, Indian Express 03-08-22, 04-08-22, The Print 03-08-22, The Wire 03-08-22, 05-08-22, The Guardian 04-08-22, DNA 05-08-22, The Hindu 05-08-22, 18-08-22, The Telegraph 10-08-22, PTI and India TV 13-08-22, Covert Action Magazine 18-08-22, foreign policy.com 22-08-22, (quoted by Edgar Snow : Other Side of the River, from New York Times: 10 August 1958 Policy Statement on China.)

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Zionist Israel must stop aggression on Palestine and recognize sovereign independent state of Palestinian people

When an armed conflict between imperialist Russia and Western imperialist bloc and NATO-backed Ukraine is continuing for more than one year and a half taking in its sweep thousands of innocent lives and causing large scale devastation of property, another war has broken out in the Middle-East. But the perspectives of the two wars are completely different. Russia launched a war of aggression on Ukraine basically to pursue its hegemonic aspiration for developing and expanding its own sphere of influence in Eastern Europe after the current Ukrainian regime demonstrated its pro-Western imperialist - pro-NATO tilt. That war is in fact a reflection of the growing contradiction between the Russian imperialism, on the one side, and the EU and US imperialism, on the other side, centered on grabbing market and extending spheres of influence. But the recent outbreak of war between Hamas, a militant Islamic Palestinian organization and the Zionist Israel state, armed to the teeth, and enjoying all-out backing of US imperialism, worst enemy of mankind, and its European allies, has further fuelled imperialist war machination. This opening remark has been necessitated because the entire Western imperialist bloc, its junior partners like India, and the monopoly-controlled media have gone full throttle to show that since ‘terrorist’ Hamas has first launched attack on Israel and the latter retaliated by declaring a full-fledged war not only militarily but even economically, Israel’s is a fight in self-defence against ‘terrorist’ Hamas, which is the culprit. The fact is that Zionist Israel has accelerated its ongoing war of aggression, and occupation against the entire freedom-seeking Palestinian people who have been

legitimately demanding their homeland that has been systematically snatched away by Zionist Israel. Around 10,000 odd people mostly the old, women and children, majorly of Palestine, have reportedly been killed in the conflict. Even Israel's delegate in UN Security Council stressed that his country needs to obliterate Hamas for its own self-preservation. It shows how the US imperialists, its gatekeeper Zionist Israel are bent upon prolonging the carnage to buttress their imperialist agenda of generating as well as perpetuating wars.

Brief recount of history

Before dwelling further on the current developments, it is necessary to have a brief recount of prolonged Israel-Palestine conflict. As we had pointed out earlier in Proletarian Era, Palestine was a habitation of Arabs for centuries. For long it was a part of the Turk Ottoman Empire. Jewish people who had once lived there dispersed and spread out in different parts of the globe, after their last armed rebellion against Roman empire ended in crushing defeat. After the First World War, Palestine came under the British rule as the British mandate for Palestine. The British government declared its intentions in the Balfour Declaration, of sponsoring a “national home” for the Jews in Palestine. By that time, a Zionist political movement had developed among the European Jews and a demand for a Jewish state in Palestine was raised. As the campaign indoctrinated with religious and ethnic feelings gathered momentum, Jewish settlers started to migrate into Palestine. On 2 November 1917, Britain's then-foreign secretary, Arthur Balfour, wrote a letter addressed to Lionel Walter Rothschild, a figurehead of the British Jewish community, wherein the idea of sponsoring a “national home” for the Jews in Palestine was broached. But the relation between the British imperialists and the Zionists soon became strained, as the US imperialists started penetrating into the region. After the Second World War, when world-wide sympathy ran high for Jewish people, who had suffered terrible persecution and extermination at the hands of Nazi fascists, it was through the machinations of the US imperialists, that on 29 November 1947

the United Nations voted to partition Palestine land into Jewish and Arab states in General Assembly Resolution 181. Finally, the Zionists established the state of Israel on 15 May 1948, and drove out hundreds of thousands of Palestinians people from their hearth and home. They fled from the newly formed state of Israel and were forced to live in squalid refugee camps to this day in neighbouring Arab countries. The Arab states were vehemently opposed to partition and creation of a Jewish state. A brief war broke out between the Arabs and Zionist Israel, followed by other wars through which Israel state grabbed newer territories and came to occupy almost the whole of Palestine.

It bears recall that Zionist movement which sprouted among a section of the Jews as far back as in 1897 was castigated by great Lenin as a reactionary jingoistic bourgeois nationalist trend which was socially retrogressive and a backward force that deprecated class divisions among Jews. Later, in 1947, while participating in the Soviet Union then led by great Stalin though being sympathetic to the cause of displaced and persecuted Jews at the hands of the Nazis stated in UNO that it supported a formation of a Jewish–Arab binational state. But if this proved to be impossible, then USSR, under compelling circumstances, would support the partition and recognize both Israel and Palestine as two independent sovereign states. Finally, the UN resolution endorsed formation of two separate states by majority votes.

The Zionist Israel state, itself a product of imperialist machinations, was liberally supported and aided, militarily-materially and politically by the imperialists, particularly US. US wanted to set up Israel as its gatekeeper in oil-rich Middle East, With that help and support Israel armed itself with sophisticated and most lethal arms and ammunitions, to grow into one of the world's most deadly war-mongering force with immense espionage, subversive and striking power, a veritable threat to the existence of not just the Palestinians, but all the Arab countries of the Middle East.

Uprooted from home and livelihood, the Palestinian Arabs were thrown into a pathetic life of terrible destitution and

uncertainty. In their frantic efforts to survive with freedom and dignity, they ultimately built up organized struggle under the leadership of the Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO) with Yasser Arafat as their leader. What started as their war of resistance was transformed soon into a struggle with demands for their independent state, that is a Palestinian state, and right for the refugees to their return to their homeland. But the Palestinian liberation movement could not make any substantial headway and lingered through the years with twists and turns because of disunity among the various Arab states for definite economic-political reasons. And intermittent armed attacks by Israel went on unabated. So powerful was the imperialist backed and equipped modern army of Israel that in a mere six days of war in 1967 against the PLO and different Arab armies Israel could occupy Gaza Strip, West Bank, Golan Heights and Sinai. It is against such a powerful enemy, its imperialist backers, and against seemingly insurmountable odds that Arafat led the Palestinian people in their anti-imperialist resistance struggle, in the fight for their just cause. However, mounting world people's opinion against the Israeli brigandage had occasionally forced Israel and their mentor US imperialists to come to compromises. Thus, Israel had to give back, for example to Egypt, some of the areas it had occupied in the 1967 war. At that time, international communist movement was not in total disarray at that time and communist parties of Syria, Jordan, Iraq, Iran and other countries stood in firm solidarity with PLO, a secular leftist organization led by Yasser Arafat, which succeeded to some extent in thwarting such attacks. Arafat was a living symbol of the just struggle of Palestinian people for statehood. He symbolized the aspirations of deprived Palestinian people to live with dignity and honour in their own homeland. For over 50 years Arafat remained in the thick of battle and spearheaded the struggle against imperialist-Zionist terrorism, a battle of ups and downs — savouring victories and suffering defeats, but never losing heart. So, Arafat was a thorn in the flesh of Zionist Israeli rulers as well as US imperialism who tried many times to eliminate him. But, because of the anti-Marxist position

adopted by the Khrushchevite revisionists, international communist movement was getting enfeebled, and the communist parties of various countries lost direction and even disintegrated. Pertinent to mention that in 1993, after first intifada (armed uprising) of Palestinian freedom fighters a peace accord between PLO and Israel was arrived at through the Oslo Accord. The Accord resulted in limited self-governance for Palestinians in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip through the creation of the Palestinian Authority (PA). Although the goal of the accords was to resolve the Israeli-Palestinian conflict by May 1999, the complexities that underlay decades of hostilities ultimately derailed the process and left the most challenging issues to smolder in the 21st century. Though honouring the Oslo accord, also named as peace accord, PLO refrained from launching any armed resistance against Israel and concentrated on strengthening Palestinian administration, the Zionist Israeli rulers however in flagrant violation went on promoting Zionist settlements in the Gaza Strip and West Bank, harassing Palestinian people through various ways and means thus instigating war tension. This considerably weakened PLO and Palestinian people particularly the youth gradually and had grown increasingly frustrated with a peace process that gave them no hope for freedom or even employment, while the building of new Jewish settlements on what Palestinians saw as their lands went on unabatedly. So, they began to be disillusioned about leftism and shift towards Islamic militarism to achieve their demand of homeland. After collapse of socialism in Soviet Union, this fervour of militant anti-imperialist leftist movement waned further leading to virtual collapse of PLO.

It was in this backdrop that Hamas came to the forefront. Many Palestinian youths lost faith in leftism and were prone to embrace that line. Hamas stands for the Islamic Resistance Movement and in Arabic means “zeal”. Though Israel imprisoned Hamas’ leader, Ahmad Yassin, in 1989, but otherwise turned a blind eye to the group’s spread because it was then considered to be a relatively minor threat to Israeli security, and Israeli leaders were focused on the threat posed by the Arafat-led PLO. Arafat

passed away on 11 November 2004. Accusations have been raised even by his personal physician for 22 years that he was poisoned by Israel, that he was the victim of a stealth assassination. But nothing could be finally established. But reality was that Gaza's Palestinians never gained full autonomy. Israel continued to control the external perimeter (except Gaza's southern border, controlled by Egypt), its seaports, air space, and the passage of people and goods.

Hamas won election in Gaza and West bank

A crucial turning point came in 2006 when three-quarters of eligible Palestinians living in the West Bank and Gaza Strip turned out to elect a 132-member Legislative Council. Candidates who were associated with Hamas, won in more than half the seats. Although Hamas said it would negotiate with Israel, it wanted a 10-year truce. Pressured by the US and Israel, the PA rejected the Hamas victory. Hamas and allied Islamist militias responded by expelling the military forces loyal to Abbas and taking charge of Gaza in 2007. Fact is that cycle of Israel's aggressive counter-attacks, almost in terrorist mode, and focus on the threat at hand helped fuel the rise of Hamas. Now Hamas does not recognize Israel's statehood but accepts a Palestinian state on 1967 borders. *"We shall not waive an inch of the Palestinian home soil no matter what the recent pressures are and no matter how long the occupation,"* Khaled Meshaal, the leader-in-exile of the Palestinian group said in 2017.

What is happening now

It is true that on 7 October last, Hamas guerrillas fired a barrage of rockets and sent gunmen into southern Israeli territory which took Israeli authorities by surprise. Hamas's operation came on the heels of widespread Israeli settler attacks, increased tensions at the Al-Aqsa Mosque compound in occupied East Jerusalem and a record number of Palestinians killed. The forcible acquisition of Jerusalem by Israel riding on US support and unilaterally declaring it as an Israeli territory was also a clear war

provocation. Hamas spokesperson Khaled Qadomi told that they carried out its military operation in response to atrocities that Palestinians have faced over decades. *“We want the international community to stop atrocities in Gaza against Palestinian people, our holy sites like Al-Aqsa Mosque. All these things are the reason behind starting this battle,”* he said. Though nobody can support the Hamas attacks directed against civilian people in Israel, what Israel is doing in its reprisal is a most barbaric punishment of the entire Palestinian population which amounts to genocide.

It is pertinent to mention that Israel has been maintaining a land, sea and air blockade on Gaza since 2007, a year after Hamas was democratically elected into power in Palestinian election. Apart from border controls, Israel has demolished homes, imposed curfews, created roadblocks, confiscated personal property, destroyed agricultural land and water systems. Moreover, there is continuous attempts by the Zionist Israeli regime to assassinate leaders and activists of the Hamas. The effects of its 16-year blockade has created unemployment rates of more than 45 percent, one of the highest in the world. Only 13 hours of electricity per day which was hitherto available to residents in Gaza, is also now withdrawn.

So, we find that no sooner than Hamas began its war of resistance, Israel which has long been illegally occupying large Palestinian territory and continuing military assault on the Palestinian people, economic blockade and worst kind of apartheid regime by driving the people into smaller and smaller ghetto type places while spreading Zionist settlements unabatedly, began pounding the Palestinian enclave of Gaza, now controlled by Hamas, killing thousands of people, including children, women and aged, in one of the most barbaric attacks in its history. Having ordered over two million people to evacuate to the southern part, where there is no food, water or shelter, Israeli incessant air attacks and shelling aimed at houses and apartment buildings have wrought widespread destruction in Gaza’s refugee camp of Jabalia, where charred bodies were pulled from the rubble and

relatives wailed in grief, and displaced over 10 lakh Palestinians in northern Gaza, with nowhere to go, locked within the southern Gaza Strip, where conditions are already horrendous under blockade. While Netanyahu, the most corrupt and fascist autocratic prime minister of Israel who has long been facing massive mass protest in his own country for butchering democracy and abolishing judicial autonomy, declared that after “first phase” of retaliation, there will be large scale “offensive formation,” his Defence Minister did not mince matter to say: *“I have ordered a complete siege on the Gaza Strip. There will be no electricity, no food, no fuel, no medicine, everything is closed. We are fighting human animals, and we are acting accordingly... Like in the Warsaw Ghetto of 1943 (where thousands of innocent Jewish civilians were mercilessly killed by the Nazis)”*, it will be “Gaza ghetto. That means, once there was massacre of lakhs of innocent jews by the Nazis and now Zionists are doing the same thing with the innocent Palestinian people. Though as a gesture, Hamas freed two Israeli citizens taken by them into captivity and conveyed willingness to “all political dialogues” over a possible truce with Israel, US has reiterated on 23 October last its rejection of calls for a cease-fire in Gaza, arguing that such an action would afford the Palestinian group Hamas an opportunity to regroup and prepare for further attacks against Israel.

Task of the anti-war peace-loving world people

The attack of Hamas on Israel is, therefore, to be viewed as a part of resistance movement of the persecuted and tortured Palestinians howsoever aloud be the US imperialism, Zionist Israel and their allies in portraying the attack as a terrorist one. One cannot be oblivious of the fact that the Palestinian people have remained subjugated illegitimately for over 75 years and have every right to free their motherland from alien occupation. Equating Hamas’ attack on Israel can in no way be said a war of aggression. But the ferocious and inhuman counter-attack of a mighty military state like Israel is nothing but genocide, or even ethnic cleansing or mass extermination of an entire nationality. It is

an attempt for a total erasing of Palestine from the world by an apartheid state and illegal occupier that has implemented the most inhumane open-air incarceration system on earth. If one logs on to Apple, Google or any other digital map and type “Palestine”, one will not find it. One would only find Israel. If one is lucky, one may be directed to a small patchwork of what is called “Palestinian Territories” firmly embedded inside Israel lest anyone should mistakenly think it is an independent nation-state. What is imperative to keep in mind is that had the mighty Soviet Union and the socialist bloc existed, the imperialist war-mongers could never dare to unleash such a diabolic war aimed at ethnic cleansing. It is in the unipolar world that they are thumping around with their lethal mission unbridled. Notably, India, now an imperialist country by all counts, was first to declare that it firmly stands by Israel as it is out of its aspiration to establish itself as a global superpower is now definitely tilted towards US imperialism. But at the same time, since ruling Indian monopolists have a big commercial stake in the Middle East, the BJP government subservient to their class interest cannot afford to antagonize the Arab countries almost all of whom are in support for Palestine. So, within no time, Indian government issued a statement which, without naming Israel, only talked about the “obligation to observe international humanitarian law”. The only attempt at striking a balance came from mentioning the need to resume talks to establish a “viable State of Palestine” and alongside, rushing aids to war-ravaged Palestine. But even as heavy airstrikes accompanied Israel’s announcement of “expanded” ground operations in the Gaza strip and the number of Palestinians killed by the Israeli military nearing 10, 000, India abstained on a resolution adopted by the UN General Assembly calling for a humanitarian truce, choosing not to back the international community’s demand that there be an immediate halt to the violence. Thus, India virtually endorsed the war cry and war crimes of Israel and US and clearly acted against the glorious anti-imperialist tradition of Indian people.

Can the anti-war peace-loving people of the world remain a mute spectator to such a ghastly crime of a criminal state like Israel

and disregard the waking up to the reality by the Palestinian people that the homeland of their parents is sought to be wiped out. Surely not. It is heartening to note that a spate of spontaneous rallies in support of Palestine decrying Israel-led carnage is surging forth in various countries of Europe, Middle East, US and Asia. But these sporadic agitations are to be given an organizational shape, led along the right track under correct revolutionary leadership, and are to be properly coordinated if desired outcome is to be materialized. In absence of mighty socialist camp which once was the bulwark against imperialist war machination, a united action of all anti-imperialist, anti-war, peace-loving people round the world can alone be the deterrent to generation of war by the imperialists. They all must close their rank, raise united voice against the ghastly crime being committed by US-backed Israel, stand in solidarity with the Palestinians fighting justly for their homeland, develop a powerful well-coordinated anti-imperialist movement round the globe and compel the Israeli government to immediately take its hands off Palestine, release the forcibly occupied areas on Palestinian land forthwith and recognize an independent sovereign state of Palestine at in right earnest.

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Syria—latest hotbed of imperialist machination of engineering regime change

War-torn Middle East has another worrying development worth reckoning. Hitherto, Zionist Israel with the backing of US imperialism and its allies has been upending the fragile equilibrium in the Middle East by conducting wars of aggression against Palestine and Lebanon. Now, Hai'at Tahrir al-Sham (HTS) (Syria Liberation Committee), backed by the US, Israel and Turkey, took over Syrian capital Damascus on 9 December last with least resistance and overthrew the government of President Bashar al-Assad. Alongside, Israel had launched more than 480 strikes against Syrian arms depots and is now pushing troops well beyond the demilitarized buffer zone extending from the Golan Heights which it has been occupying since 1967. Not only US, even UK Foreign Secretary David Lammy has defended Israel's extensive bombing of Syria by saying Israel had "legitimate" concerns. Assad is stated to have fled to Russia seeking asylum there.

Syria on the cusp of war from 2011

Before focusing further on current developments, it may be necessary to recapitulate that since 2011, Syria has been goaded into a gruesome battle between the Assad government, its army and security forces and US- backed so-called 'Free Syrian Army' (FSA), Al Qaeda elements and others. The pattern followed in Syria by US imperialism and its allies is very similar to that adopted in Iraq or Libya i.e. aggression based on fabricated pretext. Since President Assad has long been refusing to bow down before US dictums, the US imperialists and its allies created 'Free Syrian Army' (FSA), fed it with all aids and assistance to start a movement, under the cover of a so called movement for democracy, with a declared

demand for ouster of the President Assad. FSA has clearly been an outfit whose 'nerve centre' was reportedly located at a secret base in Adana province in Turkey near its border with Syria, adjacent to the US military base of Incirlik. Alongside, with a view to enfeebling Assad, they went on financing, training and arming terrorist insurgents and tens of thousands of mercenaries like al Qaeda terrorists, recruits of Jihadist fanatics, etc., operative within Syria. Over 10,000 mercenaries were sent to Aleppo, the second largest city of Syria, as part of that design. Even the US media finally acknowledged that Al Qaeda and its ally Salafist fighters had infiltrated Syrian land from the neighbouring countries. Clerics and the fundamentalist Sheikhs of Turkey and Saudi Arabia, the US allies, have been spitting venom against the 'heretical' Syrian government and urged young Syrians to turn Syria into another Afghanistan. Following that, US and Turkish mercenary and terrorist forces succeeded in taking control of one-third of Syrian territory, mostly the oil-rich and agricultural bases. The Syrian civil war perpetrated by the US-Israel duo and their allies took the lives of more than 3,50,000 and displaced at least 1.3 crore Syrians.

In spite of planting 'rebels' and so-called insurgents, they could neither topple the Assad government, nor could elicit any leniency from Assad. For, Russia, now turned an imperialist country like China after counter-revolution, was equally interested to pursue its hegemonic interest in the Middle East, including Syria, and was trying to build up a counter-axis in that region with Iran. Russia has been a staunch defender of the Assad government and protected it so far with its military might.

Hence, US imperialism's ploy to take full control of Syria had stagnated so far. So, it planned to hit hard at the economy of Syria by imposing draconian sanctions, another act of war. These sanctions were purported to deny vital services, to starve the population and to hollow out the Syrian economy until it collapsed. On the other hand, imperialist Russia, to prioritize its own class interest, had sought to develop an insulated and self-sustaining ecosystem for Syria by supplying food, clothes and medicines. Russia also sought to thwart flow of aid from US and its allies through UN proposals since it held that such aid was

aimed at establishing US dominance in Syria.

Thus, it can be observed that Syria became a hotbed of imperialist-imperialist contradiction centring on extending sphere of influence in foreign territory.

What caused collapse of Assad government

But now Russia and Iran, hitherto defending Assad both militarily and diplomatically, are in tight corner. Russia is stretched too thin to fight in Ukraine and Syria, and Iran has clearly taken a hit after a year of conflict with Israel and the US.

Moreover, notwithstanding its consistent anti-US imperialist, anti-Israel stand and making every effort to frustrate their heinous design of destabilizing the country, there is no denying the fact that Syria under Assad has been a unitary semi-presidential republic or a bourgeois dictatorship regime and hence no less repressive. Obviously, people there have also been subject to bourgeois oppression and exploitation. Like all other ruling bourgeoisie in the capitalist countries, the Syrian bourgeoisie also, in decadent moribund capitalism, cannot and could not fulfil the democratic aspirations of their people.

As a result, economic distress mounted menacingly. The country's GDP contracted by over 60 percent from 2011 to 2021 alone. Unemployment has exceeded 50 percent. Consumer price inflation is estimated to have risen by 93%. Over 90 percent of the population lives below the poverty line, surviving on less than \$2 a day. According to a 2023 survey, around 11 percent of families in the Aleppo area reported that their children were engaged in labour, primarily due to insufficient household income. Hyperinflation, exacerbated by US sanctions and a banking crisis in neighbouring Lebanon – also caused by US sanctions – has plunged millions into destitution. In 2023, the Syrian pound depreciated by 141% against the U.S. dollar.

So, there did exist grievances among the Syrian people who were so demoralized with the regime that they no longer cared whether the Assad rule had stayed or was overpowered. Many Syrians nurtured a belief that the Assad government would be able

to repel the HTS onslaught. But much to their disappointment, Russia clearly backed out and even highly skilled Republican Guards tamely surrendered to the rebels. This also showed how low the morale of the Assad army ebbed once Russian and Iranian support ceased to be available. Hence, the mood of the majority of the Syrians has been just opposite to what was seen during the civil war orchestrated by the US-led imperialist powers in the earlier period. At that time, the majority of the population swung behind the Assad regime to oppose the jihadi fundamentalists. With people having been sunk into such despondency, and with hitherto available support of Russia and Iran eluding, the jihadis like HTS could launch a sweeping offensive that captured swaths of territory cutting through the important cities like Aleppo and Damascus and creating the opportunity for ousting President Bashar al-Assad with relative ease. Seizing this opportunity, US lobby went full throttle to edge out Assad.

Why US imperialists were so eager to overrun Syria

Next point is, why were the US imperialist hegemon and their allies hell-bent to dislodge President Assad? Syria, unlike Iran or Iraq, is not a major crude oil producing country. But both Saudi Arabia and Iraq oil pipelines have gone through Syrian deserts. Secondly, the world's largest known natural gas reservoir sits in the middle of the Persian Gulf straddling part in the territorial waters of Qatar and part in Iran. In July 2011, the governments of Syria, Iran and Iraq signed a historic gas pipeline energy agreement. The proposed pipeline was to run from the Iranian Port Assalouyeh in the Persian Gulf to Damascus in Syria via Iraq territory. This agreement was envisioned to be a geopolitically strategic space extending from Iran to Iraq, Syria and Lebanon. Shortly after signing the agreement, Syria announced discovery of a gas well in its area of Qarahand. Gazprom, a large Russian company in the business of extraction, production, transport, and sale of natural gas, was chosen to be a major investor or operator of these newly discovered gas fields in Syria. Further, European Union (EU) is the world's largest market for gas. Iran, which also

has gas fields, had planned to extend the pipeline from Damascus to Lebanon's Mediterranean to cater to the huge EU market.

This did not go well with the US imperialist rulers having a hawk's eye on these crucial natural resources and the oil transportation network for long. But they could not manage to bring Assad under their fold. The US monopolists, giant oil multinationals and banks—who constitute the ruling class of the US imperialist state—feared that if Russian imperialism stabilizes its presence in Syria and takes control of its natural resources and pipeline network, US economic-political strategies in the Middle East would be severely affected much to the detriment of their class interest. They also apprehended that if US interests are jeopardized there and US military is compelled to pull out from the region, it would benefit imperialist Russia and China that have appeared as major contenders in the global capitalist market. Also, they thought, it might strengthen the position of Iran, another formidable anti-US pro-Russia regime in West Asia. So, has grown the 'imperativeness' on their part to overrun Syria and plant a client regime there.

HTS and its objective

HTS which has now seized power in Syria has evolved from Jabhat al-Nusra, the Syrian branch of al-Qaeda which has been the biggest beneficiary of the grooming programme of CIA and Mossad (Israel's espionage agency). In fact, HTS traces its roots back to notorious terrorist outfit Islamic State (IS) and the international Islamist Al Qaeda network. Mohammed al-Bashir, having close ties with HTS, has now been appointed caretaker prime minister of the transitional Syrian government until 1 March 2025. There are unmistakable indications that HTS wants to impose on Syria an Islamic theocracy. The word democracy is totally absent in all interviews with and statements from the HTS. The US, Turkey, Saudi Arabia and Turkey have admitted providing "non-lethal" support to the Syrian militant groups.

US ties with HTS laid bare

Expectedly, the US and the European Union have welcomed the collapse of the al-Assad regime. Both see it as a major blow

to Russia, as well as Iran. US, which hitherto branded HTS as a terrorist organization, is reported to be holding discussions on whether to remove the foreign “terrorist” designation from HTS. The sanitized language of pro-imperialist media lauding Israel’s blood-soaked regime as the ‘only democracy in the Middle East’ and ‘Syrian rebels’ as ‘moderates’ has helped HTS launder its reputation. And the Western imperialist bloc which denounces anti-Israel Hamas (Palestine), Huthi (Yemen) and Hezbollah (Lebanon), as ‘barbaric groups’ portray HTS, armed and funded by notorious CIA, as a respectable outfit fighting against oppression and injustice. Also, Turkish President Erdogan, who has never been shy of flirting with Islamic fundamentalists and is stated to have connived in overthrowing Assad government, will now be able to exert influence over a territorial corridor that links Europe and the Gulf through Syria.

Israeli concern about HTS

Though HTS and other jihadi groups have thrown out Assad government, it has come out in the media that the Israeli government does not seem to be comfortable with the regime change in Syria. Why so? Perhaps it has seen how the strategy of fostering “controlled chaos” by it in alliance with US has unleashed forces that escaped their control. The rise of IS and the proliferation of jihadist factions are testaments to the extreme cynicism of the imperialists that they would rather drag the region down the path of barbarism than concede their domination over it. So, Israeli rulers might be apprehending that the new governing dispensation in Syria might slip out of their control and exhibit greater solidarity with the Palestinians and others. Perhaps to forestall such an eventuality, Israeli army has been conducting a massive aerial bombardment of all of Syria, seeking to destroy the Syrian strategic arms reserve.

Inalienable right of people to choose their own regime

But the growing plight and penury of the people by no means authorizes any imperialist power or any reactionary pro-imperialist

force like Zionist Israel to interfere and stimulate dissention with a view to bringing about a regime change and installing a puppet government composed of reactionaries favoured by them. It is the inalienable right of the people of any country to choose their own regime and no foreign power should illegally and unauthorizedly interfere in the internal affairs of any sovereign country, let alone bring down military assault. Syria must be left to the Syrians to decide the course that people of that land would follow.

Lessons

The lesson to be drawn from Syrian example is that until the reactionary conspiracy that the US-Israel combination and their associates have hatched is foiled, it will continue to spread its poison throughout the Middle East and beyond. Next learning is that the suffering masses cannot rely on any capitalist regime to defend their interests in the fight against imperialism. They need to struggle for emancipation by giving birth to revolutionary leadership and treading along the correct base political path. Till that time, free and fair elections with the full participation of all political groups under a new secular democratic constitution that enshrines equal citizenship for all and the complete dissolution of all armed militias under proper impartial UN supervision are the only way out from decades of turbulence in the country. Given the equivocations and one-upmanship of the HTS in the past week, it is amply clear that they will not countenance giving an inch of political space to communities that they often described as heretics, blasphemers and apostates.

US imperialists, Hands off Syria

The situation indeed is explosive. The cruelty and inhumanity of the US imperialists for fixing their tight grip have been boundless. The US along with its camp-followers in Europe and its gendarme in the Middle East, Zionist Israel, Saudi Arabia and their cohorts have turned the entire Middle-East into a killing field. Afghanistan, Palestine, Iraq, Libya, Yemen, Syria—who knows who comes next to witness imperialist fury and carnage of unprecedented dimension; how many innocent citizens, including

women and children, would be mercilessly killed, how many would be maimed, how much of property would be destroyed. With sad dismantling of socialist bloc and both Russia and China turning into imperialist powers, the US-Israel brigandage is undeterred. On the other hand, Russia and China are also hunting for opportunity to pursue their own imperialist aspirations.

And who bears the brunt of this imperialist war machinations and overlordism? Obviously the common people. While they are left half-starved, sunk in abject poverty and misery, the bourgeois governments spend public money from the exchequers for manufacturing lethal weapons which then are used against the people. While the imperialist-capitalist rulers and their war-merchants multiply their wealth, the innocent hapless people pay the price by losing life and property. So, the only alternative for people is to rise up. The toiling millions of different imperialist-capitalist countries need to spearhead in right earnest revolutionary working class struggle against their respective bourgeois rule by developing correct revolutionary party and leadership. As against the unholy nexus and alliance of the oppressive imperialist-capitalist powers, unity and fraternity among the toiling people and emergence of people's power is the crying need of the hour. Alongside, in absence of the mighty Socialist Bloc that once could restrain the imperialist brigands from doing whatever they wanted, the bulwark of resistance needs to be created by exerting pressure of worldwide organized militant anti-imperialist movement. United, sustained and well-coordinated anti-imperialist, anti-war militant peace movements with the communists at the core ought to be developed in every nook and corner of the world with a view to creating a powerful pressure upon the war-monger US imperialists and their associates to immediately withdraw from Syria and for that matter, every occupied as well as war-torn region. That struggle will not only encourage the struggle of Syrian people against US intervention, together it will also enhance their cause. Let the toiling people of the world unite and unanimously raise the slogan — US imperialists! Hands off Syria!!

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