

Against the world crisis of capitalism

Workers of all countries, unite!

Socialist revolution! Workers' power!

FROM THE "END OF HISTORY" TO THE COLLAPSE OF WORLD CAPITALISM

Twenty years ago, the reactionary parties and the bourgeois ideologists were carrying through. They were declaring the final collapse of communism and even the end of history; they were resting upon mass unemployment and the defeats that were suffered by the world proletariat: defeat of the British miners' strike, privatizations of public firms in capitalist countries, German reunification on the behalf of the bourgeoisie, implosion of USSR, capitalist turn in China...

The world revolutionary wave in the late sixties and in the seventies was threatening both the bourgeoisies, in the imperialist countries and in the dominated capitalist countries, and the bureaucracies in countries having expropriated capital. The wave had to surge back, betrayed by social-democracy, by Stalinism and by petit-bourgeois nationalism. Yet the increase in the rate of exploitation in imperialist countries, the reintroduction of Eastern Europe, Russia, China and Vietnam in the world capitalist economy after the restoration of capitalism by the Stalinist bureaucracies, and the abundance of cash supplied by the central banks only allowed a reprieve to fading capitalism. Its weakness had been revealed through permanent monetary, banking and economic crises. The contradictions broke out in June 2008, as a banking crisis in the center of the world economy, in the United States, to turn to a crisis without equivalent since 1929.

The basic needs of humanity are not satisfied but, within the capitalist mode of production, there are suddenly too many commodities, too many means of production, too many producers... As soon as 2010, there may be 25 million additional unemployed people, not including 20 million illegal workers who went back to their original village in China. According to the World Bank president, "between 200 000 and 400 000 more babies could die each year". The threshold of one billion starving people will be widely exceeded in 2009.

NO COUNTRY IS SPARED BY THE CAPITALIST CRISIS

The world trade falls more quickly than in 1929-1930: it should drop by 13.2% in 2009. On the 22nd of April, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) assessed that the world production should fall by 1.3% in 2009, and that the cost of the world economic crisis should reach the incredible amount of 4 054 billion dollars.

The ruled countries, especially the poorest, seriously suffer from the slump through the joint fall of their exports, of the income transfer from the expatriates, of the foreign investment.

Among the "emerging markets", the Central European States, who entered the European Union, are particularly hit and must require help from IMF. The fall in the price of oil and gas particularly harms Russia. Dmitry Medvedev announced a 44 billion roubles plan (one billion euros) in order to boost the Russian economy, including some infrastructure projects, at a time when redundancies are multiplying at an amazing rate. In China, unemployment, this typical evil of capitalism, takes more and more impressive levels. Hu Jintao also resorted to the recipes proposed by the bourgeois economist Keynes, namely a fall in the rates of the China Central Bank and a 1 600 billion dollars "boosting plan" (leading to a budget deficit). Such measures aim to keep growth rate at 6%, which is still the lowest figure since 1992.

According to the OECD, advanced countries are "in the midst of the deepest and largest recession for more than fifty years". It forecasts a 4.3% fall in the GDP in 2009 for the 30 richest countries, including the United States, which GDP should drop by 4% this year. Germany is also seriously hit, with a -5.3% forecast. Britain, France and Italy are not in a better layout (respectively -3.7%, -3.3%, -4.3%). The Japan economy should fall by 6.6%...

G20: EVERYONE FOR ITSELF

The capitalist states are structurally unable to get along each other. They represent the national bourgeoisies which are in competition against each other for exploiting the world proletariat. In view of the crisis, each State then tries to favour its own bourgeoisie against the others, whereas at the same time the capitalist economy is more international than ever, since each economy depends on others through imports and exports, all the big firms (and even some smaller firms) became "transnational". Many States have resorted to protectionist measures which finally deepen the depression. They adopt "recovery plans" on a national basis: 34 billion euros in France, 100 billion in Germany, 590 billion in Japan, 627 billion in United States, 465 billion then 1 162 billion in China...

During the last G20 in London in early April, Obama admitted: "We're not going to agree on every point". This reflects the weakening of the main imperialism because the United States, even if they keep a military supremacy and use it fully, have lost the economic hegemony they had at the end of the Second World War, when they were able to fund the reconstruction of the capitalist economies in Japan and in Western Europe, together with the implementation of a relatively stable international monetary system based on the dollar.

China, which (almost) explicit aim is to become an imperialist power, claimed that the role of the American dollar in the world trade should be ended. The German and the French imperialisms, respectively represented by Angela Merkel and by Nicolas Sarkozy, opposed, in diplomatic terms, to the American imperialism, which was helped by the British imperialism. Whereas Obama and Brown requested for a higher recovery effort by Germany, which exports are the most important in the world, Sarkozy and Merkel officially supported a “better regulation of finance”, to the prejudice of New York and London Stock Exchanges. In both cases, it amounts to look for better conditions for accumulating capital.

MILITARISM, NATIONAL OPPRESSION, CLERICALISM...

Such an inter-imperialist meeting mobilized 2 500 policemen. A passer-by was killed. Thousands of people were jailed for hours without any charge. The bourgeoisie stopped to be a progressive class a long time ago. Everywhere in the world, agents for repression and intervention are spared by the crisis. The democratic liberties are drastically cut. Exploiting classes resort more and more to nationalism, to the prejudice of national minorities and of migrants, to clericalism, to the prejudice of the rights of the women, of the young people, of the homosexuals, of the religious minorities.

The capitalist violence did not stop with the crisis, on the contrary. Obama keeps up the embargo against Cuba and he increases the number of occupation troops in Afghanistan, in requesting help from its NATO allies –they all promise that they will give it but a very few are hurrying up for it. Islam, which in the past was propelled by the United States against the revolution and against USSR, and from which Al-Qaida is an outcome, is turning back against them in Pakistan too, a State which is originally-based on religion and which is threatened by another division. The Russian government restores Christianity as a State religion, keeps its domination on Chechenia and makes pressure on many neighbouring States. The Chinese power allows a huge regression in women’s condition, it maintains a fierce police repression and it tramples on the rights of national minorities. The Sri Lankan government currently achieves the reunification of the island through military violence, especially against the Tamil minority. Earlier in the year Israel, not happy enough with the continuation of West bank and of Jerusalem, bombed and invaded Gaza strip, in collusion with the imperialist powers, with Egypt and even with Palestinian National Authority. In Bolivia, a reactionary and former colonial fraction of the bourgeoisie threatens to withdraw from the country.

FOR THE PERMANENT REVOLUTION, FOR A REVOLUTIONARY WORKERS’ INTERNATIONAL

Workers from the cities and from the countryside resist against the landowners and against the capitalist bourgeoisie which, under the pressure of the economic crisis, becomes more and more aggressive. Yet, in many countries, unions that are independent from the bourgeois State are forbidden and the workers do not even have a party. Where they exist, the organizations of the working class, both parties and unions, are too often related to the bourgeoisie for being used as an efficient tool for the proletariat. Besides, the “reformist” bureaucracies, in defending their own bourgeoisie, which itself faces other bourgeoisies, opposes the proletariat of a country against the proletariat of other countries, and within the same country, against the migrant proletarians and against the national minorities.

The real fight against the disastrous effects of the world capitalist crisis (and against the increasing threats of the capitalist restoration in Cuba) commands class struggle. It requests the workers’ united front against the policies of class collaboration and of division that are led by the capitulating and opportunistic leaderships, with the implementation of democratic workers’ and people’s organs (Soviets, Councils, Shoras, Popular assemblies...) and the building of a workers’ revolutionary international with a democratic functioning, resulting in every State into a workers’ revolutionary party based on the teachings by Marx, Engels, Luxemburg, Lenin and Trotsky. Without such parties which would be able to mobilize the whole strength of the working class and of its allies (poor peasants, students, unemployed, oppressed ethnic groups...), the workers will only have partial and temporary victories or will suffer defeats, because of the likely betrayal of the petit-bourgeois nationalist, reformist leaderships, with the help of the centrists.

Only such a communist and internationalist party will be able to arm the masses in order to take the power. Only a workers’ government (or a workers and peasants’ government, according to the countries) will be able to expropriate the expropriators, to take the necessary political and economic measures for satisfying the needs of the population, together with respecting the resources that are supplied by the nature, to lead the transition to socialism which will be definitive only after the victory of the revolution in advanced countries.

Close-up of imperialist military bases, including Guantanamo, immediate withdrawal of all imperialist troops from Iraq, from Afghanistan, from Lebanon, from Chad, from Kosovo...! Abrogation of all acts against migrant workers, against strikes, against unions, against workers’ parties! General strike against the bourgeoisies and their States! Expropriation of the large land properties, of the banks and of the large capitalist groups! Self-organization of the workers, workers and peasants’ government, world Republic of the workers’ councils!

1st of May 2009

Permanente Revolution Collective