

# Bulletin

1/15

*Information for revolutionary and communist forces of all countries*

Excerpts and synopsis from the publications by "Gegen die Strömung" - Organ for the Building of the Revolutionary Communist Party of Germany:  
January - April 2015



Appears in ENGLISH, French, Italian, Spanish and Turkish



*The subject of the January leaflet was:*

## **On the Murder of Jewish People and Left-Wing Satirists by Fascist Mercenaries in Paris**

"In recent days and weeks the events in Paris have dominated the media. It was clear to some at least that it was a military operation carried out by fascist mercenaries. These fascist mercenaries murdered the editors of a left-wing satirical magazine in the middle of Paris on the orders of large mercenary groups under the pretext that they didn't like a particular cartoon. They simultaneously attacked a kosher Jewish supermarket and murdered four hostages there on a consciously anti-Semitic basis.

### **Who Are the Murderers?**

The enormous global confrontations between imperial great powers and the consequent accelerated break-up of certain power constellations has led to and is still leading to the emergence of a range of different mercenary armies, especially in parts of the Middle East and in Africa, from Libya through Syria to the Lebanon and Iraq. These mercenary armies finance themselves by means of acts of robbery right up to the occupation of oil fields. But primarily they are being financed by various large reactionary states (Saudi-Arabia, Iran, Qatar) which are in turn dependent on and supported by the imperial great powers, including above all Germany. This situation has increasingly resulted in the various mercenary armies cloaking themselves in religious ideology in order to gain publicity and win new recruits, and thus creating the impression that they are leading a struggle in the "name of Islam".

The idea that the statements that people make about

themselves are true and not lies is clearly always wrong in the case of criminals, fascist mercenaries and imperialist politicians.

It only serves a reactionary purpose if these murderous and mercenary groups are given the label of "Islamist". By that logic it would have been possible to call the Nazi fascists "Christianist", because they often made reference to the Christian religion. ...."

### **Those who talk of "Islamists" stoke hatred against Muslims**

"The fact that the term 'Islamists' nevertheless continues to be used has a clear reason. Hatred and division is consciously being incited amongst the population of all countries, especially in Western Europe – and especially amongst the lowest strata of the population. Sometimes it's done more through nationalism, sometimes more through racism, but increasingly with pseudo-religious arguments. The term 'Islamists' in itself implies hatred against Islam and against Muslims, for it clearly implies a link between Islam, Muslims and the fascist mercenary groups, even though no causal relationship exists. At the same time it is hypocritically claimed that it's supposedly not a question of being against the Muslim population of Germany or France, but just against the 'Islamists'. The choice of word alone reveals the hypocrisy of such thinking."

*The following section "On the Pegida Movement: Not all Nazis" discussed the large demonstrations of up to 25,000 people in Dresden, which many have*

refused to describe as what they really are: organised Nazis.

*The role of the bourgeois media was criticised, which have contributed strongly to publicising and making the Pegida movement respectable by describing them dishonestly as simply 'critical of Islam'.*

*It was made clear that the large majority of the participants of the "Pegida" demonstrations are a part of the current potential of the Nazi movement, as they apparently accept the close working relationship between the organisers of the demonstrations and the Nazis, as well as the basic ideas and actions of the Nazis. The section closed with the assertion:*

*„For the people threatened by the Nazis, for refugees, for people whose skin colour is not white or for Muslims in Dresden it is quite clear that 'Pegida' is a Nazi movement, which doesn't just racially abuse but also physically threatens and terrorises all of those that it sees as non-German.”*

***The section “The Drive towards Fascistization of the state” emphasised:***

*“One of the side-effects of the murderous attacks in Paris is that more and more sympathy is being evoked amongst the population for increased fascist tendencies in the state apparatus: the abolition of further democratic rights, further restrictions on the right to asylum, comprehensive surveillance, further armament of the police and military apparatus for the fight against so-called ‘international terrorism’ – in other words for imperialist intervention in other countries. All of this is justified on the apparently plausible grounds that fascist mercenaries are committing murder. ...”*

*The subject of the leaflet for February/March was:*

### **On the Anniversary of the Paris Commune of 18 March 1871**

### **Learn the Lessons from the Fight of the Paris Commune!**

*“On 18 March 1871 the workers of Paris had risen in an armed revolution against the Bourgeoisie, smashed their state with force and – for the first time in history – established their own revolutionary state power. It was a declaration of war against the entire old world of exploitation. Before the eyes of the world the Paris Commune showed, through its very existence and the measures it took - even if they were sometimes inconsistent and incomplete - the path and the goal of liberation from capitalist exploitation. It was against this that the rulers of the old world railed and against which they launched their armed counter-revolution.*

*The section „Freedom of expression for Nazi cartoons?” emphasised that there can be no right to Nazi propaganda and no right to the spreading of Nazi propaganda dressed up as satire or caricature.*

***The section “On the Mohammed Cartoons and the Issue of Religious Criticism” focussed on:***

*“The abstract demand that all religions should be able to be criticised equally means to skip any analysis of the groups of people who belong to these religious communities and particularly the question of whether they are oppressed minorities, or whether the religion being criticised is a state religion which serves the needs of the oppressors in securing their rule. For example, the Islamic religion in Germany is primarily a religion of oppressed minorities who are being oppressed by German imperialism and its state and by a chauvinistic Christian-German mongering. By contrast Islam is the state religion in Iran and there serves to shore up the rule of the reactionary Iranian regime.”*

*The pamphlet ended with the demand that:*

*“The primary task is to show solidarity, every day, on the street and in the workplace, with the Muslims and Jews in Germany being threatened by state attacks, by hatred and death threats. It is necessary that we clearly separate justified criticism of religion from fascist agitation, and to fight against the latter. And we also need to work on the long-term task of resolutely opposing the various Nazi organisations, Nazi movements and fascist mercenaries, irrespective of where they come from, what they call themselves or how they describe themselves.”*

*The leaflet consisted of two pages of A4.*

The anniversary of the Paris commune was mentioned on some of the leaflets and banners on the demonstration against the European Central Bank (on 18 March 2015 in Frankfurt) – although there was no mention of the struggles and the goals of the Commune.

In the following section we want to discuss three important lessons of the Paris commune which merit closer examination - especially considering the current positions taken within the groups which played a leading role in organising the protests in Frankfurt on 18 March.”

*In the sections*

- International Solidarity or “Building a Common European Movement”?
- Smashing the Capitalist State Apparatus or Fostering Illusions in that State?
- The Revolutionary State as an Instrument for the Destruction of Capitalism or Revisionist Claptrap about ‘Overcoming Capitalism’?

*the revolutionary struggle of the Communards of Paris was compared with the chauvinistic and reformist po-*

*The leaflet for April-May was on the subject of:*

*sitions of the present-day Blockupy movement. Finally it was emphasised:*

“In our opinion the revolutionary experiences of the Paris Commune are an indispensable reference point for all comrades who are struggling for revolution and communism. On the other hand, ignorance and disregard for the Paris Commune has always been typical of people whose basic principle is: anything but a genuine revolution.”

The leaflet consisted of 2 pages of A4.

### 1 and 8 May 1945 – 70 Years after the Victory over Nazi-Fascism:

## German Imperialism Presenting Itself Ever More Boldly as the Winner of history!

“Today, in May 2015, the representatives of German imperialism are behaving with an unparalleled overbearing arrogance. Every question facing the world today is energetically met by them with suggestions of imperialist intervention accompanied by sweet-sounding phrases about their increasing role in the world, supposedly in the service of ‘building peace’.

The representatives of German imperialism variously abuse the populations of different countries according to circumstances and in the process reject the payment of reparations to those countries and peoples attacked and plundered by German imperialism. The German imperialists behave like an appalling predator which has already triggered two world wars and which has carried out innumerable massacres - and also genocides - since its foundation.”

### Two-Plus-Four Agreement Instead of a Peace Agreement, in order to Avoid Reparations!

“At the moment it’s mainly the Greek population which is feeling the arrogance of the German masters. Their daily lives are scarred by the current policies of German imperialism. Protest and resistance of large sections of the Greek population, fuelled by their justified anger and their justified outrage against German imperialism, have forced the representatives of the ruling class in Greece to pose the question to the government of the German Republic: You’re demanding repayment of these debts? But you yourselves have never repaid your debts to Greece!

... The demand for reparations for Greece and the repayment of forced credits made to the Nazis, triggered by the anger of large parts of the Greek population, has

caused a certain nervousness amongst the ruling class in Germany and led them to ever more brazen lies. They assert that all such issues ‘were resolved in the German peace treaty.’”

*The following section explained that this assertion is a lie. Under the pretext that there were two German states and that a general peace treaty could only be signed after their reunion, a German peace treaty was never signed after the Second World War. But after the annexation of the GDR, the reunited Germany then signed not a peace treaty but the so-called ‘Two-Plus-Four’ Agreement (East and West Germany plus the occupying powers: the USA, the UK, France and the Soviet Union) in order to avoid justified claims for reparations.*

### The 8 May 1945: A World Historic Victory over German Imperialism and Nazi Fascism

*This section explained that German imperialism and its economic, political and strategic influence in the world is in a stronger position today than in 1945 and showed how this could happen.*

*After the end of the Second World War there was a real perspective that the democratic and communist forces which had arisen in the anti-fascist struggle in the countries of Eastern Europe but also in Italy, France and in a part of Germany could strengthen and build anti-fascist Governments with the goal of destroying the last vestiges of Nazi-fascism and to overthrow capitalism.*

*Using the example of the GDR it was shown how the process of denazification was largely carried out in the early days after an initially democratic development*

*and with the support of the Red Army. In addition, large landowners, monopolies and practically all important branches of industry were expropriated. The section finished with the conclusion:*

“However, as a result of an increasingly opportunistic development and the break with scientific communism, these positive initiatives degenerated quickly to become a cover for the exploitation of the working population through the new exploiter and oppressor class in the GDR in the form of the ruling party bureaucracy. From the middle of the 1950s at the latest, the GDR became a deterrent example, becoming one of the factors which facilitate anti-communism today.”

### **The Return of German Imperialism**

*This section described the methods and the important stages of the comeback of German imperialism from the end of the Second World War until today. Through a series of steps between 1990 and 2015 German imperialism succeeded systematically and militarily in resuming an international role, launching military interventions in the Yugoslavian war of 1995-1999 and the war in Afghanistan since 2001.*

### **On the Situation in Germany on 1 May 2015**

„Germany on 1 May 2015 is characterised by a range of developments: the continuing murders around the NSU Nazi murder group, which is apparently now expanding to witnesses; the Nazi groups have been able to gain further strength through the nationalist, racist and Islamophobic so-called ‘Pegida’ movement; the rebuilding and expansion of the internal military and state apparatus; the worsening of conditions for the unemployed (Hartz IV) and the intensification of the working conditions in the workplaces for the broad mass of the working population. But there has been resistance to all of these developments.

There continues to exist a movement of youth directed against the Nazis and also partly attacking capitalism, and there are strikes oriented on the unions which are organised for short periods in various locations now and again. The aim of the union leadership in this is clearly to avoid anything ‘worse’ and to call off the fight as soon as possible. In addition to all of this there are still groups of activists, often linking up with the refugees in order to fight against the state terror of the police and of deportation.

So if we use the 1 May 2015 as opportunity to review the general situation, it shows a picture of a continuing fight against the Nazis and against the fascist tendencies in the state, and economic struggles for improved working conditions. But we can also see that all of these

movements have ebbed slightly and have hardly – if at all – developed a common line together. So all of these movements are largely separated from one another, which is damaging and which must – and will – change.

The decisive event of 2015 was the utilisation by the police of the Blockupy demonstration in Frankfurt for a civil war training exercise, together with the large size of the demonstration, which mobilised 20,000 people. On the streets it was mainly comrades from other countries who kept the police on their toes and who refused to let themselves be ‘peacefully’ beaten up. ....

... In this situation of discussions and of necessary new developments and orientation for the struggles of workers, the youth, and for all who are struggling against exploitation and oppression, against imperialism and capitalism, it was – and is – of special importance that the protesting sections of the population in Greece so clearly and explicitly pointed the finger at the crimes of German imperialism and at the fundamentally unchanged historical structures of German imperialism from the Nazi era through to German imperialism today.

The seventy years that lay between 1 May 2015 and 1 May 1945 were marked by struggles, victories and defeats. The international fight against German imperialism won a great victory on 8 May 1945 but German imperialism wasn’t destroyed for ever. 70 years later, the job of exposing, fighting and smashing German imperialism is more urgent than ever. This fight will be part of a worldwide movement of workers, oriented on the basic ideas of communism, who struggle together in solidarity worldwide.

May Day will once again become a worldwide day of struggle of the international working class. We need fight for this, for communism can and will defeat, smash and destroy imperialism.

*The leaflet consisted of 3 pages of A4 and also contained the following contributions:*

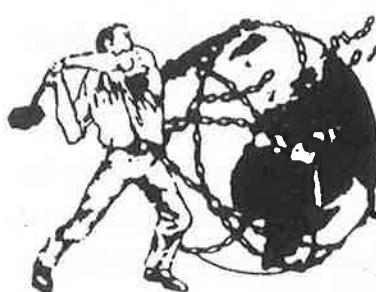
- **Poster:** Solidarity with the militant struggle of the workers in Greece!
- **Supplement:** Long Live Proletarian Internationalism! Highlights of the international struggles against imperialism and increased exploitation from the last 12 months.

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(\*Don’t underestimate intelligence services of all countries!)



Excerpts and synopsis from the publications by "Gegen die Strömung" - Organ for the Building of the Revolutionary Communist Party of Germany: June - July 20145



Appears in ENGLISH, French, Spanish and Turkish



*The subject of the leaflet of June - July 2015 was:*

*From Utopia to Science*

## Why Scientific Communism?

"For hundreds and thousands of years there have been utopian visions of a just life without exploitation and oppression. These utopian visions were built on an idealist morality, on religion and pious wishes.

For thousands of years people have struggled to understand the laws of nature in order to better understand the world and ultimately to have more security and to improve productivity. The principles of scientific investigation and understanding developed step by step and produced ever better results.

Several centuries after it had been clearly proven in a battle against clerical reaction that the earth was round and not flat, it was demonstrated in the early to middle part of the 19th century that complex structures and life-forms had developed out of the dynamism and development of the simplest forms reaching new stages at certain points, and that human life had evolved out of the animal world. Further, it was proven that the formation of the earth was not the result of a single act of creation, but rather a complicated process lasting millions of years.

These results, and the methods of research used to obtain them, were based increasingly on strict empirical research and produced proofs similar to or corresponding to those

of dialectical logic. Thus out of the vast amount of individual facts it was possible to develop an understanding of the inherent principles of physics, chemistry and biology. Science had advanced with a great leap forward, often without being consciously aware of the materialist and dialectical methods that had been applied.

The state of research into human history and modern society stood was different. There were admittedly impressive designs for an overarching history of humanity and its ideologies in which the development and the stages of history – and also the internal contradictions – played an important role (Hegel's dialectical method). Much material was ordered and subdivided, but the root cause of historical development, with the totality of its leaps and inner contradictions, was wrongly seen to be a history of an approach towards a world-ideal. History was written as a history of ideas and historians presented history as the history of important men and of their ideas and their wars.

Marx and Engels were born into this epoch and studied all the research that existed on the history of scientific theory, on scientific method as well as on philosophy and the theory of history. They were confronted with a

society of rising capitalism, with the experiences of the French Revolution of 1789 and with the developing revolutionary movements in other parts of Europe. They were also confronted with the visible primacy of the increased role of the economy, of the expanding industrialisation above all in England, with exploitation, oppression, with the expansion of the state apparatus and with the early manifestations of the militant movement of the proletarian class.

Through a critical evaluation of all available results of the research of their time, Marx and Engels were able to ascertain that the materialist-dialectical analysis of nature does not need to be restricted to nature itself, and that a materialist-dialectical analysis which takes into account the specific features of the history of humanity and contemporary societal formations, could deliver conclusive and solid results.

Through a scientific analysis of the contemporary forms of society Marx and Engels were able to work out the key to a scientific investigation and understanding of the history of humanity: scientifically speaking, history was not just a simple account of important men, of wars between peoples and great ideas. It became clear that an understanding of history required the investigation of the development of the struggle of humans with nature, of the general level of their technology and the instruments of production, of the degree of abilities and skills of the respective peoples, and needed to identify different stages in production (the forces of production). It became clear that an understanding of history meant not just that people interacted with things, with products, but that in the process of production people entered into particular relations with one another (the relations of production). At the core of these relations of production lie property relations, and the question of who has possession of the deci-

sive means of production.

After the end of primitive society, the decisive question was in whose hands lay the ever larger and more extensive instruments of production, the land and the raw materials to be found there (the means of production) and who as the ruling class had the possibility to set in motion the evolving state apparatus and in particular to give orders to selected armed groups of men and generally, the ability to rule.

The science of dialectical materialism, tested on nature, is not reserved to natural science. Marx and Engels broke from this prejudice and analysed the peculiarities of human society with the scientific rigour applied in the natural sciences. They demonstrated that history, after the end of primitive society in which there were not yet any classes, is a history of class struggle. And they explained that these class struggles had their origins in the respective level of productive forces and the associated relations of production, that is, in the overall process of production.

Historical materialism, as developed by Marx and Engels, shows that human history is a history of ascending forms of society:

- Slave society with class struggle between slaves and slaveholders (with the Spartacus slave revolt against the slave-based Roman empire as an outstanding event).
- Feudal society with class struggle between serfs and feudal lords (an outstanding example being the Peasant Wars against the feudal lords of 1523-1526 as well as above all the victorious French Revolution of 1789).
- Capitalist society, in which the proletarian class (proletariat), living in misery, exploited and oppressed, rises in daily struggle and revolts against the capitalist class.

Marx and Engels were also able to show that the development of both the legal and

political superstructure of the various forms of society, and the dominant ideas in a society, are the product and result of the material base of that society, of its process of production, its relations of production.

This historical materialism of Marx and Engels does not result from a contrived or arbitrary starting point but is the result of genuine, scientific analysis of the history of humanity. The thesis that the grounds for revolts, wars and conflicts were to be found in the “good” or “evil” character of important personalities, who apparently had to be studied in order to understand history, was disproved. For history was determined through the corresponding economic basis. And at each corresponding level of the economic base the agents, the producers, the exploited working class of that society, developed in and through the class struggle into the driving force of history.

This scientific theory of historical materialism emerged from an analysis of capitalist society and of the overall history of humanity.

A decisive role in the development of scientific communism was played by Marx and Engels’ exposure and refutation of all of the myths and superstitions surrounding the state. The state (to sketch the whole spectrum of the over 2000 year history of the ideology of the state) was in no way, as described by Plato or Hegel, a human creation guided by harmony and a balance of interests, but was based on oppression.

The state was always an instrument of class society, an instrument of the ruling class, from slaveholding societies through to capitalist society, with the goal of taming the oppressed labouring classes in order to enforce obedience and production and to impede and suppress revolts. The formation of a state apparatus as a machinery of repression sometimes developed via external wars of con-

quest, but primarily served the securing of class rule internally.

Marx and Engels also forcefully proved that the state has not always existed. In primitive forms of society, in which there was not yet private ownership of the means of production – and thus no classes, there was no state and no need for a state. The history of the evolution of the state proves its class character.

The theories, ideas and ideologies thrown up by the different forms of human society were also investigated in many ways by Marx and Engels in their analysis of historical development. The ruling ideas of an epoch are always the ideas of the ruling class – thus wrote Marx and Engels in “Manifesto of the Communist Party”. But new ideas, serving the interests of the progressive forces can emerge through class contradictions in a particular form of society, and these can have a decisive influence in the struggle for a new form of society, if they have an dialectical impact on real society, if they speak to the masses and help and make possible their struggle for a new form of society.

But while the roots of the ideas and theories in society are to be found in the corresponding economic forms of society, Marx and Engels also show what a large – and at a certain point in the developing class struggles, even a decisive - role progressive and revolutionary theory can and will have: Scientific communism will be decisive in the smashing of the capitalist order of society and in the emergence of a communist social order.

The theory of scientific communism of Marx and Engels, primarily through the detailed dissection of the capitalist social order, the stripping bare of its characteristics, its development and its antagonistic contradictions on the level of economics and politics as well as the analysis of the class struggles of (above all) the proletarian class, did not just analyse the present, but also established materialisti-

cially and dialectically with great clarity the following: The clear conclusion from the development of capitalist society with its class struggles is that the proletarian class, taught in the process of bitter class struggles after the establishment of their rule, must change the property relations of capitalist society with despotic force; that the ever expanding total production of society demands the social ownership of the means of production; that the victorious proletarian class must not just overthrow the old exploiting class, but also, after smashing the old state apparatus, must oppress the capitalist class and their allies with a new state apparatus, in order to achieve, step by step, the conditions, visible to all, that make communism physically possible. That for the achievement of communism it's necessary not just to destroy all real exploitative relations and conditions, but also all reactionary ideas corresponding to these relations and which serve their maintenance or restoration.

Communism emerged out of a utopian idea and became a real science which also encompasses the goals and methods of the class struggle of the proletariat necessary for a successful proletarian revolution and for the struggle for communism.

*The leaflet consisted of 4 A4 pages and also included the following contributions:*

*In the article "The Militant Blockupy Protests in March 2015 and the Appeasement of the Reformists and the Pseudo-Leftists", the militant actions during the protests were emphasised and the appeasement of the reformists and pseudo-leftists exposed.*

"On 18 March 2015 in Frankfurt there was a huge police presence with approximately 10,000 police officers, national police and GSG 9 (Special operations) units in the latest riot gear in order to protect the inauguration celebrations for the new headquarters of the European Central Bank. The ECB and

surrounding areas had been turned into a fortress several days before by closing the streets. 100 km of fencing and NATO barbed wire were deployed. It was supposed to be a demonstration of state power and an intimidation towards protest and resistance.

But determined action from well-prepared militants spoiled the plans of the police to prevent any real protest before it could start. From 6a.m. up to 6,000 demonstrators marched through the city centre of Frankfurt towards the ECB in order to set up a blockade. On the way, smaller groups attacked various targets such as banks and police stations. The police lines were broken and burning barricades were erected, police cars were pelted with stones and forced to retreat. In total seven police cars were burnt out.

At the ECB, protected like a fortress, there was no way through. During the morning, a new march with several thousand demonstrators was formed and headed off towards the city centre. However the demonstration was stopped by a huge police mobilisation and 300 activists, mainly from Italy, were kettled in. Those trapped were finally released due to pressure from thousands of protestors, although their personal details were checked over by the police.

... Over 200 demonstrators were injured through police violence. ... At least 350 activists were detained. 25 demonstrators were arrested. ... Even several weeks later there were house searches and arrests."

In the contribution two statements on the Blockupy protests published on the internet were reprinted. The first statement was directed "against the division of our legitimate resistance". The second statement identified important points that need to be made against the appeasers:

"We will not line up alongside the rows of hypocrites who are prepared to silently ac-

cept the deaths due to the German export industry but who remarkably then start screaming as soon as a few police cars burn. We will also not line up alongside the reformist left-

ists who for some unexplained reason think that they can develop some form of 'humane' capitalism. ..."

☆☆☆

*Submitted for Discussion:*

## **Introduction to the Programmatic Document (Draft) "Fundamental Questions in the Struggle for Communism"**

*Below we print the introduction to a draft of the programmatic document "Fundamental Questions in the Struggle for Communism". This document of the 4<sup>th</sup> party conference was submitted for discussion to revolutionary forces oriented towards communism. The results of these discussions will be taken into account and summarized in a reissue of the programmatic documents.*

"When Marx and Engels presented the first programmatic document of the world communist movement in 1848, commissioned by their organisation "League of Communists" in the struggle against anti-communism, they didn't call it the "Communist Manifesto" but rather the "Manifesto of the Communist Party". This has a fundamental significance. The draft submitted to discussion serves exactly the same purpose, that is, the building of a communist party, as previously outlined by Marx and Engels in the statute of the "League of Communists" and as further developed and clarified in the process of the reorganisation of the communist movement.

The communist movement today is not on the rise and the struggle for the theory of scientific communism is also faced with big challenges. The task is to oppose, refute and combat a whole range of current pseudo-scientific bourgeois and revisionist theories,

some of which claim to be Marxist.

Anti-communist forces were given a huge boost through the essentially negative development of the former socialist Soviet Union and other former socialist states. These became capitalist a long time ago but still presented themselves as socialist for decades and carried out their police-state elimination of socialist democracy under the guise of socialism.

As communist forces in Germany we have the duty to analyse and evaluate the current situation worldwide and in Germany and to position ourselves.

This analysis must not be done on a superficial and therefore finally on a reformist basis. It's necessary to recognise the larger and deeper context. The international situation demands an understanding of the situation of the big imperialist powers and imperialism as a whole and of all the forces of international counter-revolution, in order to evaluate the advance of German imperialism in this framework as precisely as possible and to be able above all to combat German imperialism.

For this it's not just necessary to have reliable information about the current situation. It's also not enough just knowing the exact history of imperialism and German imperial-

ism in its development and effects since the start of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The big question lurking behind this is what exactly imperialism is, and what are the peculiarities of German imperialism.

Precisely for this reason, and not just out of theoretical interest, it is necessary to analyse further what are the characteristics of imperialism, what is new here in comparison to earlier periods of capitalism and what is fundamental, what are the commonalities in all of the periods of capitalism from its origins up until today.

Is the thesis correct that imperialism is the highest, or, more explicitly, the last stage of capitalism? Is imperialism, despite all its distinctive features, subordinated to the great fundamental characteristics and laws of capitalism? How deep do we need to dive if imperialism is to be toppled worldwide?

But what is capitalism? Which of its fundamental characteristics still exist today that can conclusively show that communism is not a utopia but a scientifically-based alternative? Which of the fundamental characteristics of capitalism still exist today that can conclusively show that it is precisely the proletariat, and especially the proletariat in large workplaces, which, as the only consistently revolutionary force, can topple capitalism, lead the socialist revolution to victory and to struggle for communism?

In answering this abundance of questions which arise out of the contemporary reality, in our opinion we have to first of all fundamentally resolve the question of capitalism and communism, the question of the role of the proletariat, and as part of this the question of the intermediate paths and goals, the

question of armed struggle, the mobilisation of allies in daily political and economic struggles, and above all the question of the grounds for the necessity for a longer phase of the struggle for socialism, socialist democracy and the question of what the “dictatorship of the proletariat” really does and does not mean. In the days of Marx and Engels there were already attempts to dismiss as outdated or unimportant, to revise or to declare obsolete the central elements of on the one hand the necessity of armed struggle and, on the other hand, the necessity of the dictatorship of the proletariat, as manifested in the Paris Commune of 1871.

This means that we need to go back to the roots of the theory of scientific communism as developed by Marx and Engels, to study, understand and spread knowledge of it, so that we can use this firm foundation to evaluate the fundamental questions of imperialism, as developed by Lenin.

It also means that we need to study, understand and spread knowledge of the experiences of the class struggle before and after the October Revolution of 1917 in Russia and of the building of socialism in the Soviet Union in the struggle against internal and external counter-revolution, as analysed and generalised by Lenin and especially by Stalin.

Both of these are the precondition of being able to effectively fight our main enemy, German imperialism, on the basis of scientific communism, on the solid foundations of the international solidarity of the proletarian class across the whole world, armed with an analytical understanding of all contemporary and historically conditioned problems.”

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(\*... but don't underestimate the secret services anywhere in the world)



# Bulletin 1/16

## For the Information of Communist Forces in all Countries

Excerpts and summaries from the publications of «Gegen die Strömung» - Organ for the building of the Revolutionary Communist Party of Germany: January – February 2016

Appears in **ENGLISH**, French, Spanish and Turkish

*The subject of the leaflet in January/February was:*

### **Students of Goebbels at Work:**

### **Bourgeois Media instigate like the Nazis!**

„What took place at the start of the year in Germany was a further large step in letting slip the mask of bourgeois democracy. Nazis, petty-bourgeois fascists and the bourgeois media are all in line stirring up hatred. Their differences increasingly disappear when it comes to confronting the newly-created enemy: ‘the North-Africans’. This hatred is having a real impact and is not just being used by the Nazi movement to increase their influence and terror. It’s also being used to justify and force through increased tendencies towards fascization of the state.

The Nazi AfD party is gaining more and more in the polls at the expense of the established parties in Berlin. Racist patrols of Nazi vigilantes are being organised and carried out under Nazi leadership. The murderous Nazi attacks on refugee accommodation have further increased, as have Nazi attacks on left-wing projects... This all shows quite clearly the increasing tendencies towards fascizaton of the state.

### **I. Students of Goebbels at Work!**

The huge campaign which has been started since New Year’s Eve 2015 is a serious challenge for democratic and revolutionary groups. It utilises a range of demagogic tricks and lays a number of traps.

There is no question that Goebbels was the most accomplished organiser of hate propaganda with a huge proven effect on the masses. These hate cam-



paigns of Goebbels, together with the latest results of psychological research and the newest methods of manipulation of the advertising industry are the model for the current campaign of hatred, even if there are important historical differences between today and Nazi-Germany in the period 1933-1945.

The media in Nazi-Germany worked under the orders of Goebbels’ Propaganda Ministry. And today? Clearly there are direct contracts, collusion. But the fact that just about all of the bourgeois media speak with one voice, which, as if on command, started the racist hate campaign against ‘North Africans’, functions today through the mechanisms of competition and imitation. When one starts with the hate campaign, the others immediately join in, adopting the same positions in order to stay competitive in the struggle for ‘viewing figures’, circulation and ‘clicks’. It all works so smoothly because racism and German nationalism are so widespread amongst the journalists of these bourgeois media.

In order to be able to successfully fight against the contemporary hate campaigns, in order to be able to lead, to be really able to fight ‘against the stream’, it’s necessary to expose these Goebbels-like methods and traps.

#### **Nazi Propaganda Method 1:**

**‘We gave it a try...’**

In order to portray yourself in a good light while declaring war on others, it has always been a trusted method of demagogues to first develop a ‘charm offensive’, the equivalent of today’s ‘welcome culture’, for a short period of time. As if to say: ‘We’re the good guys’. The next step is then to look for or to create a reason to trigger an overnight reversal of the

mood which affects the broadest possible section of the population. It's always the same scheme, the same pattern: 'We wanted to help, we gave it a try, but enough is enough!' This tactic of the sudden reversal is then accompanied by the construction of a quite specific concept of the enemy.

### **Nazi Propaganda Method 2: The Construction of an Concept of the Enemy**

Over the last 25 years in Germany, racist campaigns have often been focussed on consciously chosen groups for a certain period of time, while the daily racism against other groups never goes away. The methods of generalised prejudice ('The foreigners...', 'The refugees...') are quite consciously used in diatribes against certain single groups, in a way that enables an assertion that they aren't against all 'foreigners' or against all 'refugees', but...

In recent years these racist campaigns have been targeted against 'the Vietnamese', against 'the Roma', then against 'the Albanians', against (with certain special modifications) 'the Jews', and then against 'the Moslems'. These campaigns would be replaced, are the flavour of the month for a while, and then, when a certain 'saturation level' in the German population is registered, the next target would be lined up. For a bit of variety, the next campaign would then be rolled out.

Currently, the racist campaign is directed against a group which, primarily through purported physical appearance, can all of a sudden be defined and constructed through the newly defined term 'of North African appearance'. Anyone can verify this: the term was newly created in January 2016. It corresponds to the terminology of racist police reports and was quite clearly transplanted from these into the bourgeois media. It's a sort of extremely absurd codeword, based on the one hand on prejudice and racist clichés, and on the other hand as a medium for the spreading of racist clichés. Defining groups according to physical characteristics is a recurring theme in these murderous Nazi-campaigns. The hypocritical 'We're not against all refugees', merely against the 'North Africans', sometimes complemented by the absurd rider 'we're against blanket judgements' is itself an unrivalled blanket judgement: Those ready to deal in physical characteristics as categories, who

accept 'North Africans' as a category, are already caught in the demagogic, racist trap of the Nazi hate-mongers.

Is it justified to call this a method of Nazi hate-mongering? Perhaps it becomes clearer if you take an arbitrary number of the almost identical-sounding media reports, from the 'Frankfurter Rundschau' through to 'Junge Freiheit', in which can be read that 'crimes were committed by a crowd of 1,000 people of Jewish appearance...' – no, today it's 'of North African appearance'. Then it becomes clear that it's no more and no less than the employment of the mechanisms of Nazi propaganda. What does 'of Jewish appearance' mean? Goebbels and his paper 'Der Stürmer' knew the answer. And what does 'of North African appearance' mean? 'Well, you know, North African, their appearance' comes the stammering reply. Hair colour? Skin colour? Eye colour? The shape of their skulls?

### **Nazi Propaganda Method 3:**

#### **'We're not Allowed to Talk About It...'**

Everyone who refuses to take part in this racist campaign and dares to call it that, what it is, namely racist, is confronted with the claim that it's allegedly forbidden to 'say anything against the refugees', that their 'crimes' are allegedly being 'hushed-up', etc.

In Nazi-Germany, all critics of the Nazis were labelled 'accomplices of the Jews'. Today, all of those who refuse to support the racist campaign or fight against it are vilified as being part of an alleged 'cartel of silence'. There then follow demands for "freedom of expression" or 'openness instead of cover-ups'. And thus 'progressive' and 'democratic' values are claimed and set up against the alleged 'anti-democrats'.

The aim is to extend the racist campaign of hatred and to pursue it without interruption. They want to create a reactionary atmosphere, to vilify all those who speak out against it as 'defenders of criminals', to silence and isolate opposition.

### **Nazi Propaganda Method 4:**

#### **Nazi Campaigns Always Claim to Protect 'Victims' – The Nazis as Defenders of Women**

It's actually a classic strategy of Nazis and racists to use real or imagined assaults on 'their women',

on ‘the white woman’, or, in the case of the Nazis, on ‘the German woman’, in their campaigns of hatred... It works on two levels: the hate-mongers present themselves as ‘protectors’ of the poor and the oppressed. At the same time, all of those who expose the Nazi lies are vilified with the accusation that they tolerate, cover-up or approve of rape and sexism.

That is currently perhaps the most effective defence mechanism that the Nazis have against the exposure of their hatred, which clearly can't be always refuted with a immanent criticism, with a ‘Yes, but...’ On the contrary, you play into the Nazis’ hands if you counter their absurd attack with ‘Yes, of course we need to do something about the North Africans, if they are sexists’. As soon as you say that, you are already accepting their racist construction and rejecting the idea that a crime must be dealt with completely independent of appearance, nationality or religion.

What is clear is that these racists, these alleged protectors of women, are exactly the same people who quite consciously don't say a word about those events of mass dumbing-down and mass drinking, such as the Oktoberfest or the Carnival season, where there are regularly thousands of sexual attacks - up to and including rape - against women carried out by petty-bourgeois thugs sober or at various stages of inebriation. Yes, it is these facts, of sexist attack and violence against women, which are systematically being trivialised and denied...”

*On the common points between the racist hate campaigns in Germany and in Nazi-Germany:*

“The propaganda methods in the current racist hate campaign are the methods of Goebbels from Nazi-Germany, which served German imperialism and its Nazis back then and today by whipping up hatred within their ‘own’ population, in order to bind the masses to themselves ever closer and to win them as far as possible for their crimes.”

*The section “How Their Own Laws and the Principles of Bourgeois Democracy are Unscrupulously Abandoned” showed how, in the current hate campaign, the nationality of the suspects is emphasised in order to produce an apparent connection between nationality and violence against women. In doing so, the bourgeoisie trample their own laws underfoot. The pamphlet pointed to the*

parallels with the Nazi directive from 1935 in which the following instruction was given:

“In all communications to the press about crimes committed by Jews, their racial identity is to be emphasised.”

## **II. Increasing Fascization of the State – Increasing Nazi Attacks**

- The increase in deportations of refugees has proceeded further: Alone in 2015, almost 21,000 people were deported from Germany back to their countries of origin, twice as many as in 2014. On top of that there were a further 37,000 de facto deportations in 2015, primarily to Albania, Kosovo and Serbia which were disguised as ‘voluntary repatriations’ to so-called ‘safe countries of origin’. ...

- The situation of the refugees in Germany has and will become more tightened, not just - for example - through the degrading mass accommodation in non-winterproof tents, or the virtual ban on the right of refugees to bring their families to join them, but also increasingly through locally organised discrimination or prohibitions which are reminiscent of the Nazi era....

- Police actions against the left are getting more heavy-handed. The police attack on the left-wing housing project at Rigaer Straße 94 in Berlin represented a new peak. Over 500 policemen and a special SEK-group stormed a house expressly in order to attack the comrades living and struggling there, to abuse and beat them up with the aim of intimidating them and breaking their will to keep fighting.

In connection with this, an increase in the Nazi terror, further movement towards the arming of the Nazis and a spreading of the Nazi movement can be observed. And it becomes clear that the Nazis have been able to further build and strengthen their positions in the centre of the German state apparatus and the German police apparatus.

- Nazi attacks on refugees and refugee accommodation in 2015 increased hugely in comparison to 2014 to over 1,000, of which 130 were arson attacks, even according to official figures. There were more than 250 injuries to refugees through Nazi attacks. The German police defend the Nazis by failing to investigate seriously in most cases,

while they have also even contributed to hushing-up the Nazi terror...

● The legal and illegal arming of the Nazis has progressed further. ... Ever more weapons are stashed in illegal weapon depots. Just one recent example... We can assume that the Nazi movement is in possession of thousands of further weapons of all sorts. The training with guns takes place not just at illegal events and not just in the army where many Nazis are “serving”, but also quite legally in German shooting clubs which are increasingly riddled with Nazis.

● The legal and the illegal Nazi movement has strengthened. Even according to official figures there are up to 370 Nazis who are being sought by the police based on a warrant but who have not been arrested. It's certain that most of these Nazis are armed and are either living legally without being bothered by the German state apparatus, or they have gone into hiding. ... In many German cities 'Nazi citizens' militias' have been formed under Nazi leadership. Often announced or organised via Facebook, they carry out organised patrols and actions directed against migrants and refugees, for example in Cologne, under the pretext of 'protecting our women'.

● The Nazi attack, modelled on those of the SA, on the Connewitz district of Leipzig, renowned as a centre of the left and of anti-Nazis, under the eyes and with the help of the police, was the biggest Nazi attack on the left since 1945. It was significant both because of the scale and the brutality of the Nazi terror against the left and anti-Nazis, and for the scale of the collaboration between police and Nazis. It became quite clear that the Nazi movement has solid roots and occupies positions inside the German police. In the face of this worsening position it is quite clear:

The anti-Nazi forces, all democratic and revolutionary groups need to respond appropriately and will respond appropriately!"

*The pamphlet also contained the following contributions:*

● **Leader of the party “Die Linke” (PDL) sounds like the Nazis**

*In her statement on the so-called “events in Cologne”, she didn't say a word about the racist campaign of the state and the media, but instead stirred up hatred herself:*

*“He who abuses his rights as a guest forfeits those rights...”*

● **Who was Julius Streicher and why was he executed**

*Julius Streicher was one of the worst Jew-haters of the Nazi movement well before 1933 and even more so afterwards. He was a founding member of the Nazi party, the Nazi leader of the Franconia region and general of the SA. In 1923 he founded the anti-Jewish Nazi propaganda tabloid “Der Stürmer” which continued printing with a circulation of 500,000 right up until the capitulation of Germany. The section emphasised:*

**“Streicher was executed for the sole reason that, through his anti-Semitic hatemongering and through his incitements to murder against the Jewish population, he encouraged the German population to actively persecute the Jews and encouraged their support for the Nazi crimes against the Jewish population.”**

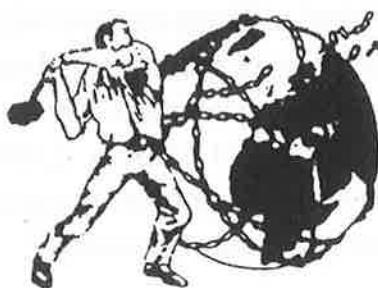
● *Under the heading "Nazi Propaganda" two placards were depicted: A Nazi poster of hatred from 1944 and one from the reactionary bourgeois magazine "Focus" from 2016, in which the body of the "white, German woman" needs protection from the hands of black men.*

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(\* ... but don't underestimate the secret services a)



# Bulletin

2/16

## Information for Communist forces of all countries

Excerpts and synopsis from the publications by "Gegen die Strömung" - Organ for the Building of the Revolutionary Communist Party of Germany: August - September 2016



Appears in ENGLISH, French, Spanish and Turkish



### Preliminary Notes

The leaflets for **March-April 2016, May-July 2016, October-November 2016 and December 2016** each contain excerpts from the draft of the programmatic document "**In the Struggle for Communism**" and are not summarized in this bulletin.

This document, consisting of four volumes, will be published in summary as "**Programmatic Cornerstones in the Struggle for Socialist Revolution and Communism**". These 'Cornerstones' will also be translated into various languages. The drafts will be presented for discussion to revolutionary groups oriented on communism. The results will be presented in summary form and incorporated into a future edition.

The introduction and the first three sections of the first volume, "**Fundamental questions in the Struggle for Socialist Revolution and Communism**" have already been published as leaflets by Gegen die Strömung:

- **From a Utopia to a Science: Why Scientific Communism?** (6-7/2015)
- **Fundamental Tenets of Scientific Communism: What is Capitalism?** (# 3-4/2016)
- **Fundamental Tenets of Scientific Communism: What is Imperialism?** (# 10-11/2016)
- **Fundamental Tenets of Scientific Communism: What is Communism (Part I)?** (12/2016)

The leaflet from **August** was on the following subject:

**Why the Struggles against the Ruling Class in France are largely unreported in Germany**

### A Report on the Struggles in France

"In March 2016, a wide and sometimes very militant mass protest movement began across the whole of France. Lasting several months, it was directed against the announcement of drastic attacks on the employment laws. Hundreds of thousands took part in strikes, blockades, demonstrations and occupations. Although an official opinion poll found 86% of the population against the proposed changes to the labour laws, they were enforced, with the parliament being by-

passed. The protest movement felt the full force of the state of emergency powers which have been in force in France since November 2016, especially in direct confrontations with the brutal repression of the state apparatus. In order to divide the protest movement and to label it as 'anti-French', nationalism was whipped up in conjunction with the state of emergency ("All of France stands united against terrorism") and with the European Football Championship taking place

at that time. What the German press reported at all was that holidaymakers in France were affected by petrol shortages due to successfully organised strikes and blockades. But otherwise the bourgeois media in Germany systematically failed to report and were largely silent about these powerful struggles against the ruling class in France and about the grounds for these mass protests. The reason is obvious: it was to avoid acts of solidarity with the protests of the exploited masses in France; the exploited masses here in Germany should not learn from these struggles or use them as a guide for their own struggles. ...

The current struggles also need to be seen in the context of the increasingly tense social and political situation in France. ...”

*The following section, “A Massive Attack by the Capitalists on Social Advances Won through Struggle” describes how key elements of the existing rights of workers are threatened by the planned labour law, using several key areas as examples.*

#### **Activities of the Protest Movement and State Repression in Response**

“... Due to the countless and varied activities of the protest movement across all of France over four months, the following report can cover only a few examples. In the period from 9 March to 5 July alone there were twelve national ‘Days of Action’ called by the unions involving hundreds of thousands of people. Independently of these, many cities saw locally instigated actions such as the occupations of buildings and squares. ...”

#### **The Struggles Begin**

“The first Day of Action took place on 9 March with large protest demonstrations. According to the unions, over 400,000 took part, with some 100,000 in Paris alone. ...

In Paris, Nantes, Rennes, Marseilles and Strasbourg there were militant clashes with the police. The police were particularly brutal against youthful demonstrators. On the third Day of Action on 24 March, 2,000 dockworkers in Le Havre supported the protest of the students and school students.”

#### **The Struggles Spread**

“On the next Day of Action, on 31 March, over one million people took to the streets in protest, according to the unions, in 260 French towns and cities. In Marseilles alone, over 120,000 protested, in Toulouse, 100,000, and 10,000 in both Rennes and Nice.

An unlimited general strike began on 31 March on the island of Mayotte – a French colony situated between Madagascar and continental Africa. The goal was to fight for equivalent living standards to those in France for the island’s 250,000 inhabitants and life on the island ground to a virtual standstill for over two weeks due to the strike.

On 31 March, several thousand people assembled at the Place de la République in the city centre of Paris after the demonstration. This marked the start of the occupation of public squares (‘nuit debout’) - every evening at the Place de la République - and in the following period in 21 Paris suburbs and in 60 further French cities, either one-off events or on a regular basis.”

#### **Increasing State Repression**

“Over 500 activists were injured across France during the protest actions of 28 April and 1 May. The figure for Paris alone was around 100. Some of them suffered severe injuries. In Marseilles, an activist was brought into the accident and emergency ward of a hospital with a rubber bullet embedded in his throat. A 20 year old in Rennes

lost an eye after a police rubber bullet hit him in the face. An activist in Paris had two fingers torn off. ...”

### **The Conflict Comes to a Head in May**

“The high point of the movement so far was the series of strikes and blockades in the strategically important energy and transport sectors, and which had a tangible impact on the energy supply. On 17 May, lorry drivers started to block access roads to cities and petrol dumps. On 23 May, a continuous blockade of all eight French oil refineries was begun by the striking workforce together with supporters from outside, and was soon extended to the numerous fuel depots distributed across France. Oil terminals in the port of Le Havre and Marseilles were blockaded by striking dock workers (40% of France’s oil imports are handled in Le Havre). ...”

Every week the employees of the railways struck for 48 hours, disrupting mainly regional rail services. On 10 May over 10,000 of them demonstrated in Paris. ...”

### **The Appeasement of the Union Leaders**

*In a separate section it was stressed:*

“The main unions taking part in the protests are chiefly the revisionist CGT (Confédération Générale du Travail), the strongest union umbrella organisation in France, the FO (Force Ouvrière), the third strongest grouping, the rank-and-file union SUD (Solidaires, Unitaires, Démocratiques) and the student union UNEF. The leadership of the second strongest grouping, the social democratic CFDT (Confédération Française Démocratique du Travail) – which supposedly has close contacts with the German DGB unions – had already agreed to the planned law in mid-March after securing some small amendments (one of the clauses in the new law strengthening the voice of minority

unions suits them very well). Throughout the Days of Action the leadership of the unions tried to control and water down the protest movement. They restricted many of the strikes to small sectors and for short periods with the intention of avoiding a genuine test of strength with capital. As the struggle came to a head and the state apparatus responded by banning demonstrations on the one hand and making partial concessions with the other, the union leadership increasingly openly played the role of weakening and sabotaging the foremost struggles of the protest movement.”

### **Important Lessons from the Struggles**

- The scope of the movement was not just restricted to Paris and a few large cities, but instead encompassed almost all of France
- The movement found its expression in demonstrations, strikes, blockades, the occupation of public spaces and numerous other forms of action.
- In many locations and in many activities, a joining of forces was achieved by the common struggle of workers, other exploited labour, students from schools and universities, the unemployed and the homeless. Attempts by the ruling class to divide the protestors during joint demonstration of the youth and workers were largely successfully rejected.
- Again and again the legal restrictions were overcome and militant determination shown, not just by individuals or small groups.
- The strikes and blockades in the transport and energy sectors showed the employees that they are in a position to deal significant blows to capital. The paralysis of this infrastructure, which is so important for large sections of the economy, can generate a decisive effect in short time.

- The movement did not allow itself to be fully controlled by the leadership of the participating unions.

It's not surprising that the bourgeois press in Germany reported as little as possible about these extensive struggles. Some of the social rights which are the subject of the current struggles have never existed in Germany, for example the legally-guaranteed 35 hour working week. Progressive groups in Germany can learn from the struggles in

France as there weren't any struggles on this scale in Germany against the 'Agenda 2010' reforms, and they are significantly above and beyond the social and economic struggles that have taken place in Germany in recent decades."

*The leaflet ends with the appeals:*

**Learn from the Struggles in France!  
Solidarity with those in Struggle in France!**

☆☆☆

*The subject of the September leaflet was:*

## **Capitalism in China will be Smashed!**

"Today's China is pure capitalism, with the most brutal exploitation and oppression, and not the slightest trace of socialism. There are billionaires sitting on the Central Committee of the Chinese 'Communist Party'. Party functionaries compose a class, the class of the bourgeoisie. They own the decisive means of production and oppress protest movements with the help of the reactionary Chinese state apparatus, using police terror, the army and massacres such as in Beijing in June 1989. They exploit not just workers in China, but they also invest hugely in other countries and other continents in order to make profits. They are a part of the capitalist-imperialist world system. More and more of the millions of working men and women are rising up against this, in factories or on construction sites. Class struggles are emerging with the goal of the recreation of that democratic-socialist system in which exploi-

tation was abolished and where the revolutionary state was a tool in the hands of the working women and men to oppress the bourgeoisie and for preventing the emergence of capitalism. It means revolution, socialist revolution. It means returning to the path that was followed many decades ago by the (at the time still) Communist Party of China with Mao Tse-tung at its head.

### **Capitalism Today in China**

No one today can seriously deny that China is a veritable paradise for exploiters. In today's capitalist China, hundreds of millions of working men and women are mercilessly exploited by the Chinese bourgeoisie and by international companies.

The formation of capitalist relations of exploitation has led to an ever more blatant intensification of social contradictions. In 2014

the Government was forced to admit that over 200 million Chinese from a total population of almost 1.4 billion live in severe poverty, meaning that they have less than \$1.25 US per day to survive. In 2013 there were an estimated 174 million unemployed, of which 24 million were in the cities and 150 million in the countryside. On top of this, the huge environmental pollution leads to millions of employees falling sick or dying.

On the other side, the small pack of capitalist rulers and exploiters gets ever richer. According to a study by the University of Beijing in 2013, the top one percent of the population controlled more than a third of all the wealth in China in 2012. There are now more billionaires in China than in the USA. In China's parliament, the so-called 'People's Congress' and the 'Advisory Parliament', there are 218 dollar billionaires, the majority of whom are members of the 'Communist Party' of China.

The working population of China, across many different branches of industry and agriculture, comprises several hundred millions, over 400 million in the cities alone. One characteristic of capitalist China are the 280 million workers from rural areas who form the so-called 'mobile proletariat' and who are exploited under the worst working conditions, catastrophic housing conditions and barely existent medical care.

This 'mobile proletariat' accounts for 60% of the industrial workforce and over 80% in the construction sector. Their situation is often worse, normally much worse than the situation of the classical industrial proletariat in the cities, as they usually don't qualify for state assistance without a contract of employment, their wages are often not paid and they are vulnerable to being sacked or the whims of their employers on a far greater scale.

It was precisely to avoid the emergence of such conditions that there were massive class struggles in China 50 years ago, whose meaning becomes ever clearer in the light of the current conditions. They were class struggles to prevent the emergence of capitalism in China.

### **The Class Struggles in China from 1966 Aimed to Prevent the Emergence of Capitalism in Red China!**

The Communist Party of China, indeed the whole of Red China, has completely changed ideological colour over several decades. How could that happen?

The democratic revolution against imperialism and feudalism was victorious in 1949 after a long struggle. For more than 15 years afterwards, agriculture was modernised on a massive scale and collective property established in the countryside. A start was also made with industrialisation, an industrialisation which carried within itself a gigantic perspective.

From the start, and then increasingly from the middle of the 60's, the question was posed: What are the next steps for this China, led by the Communist Party? Should China allow imperialist capital investments on a massive scale, and transform the factories and agricultural combines into profit centres? Should it hand over the gigantic efforts of the mass of the population to the exploiters and integrate the country into the world capitalist system? Or, with the counter-revolutionary events in the formerly socialist Soviet Union clearly visible, as it was transformed into a capitalist, imperialist country, should Red China take a resolutely revolutionary, socialist road, the road of scientific communism, the road of continuing the class struggles, of socialist revolution and the strengthening of the indispensable dictatorship of the proletariat, closely

linked with the revolutionary struggles across the globe?

The struggle over this question dominated the class struggles in China for ten years from 1966. Millions from the broad mass of the Chinese population, students, rural workers but above all the working men and women of the main large industrial factories took to the streets to fight against the new bourgeoisie emerging in the heart of the Communist Party. The stakes could not have been higher; the situation was difficult and often unclear. And at the end of these great political class struggles which became known under the name of the "Cultural Revolution" and which enthused militant, revolutionary groups across the whole world, it was the revisionists, those functionaries of the communist Party who formed a new bourgeois class, who held the advantage, but more than that: At the end of this ten-year struggle they defeated those forces in the Communist Party adhering to communism after the death of Mao Tse-tung in 1976

The development of capitalism in China started on a massive scale. Red China was transformed into a capitalist China in a series of huge steps. Mao Tse-tung had very clearly and insistently warned of the very great and dangerous possibility of this development. He had made clear that the struggle between the proletarian class and the bourgeoisie is a struggle of life and death, and that in order to defeat the bourgeoisie in this struggle, a dictatorship of the proletariat over the bourgeoisie needed to be established. This and the other fundamental communist tenets of Mao Tse-tung, that rebellion against exploitation is justified, that there, where oppression exists, resistance will develop, that at the end of the day political power comes from the barrel of a gun and that an exploitative state can only be

defeated in armed struggle – all of these positions, which were a broad consensus in Red China, will once again win recognition, slowly but surely, in the struggles which have been developing in China since the 1980s.

The increasingly blatant contradictions of the present-day reality of capitalist exploitation in China will sooner or later lead to revolutionary struggles on a massive scale once again, and to a new revolution. We are certain that the communists in China will critically evaluate the experiences of the gigantic class struggle in China from 1966 until the death of Mao Tse-tung in 1976, its strengths and weaknesses, in order to resolutely fight and finally destroy capitalism through the socialist revolution."

*The leaflet consisted of 2 sides of A4 and contained the additional article: "Class Struggles in China since 1980"*



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(\*... but don't underestimate the secret services anywhere in the world)

# Bulletin 2/17



## For the Information of Communist Forces in All Countries

Excerpts and synopsis from the publications of „Gegen die Strömung“  
– Organ for the building of the Revolutionary Communist Party in  
Germany: May - August 2017

Appears in **ENGLISH**, French, Spanish and Turkish

*The subject of the May-June leaflet was:*

### **Scandal or Normality?**

### **Nazis in the German Army – An Image Problem for German Imperialists**

“The fact that the German Arme “Bundeswehr” was built up by Nazis, by the military leadership of the wartime Nazi-Wehrmacht, is probably no secret. Who else could it have been? That more than 60 years later, organised Nazis have formed cells and strongholds in the Bundeswehr is therefore quite logical but needs to be exposed. These ‘scandals’ that briefly get attention cannot really be seen as surprising. Nevertheless there’s an ‘image problem’. What is really happening inside the Bundeswehr is one thing, but how it presents itself to the outside world is quite another.”

*The section discusses a series of fundamental questions about the past and present of the Bundeswehr.*

### **Image Campaign and Recruiting Problems**

*The Bundeswehr is trying to recruit through large advertising campaigns. They focus on the “fascination” for technology and weaponry, while at the same time it’s precisely young Nazis who are joining up.*

### **After the Exposure of a Nazi-Network: Politicians Unanimously Defend the Bundeswehr**

*Now and again the Nazis in the Bundeswehr go*

*a bit too far; for example when they steal weapons for attacks on politicians, or when they are a bit too open with swastikas and other Nazi symbols in the barracks.*

*Politicians concerned about the image of the Bundeswehr have promised some measures against the Nazis, which led to a storm of protest from the pseudo-leftist “Die Linke” through to the pro-Nazi AfD.*

### **The Bundeswehr – Built as a Continuation of the Nazi-Wehrmacht**

*The leaflet documented in detail the transition from the Nazi-Wehrmacht to the Bundeswehr and the Nazi career of the former Nazi-Wehrmacht officer and ex-Chancellor Helmut Schmidt recounted, who as late as 1957 in a speech talked of “my comrades in the Waffen-SS”.*

### **Aspects of the Wehrmacht’s “Cultivation of Traditions”**

*The leaflet analyzed documents of the Bundeswehr on the so-called “cultivation of traditions”, the 1985 tribute in Bitburg to the SS-murderers was remembered and studies about the crimes of the Wehrmacht highlighted.*

### **Nazis at the heart of the Bundeswehr**

*A further section listed some of the most prominent Nazis who have had careers in the Bundeswehr in the last 50 years:*

*In 1967 there were 1,500 Nazi-NPD party members in the Bundeswehr, 250 of them officers.*

*In the seventies, the armed military Nazi group*

*'Wehrsportgruppe Hoffmann' was equipped with Wehrmacht supplies. The Nazi murderers of the "NSU" nazi organization, who for 10 years murdered people that they considered to be 'non-German', were Bundeswehr soldiers and received their military training there. Even the military secret service (MAD) has listed around 400 cases of Nazis in the Bundeswehr.*

## **The Future Plans of the German Military: War**

*More important though than the Nazis in the Bundeswehr (who we certainly shouldn't underestimate) is the continuous increase in the foreign interventions by the Bundeswehr and its expansion into an army for internal civil war, it is increasingly being used against anti-capitalist demonstrations. In 2007; during the world trade summit protests in Rostock alone, 2,000 soldiers were mobilised for such internal intervention.*

*The scandals in the foreign interventions are also on the rise, such as that around Colonel Klein, who in Afghanistan in 2009 called in air strikes which led to over 100 people being murdered, and who was nevertheless promoted in the Bundeswehr four years later.*

*The Bundeswehr as a whole is being expanded, with a clear orientation against US imperialism and against other imperial powers, and is being exercised in many foreign interventions around the globe.*

## **Tasks in the Struggle Against Militarism**

*Finally, the tasks in the struggle against militarism were summarised as follows:*

- *Exposing and explaining the past and present of the German Army*
- *Highlighting the armed struggles against German imperialism, primarily by the Red Army and the partisan wars during the Second World War*
- *Emphasising the anti-militarist activities against public swearing-in ceremonies and propaganda shows of the Bundeswehr*
- *Orientation on a long-term internationalist struggle against German imperialism and its army.*
- *Constantly refuting their lies and justifications.*

- *Steadfastly maintaining that the core of the Bundeswehr cannot be conquered or broken down from inside, but needs to be smashed (which doesn't mean renouncing the struggle within the Bundeswehr)*

*The leaflet ended with an appeal:*

*"Without abstaining in fighting the Bundeswehr from the inside, it is crucial to fight the core of the Bundeswehr, its elite troops, from outside, and to hamper or prevent imperialist wars of aggression.*

The concentration on the anti-militarist struggle in our own country does not mean neglecting or even ignoring the anti-militarist struggles in other countries. On the contrary: Anti-militarist struggles in countries that are imperial rivals of German imperialism need to be held up as examples for the struggle in Germany. This serves to prepare for the solidarity, which even in times of war, can be applied in wartime to consistently follow the slogan of Karl Liebknecht: 'The main enemy is in your own country', the overthrow of the ruling class in our own country, the transformation of imperial war into the armed struggle against our main enemy. Until, finally, in the socialist revolution, this murdering army of German imperialism will be smashed in an armed uprising utilising all of the rules of the art of war."

*The leaflet consisted of 10 sides of A4 and also contained the following contributions:*

- *Facsimile: Official Announcement on the Reutilisation of SS Officers in the ranks of the Bundeswehr*
- *Abuse in the Bundeswehr and Heightened War Policy belong together*

***The special edition on 3 July 2017 for the G20 Summit in Hamburg was on the following subject:***

## **G20 Summit in Hamburg:**

## **Fight Against German Imperialism, our Main Enemy!**

*"The political leadership from 20 reactionary countries, from imperial Great Powers, imperialist states and militarily, politically and economically important states for the imperialist world system, are meeting in Hamburg in July 2017. This mee-*

ting is being protected by a gigantic military and police-state operation.

The protests and acts of resistance of many different groups are fully justified. Even when logically given the tens of thousands of people involved - very diverse, sometimes reactionary-nationalist and pseudo-left groups will join these protests. And this is where we need to observe very closely. For these groups, with their German nationalist positions that don't question German imperialism, or that even try to present it as a 'better alternative' to US imperialism, need to be fought.

Here in Germany we need to fight German imperialism as our main enemy, not just at the G20 Summit, but also as the main enemy of the revolution which will be organised on the long term."

### **The Police State at Work**

"The preparations for the G20 summit made the priorities of German imperialism clear: It is a dress rehearsal for all army and police forces. The Bundeswehr is responsible for the airspace. For the operations "on the ground", first and foremost, it's the elite units of the internal forces of repression. A massive force of 20,000 police officers is being deployed. The covert operation of hundreds or thousands of members of the various secret services is planned.

The most basic democratic rights, such as the right to demonstrate, freedom of movement and many others have been summarily suspended based on the announcement of some sort of emergency. The lessons learned from the world trade summit in Rostock in 2007 are that in Hamburg too it will come to arbitrary arrests, to orgies of police violence and also to militant resistance to measures of fascistization. And it is already certain that the usual notorious opportunists will hypocritically denounce the police terror. At the same time, these pseudo-left groups will then turn against all of those not prepared to accept the restriction of their democratic rights, and who won't passively let themselves be arrested and beaten. Thus the events in Hamburg will be another lesson about the abject role played by opportunist groups and "celebrities", who when in doubt line up in the chorus of the ruling class when they find it necessary to vilify resistance."

### **An All-Out Fight Against German Nationalism Also in the Left-Wing Movement**

"Through the intensification of inner-imperialist contradictions, specifically the contradictions between German- and US imperialism, politicians from all the parties of German imperialism are queueing up to denounce Trump and the USA.

German nationalism is proclaiming itself as an allegedly progressive force. But in reality it is the start of a huge propaganda offensive currently directed against US imperialism, both inside the EU and across the world, with the goal of exposing large parts of the population to the poison of nationalism and dragging them into line behind imperialist German policies. ..."

### **Against Personalisation of Imperialist Politics**

"In the face of such reactionary figures as Erdogan in Turkey or Trump in the USA, the bourgeois media in Germany are outdoing themselves in a personalised polemic against the escapades and daily provocations of such politicians. ..."

The tactic of personalising political problems is a diversionary tactic of the worst sort. It presents the problems of the world as the problems of crazy individuals, which could be solved by more sensible and serious individuals from the imperialist upper class who would pursue a better policy. It's a huge con-trick. In our opinion there is no question that the whole array of these politicians, despite all of their mandates and powers, is really nothing more than an executive committee for the corporations standing behind them. In reality they are highly paid managers who are responsible for the smooth functioning of the imperialist system with its orientation on profit-maximisation. ..."

### **The Main Enemy Is in Your Own Country**

"It is clear that the various declarations against this summit focus on the worldwide profit-oriented imperialist politics and demand a struggle against this imperialist world.

Yet it is also noticeable that to some extent Germany as a Great Power, or German imperialism, are not explicitly mentioned, or it is implied that this is a secondary problem.

Our position is very different: We must unconditionally attack all reactionary and imperialist forces in the world, to spread worldwide solidarity, and to organise with all those groups in the world who are struggling against the imperialist world system. In this, the focus of the propaganda and the struggle in every country in the world must be directed against the reactionary state apparatus in that country (in the case of imperialist intervention, against the military occupying the country). In Germany the state apparatus is the army, the police, etc., clearly under the control of German imperialism. ...

It is wrong to claim that the struggle against our main enemy, German imperialism, is incompatible with the struggle against all reactionary and imperialist forces across the globe. On the contrary. They are linked together, especially in the struggle for the revolution which will bring down the imperialist world system. To carry out the revolution in every country of the imperialist world system is only possible when the revolutionary forces in each country fight shoulder to shoulder with the global revolutionary forces. In this struggle they will develop the strength and resolution necessary to smash the reactionary state apparatus of their own respective 'main enemies' in an armed struggle, and to overthrow the ruling class. Then, over a longer period, they will dictatorially suppress the fallen exploiters and their supporters with their own, revolutionary state, which will develop maximum socialist democracy for the wide mass of the workers, and on this basis build a new world, free from exploitation and oppression, first socialism and then communism.

Because the proletariat, as Karl Marx wrote, has nothing to lose but its chains (Manifesto of the Communist Party)."

*The leaflet consisted of two pages of A4*

***The leaflet for July-August had the following subject:***

***The Fundamental Road of Socialist Revolution in the Struggle for the Dictatorship of the Proletariat and for Communism***

*The leaflet is part of the document "Central Pro-*

*grammatic Questions in the Struggle for Socialist Revolution and Communism" and deals with the following topics:*

- The introduction describes three reasons for the necessity of the application of revolutionary armed force to reach our goal – the abolition of exploitation and oppression, of war and violence. Two subsections follow with the titles:
- Day-to-day economic and democratic struggles, the politics of alliances of the proletarian class and the struggle for the main goal, socialist revolution
- On the necessity of independent day-to-day economic and democratic struggles
- The struggle for the main goal of socialist revolution
- How to lead the democratic struggle in practice
- The meaning of important day-to-day democratic struggles
- The armed socialist revolution of the proletarian class and questions on the armed struggle
- The smashing of the bourgeois state apparatus in armed struggle
- The liberating role of revolutionary violence and the necessity of evaluating the experiences of the armed struggles of the broad masses, as well as the methods and tactics of the counter-revolution
- The armed struggle to overthrow the bourgeoisie as a fundamental democratic question for the broad masses
- Systematic scientific planning of the preparation and execution of the armed struggle
- The revolutionary situation and the victory of the revolution

*The leaflet consisted of 6 sides of A4 and contained further contributions on the various opportunist groups who vilified the militant resistance against the G20 summit as "Violence-tourism" and described the participants as "rioting enemies of the masses". On their Facebook page, the youth section of the pseudo-left "Die Linke" in Hamburg even called for spying on the militant activists and for denouncing them to the police.*

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(\*... but don't underestimate the secret services

# Bulletin 3/17



## For the Information of Communist Forces in All Countries

Excerpts and synopsis from the publications of „Gegen die Strömung“  
– Organ for the building of the Revolutionary Communist Party in  
Germany: September - December 2017

Appears in ENGLISH, French, Spanish and Turkish

*The leaflet for September had as its subject:*

### 150 Years of Karl Marx' "Capital"

"150 years ago (1867), the most important scientific work of the communist movement appeared, 'Capital' by Karl Marx. The subtitle of the book is 'A Critique of Political Economy'. In the present-day debates about Communism and Marx, there are always two basic tenets in the attempts to discredit scientific communism.

**Firstly**, after praising Marx' description of capitalism as accurate for those days, we're presented with the statement that supposedly today everything is really quite different and so the main arguments of the book don't apply any more.

**Secondly**, the supposed reason for this lies, we are told, in Marx' faulty theory about the role of the proletariat. On the one hand it is argued that their living conditions – against Marx' predictions – have improved. On the other hand, they say that the proletariat is continually shrinking and is basically a disappearing part of the population. Contemporary bourgeois economists hardly use the term class any more.

Interestingly, there is no genuine critique of the work of Karl Marx. A genuine critique doesn't necessarily mean that the criticism can't be correct. It means that an effort would be made by analysing quotes, the logical structure and the empirical material used by Marx, to show that he made a mistake in a particular chapter or on a particular

page. The present-day apologists for capitalism seem to think that this isn't necessary and instead rely on sweeping accusations which they believe to be effective.

#### On the Nationalist-clad Lie about the alleged "Disappearance" of the Proletariat

*In this section the following was explained:*

"Marx did in fact use in "Capital" empirical material from the first half of the nineteenth century from England, the most advanced capitalist land at that time, for illustrative purposes in extensive passages." But it was emphasised: "The subject of Karl Marx' investigation was the spread of capitalism worldwide. ...

Looking just at a single country in order to refute Marx is to make a mistake of category, which leads to the danger of not being able to give correct answers to questions of political economy.

From the outset, Capitalism and its class relations is not restricted to a single country. ...

The increasing role of the proletariat can be seen in the transfer on a grand scale of the production of goods and commodities, of profit-driven production, from the core countries of capitalism to other parts of the globe.

A quick examination of the statistics of bourgeois economists about the world economy shows how much the proletariat in countries such as India and China, but also in those like South Africa and Bangladesh has increased in the last decades. Compared to this increase, any possible reduction of the proletariat in a country like Switzerland is negligible.

Only the total world production can yield information about the size of the proletariat. So the first thing to say is that the important role of the proletariat across the globe is increasing, and that the proletariat across the globe still has the decisive role in production and for the functioning of capitalism.”

*Finally, the leaflet explained that a precise analysis is difficult as existing statistics group all those somehow related to production together, both executives and white-collar workers. The section ended with the conclusion:*

“Seen worldwide, the disappearance of the proletariat is a lie, a desperate attempt to disprove the thoughts of Karl Marx.”

### **Fight Nationalist Arrogance Towards Migrant Workers in Germany!**

*In this section of the leaflet it was explained why it is necessary to take into account both the worldwide situation and the particular political conditions in the imperialist countries in order to examine the process of change of the situation of the proletariat of a nation. Among the particular political conditions can be counted wars of conquest, the exploitation of the population of other countries and the existence of a small but relative stable layer of the proletariat (the so-called labour aristocracy) which is bought off by the imperialists in order to be set to use against the struggles of the proletarian class.*

*Then it was explained that there is a certain arrogance towards the proletariat – also in circles who see themselves as left-leaning or even feel themselves to be of the radical left – over the role of the abolition of capitalism.*

“The nationalist-tainted view can prevent the large army of migrant workers from even being considered when examining the proletariat in Germany. The current composition of the proletariat in Germany in the large, central production centres, the car factories and other is either consciously or unconsciously ignored. ... For the arrogance towards the proletariat in Germany is also an arrogance towards those workers who migrated to Germany decades ago, an arrogance towards people who originally came from Tur-

key, Spain, Morocco and many other countries, and who today form in large part the core of the industrial proletariat in Germany.”

### **The Decisive Conclusion of Marx: The Destruction of Capitalism by the Revolutionary Men and Women Workers**

*The last section emphasised the following:*

“The core of Marx’ analysis of capitalism is that capitalism is not able to solve the problems arising from the profit system. Capitalism is not able to ensure that everyone can lead a life in dignity ... Therefore the proletariat is forced to fight, to develop through its struggles and to pose the decisive questions which are answered by Marx and by scientific communism: We need to expropriate the expropriators, the exploiters. It’s not a question of the level of consciousness or organisation of the proletariat at any particular point in time. Rather, a huge potential for the revolutionary struggles exists and develops when the struggle of the workers is joined to the ideas of scientific communism. Precisely that is the task of the communist party. ...”

*In conclusion it was emphasised:*

“That means also, that it is above all out of the ranks of the revolutionary proletariat that emerge the forces that will build the communist party.”

*The leaflet consisted of 4 sides of A4 and contained the following further contributions:*

- *No to the Police State Ban – Solidarity with linksunten.indymedia!*
- *The Secret of Surplus Value*
- *Some Important Struggles of the Workers in other Countries in Recent Months*
- *Brief Overview of the Structure of “Capital”*

*The leaflet of October-November was on the subject of:*

## **The Necessity of a Communist Party and the Struggle Against Opportunism and Revisionism**

*The leaflet is part of the document “Programmatic Core Questions and the Struggle for Socialist Revolution and Communism” and will be published in summary in translation.*

*The first section described the attributes of a communist party as envisaged by Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels. Further sections were headed:*

- On the Struggle Against Opportunism and Revisionism
- Proletarian Class Consciousness Does Not Develop Spontaneously
- The Decisive Role of Scientific Communism
- No Communist Politics Without a Communist Cadre
- The Class Enemy Divides and Disorients: Communist Organisation as the Decisive Lever for the Overthrow of the Bourgeoisie Through the Armed Struggle in our ‘Own’ Country

*In a final section, the tasks of a communist party were described.*

*The leaflet consisted of six sides of A4 and also contained the following contributions:*

- *Democratic and Revolutionary Turkish and Kurdish Prisoners in German Prisons – The Hypocrisy of the German Media!*
- *1917 – Socialist October Revolution in Russia: The Victorious Uprising of the Proletariat Against the Bourgeoisie! (12 page supplement)*

*The leaflet for December had the following subject:*

## **Fight Anti-Communism!**

*The leaflet as a summary forms part of the document “Programmatic Core Questions and the Struggle for Socialist Revolution and Communism” and is reproduced below.*

*The leaflet contained the following sections:*

### **I. The Fight against All Forms of Open Anti-Communism**

- Open Anti-Communism is as old as Scientific Communism Itself
- Against the October Revolution and the Socialist Soviet Union
- The Anti-Communism of the Nazis
- Open Anti-Communism in Germany After 1945
- Open Anti-Communism in Germany Today

*It continues:*

“Open anti-communism is an important instrument for German imperialism in its fight against scientific communism and communists groups. Open anti-communism is as old as scientific communism itself. Its main target was initially scientific communism, which was most closely connected with the name Karl Marx. After the victory of the October Revolution in Russia in 1917 it was then primarily directed against the building of socialism in the Soviet Union, which was most closely linked with the name Lenin and then with the name Stalin.

Open anti-communism in Germany today is mostly connected with the hatred against Stalin. So-called “anti-Stalinism” is also seen in those who see themselves as left-wing and even in revolutionary groups. In Germany that is connected to the fact that the socialist Soviet Union under the leadership of Stalin contributed the major effort in the military defeat of Nazi Germany. For this Stalin is seen positively by many across the globe, but hated by many, especially in Germany.

## II.The Fight Against All Forms of Opportunism and Revisionism

“The struggle against open anti-communism also demands a fight against all forms of the opportunistic politics of class conciliation, of legalism and of capitulation to imperialism, as well as against all forms of the revision of the theory of scientific communism.

In this it is important to correctly assess the different opportunist, reformist and revisionist groups in Germany in different periods. Through this we can see that the greater the influence on a developing revolutionary movement of groups genuinely oriented on scientific communism, the greater is the danger from the old and newly developing forms of revisionism. Opportunists and renegades will consciously invoke scientific communism to deceive, in order to better fight against the influence of communist groups.

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Decisive for the genuine, offensive struggle against all forms of anti-communism is to study the ideas of scientific communism and to really make them your own, to spread them, to explain and to elucidate them in a lively form. This needs to be done in connection with the defence of the communist world movement and the building of socialism in the Soviet Union in the time of Lenin and Stalin, in the fight against modern revisionism, against the revisionist distortions such as the East German Socialist Unity Party of Germany (SED) or the CPSU in the Soviet Union of the 60s, 70s and 80s. These acted as a deterrent example for decades and are one of the factors which facilitated anti-communism in Germany up to the present day.

Only through these struggles can a clear-sighted communist party be built and the different economic and democratic daily struggles guided. Only in this way can a successful fight be led for the preparation and carrying out of socialist revolution, for a genuine struggle for communism. That is and remains the main issue.”

## III.The Installation of Capitalism in the Soviet Union, China and Albania

- The Meaning of the October Revolution
- Reasons for the Victory of Capitalism in the Socialist Soviet Union
- Revolutionary Experiences in the Formerly Revolutionary China and Albania

*The leaflet consisted of six pages of A4 and contained the following further contribution:*

- *Solidarity with the Just Struggles in Iran!*

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# Bulletin 2/18



## For the Information of Communist Forces in All Countries

Excerpts and synopsis from the publications of „Gegen die Strömung“  
– Organ for the building of the Revolutionary Communist Party in  
Germany: May - September 2018

Appears in ENGLISH, French, Spanish and Turkish

*The subject of the leaflet for May-June was:*

### On the Need to Fight Against Anti-Semitism Disguised as So-called “Criticism of Israel”

Some find it hard to believe: The alleged Palestinian liberation movement fights with swastikas on its flags against the Israeli border that they want to tear down. What has that got to do with left wing politics? It's completely clear that every defence of groups such as Hamas has nothing, absolutely nothing to do with democratic, revolutionary or communist politics. It's a history which began with the 1948 war of destruction of reactionary Arab states against the state of Israel which was established after the Holocaust.

### On the Situation of Israel: Plans for the Destruction of Israel since 1948

For 70 years the Jewish population have had their own state: Israel. It came into being with the support of the socialist Soviet Union in the most difficult conditions after Nazi Germany had carried out the Holocaust. After the majority of states of the United Nations had recognised Israel, the states of the Arab League declared war on Israel. After the Israeli declaration of independence on 14 May 1948, army units of the reactionary Arab states of Egypt, Syria, Lebanon, Jordan and Iraq attacked Israel on 15 May in order to destroy it.

These Arab states were hotbeds of reaction, feudalism and the various spheres of influence of the imperial Great Powers. Before 1945 they were colonies or dependencies of England and France and there were strong pro-Nazi groups present which were more or less open allies of Nazi Germany. The Mufti of Jerusalem

was widely recognised as the leader of the Palestinians. He was directly involved in the mass murder of the Jews of Europe and was sought as a war criminal. It wasn't just in the countries of South America that many Nazis found refuge. Many former members of the Nazi army, Gestapo members and SS murderers were able to go into hiding in Arab states. Among them were Nazi collaborators such as the extreme anti-Semitic groups around the Mufti of Jerusalem as well as the German Nazi war criminals who had fled to Syria and Egypt and who after 1945 were leading figures in helping to build up those armed forces which now attacked Israel. Everyone who wanted to know, knew about this.

The Arab-Palestinian population on the territory of the state of Israel and in the areas which were envisaged for the establishment of a Palestinian state were called upon to leave the area of conflict as quickly as possible by the attacking Arab states, as the Arab states reckoned with a quick victory. After the destruction of Israel these people would supposedly have been quickly able to return. This was a main reason for sections of the Arab-Palestinian population abandoning large areas, which was later in a sweeping generalisation described as an expulsion. In total there were over 700,000 people from the Arab-Palestinian population who at the end of the war in 1949 had left or partially been expelled from these areas. Without the military aggression of the Arab states against Israel this would not have been possible.

A further reason was certainly – and this cannot and should not be denied – that parts of the newly formed Israeli army (Stern Group) participated not just in the expulsion but also in massacres of the Palestinian population.

It was war and large sections of the Palestinian population stood on the side of the Arab states and were set against the establishment of Israel.

The Arab states lost the war against the small Israeli

army, whose members had gained their military experience in the war against the Nazi army and SS as part of the British Army, the other armies of the anti-Hitler coalition or as partisans. The belligerent Arab states did not hide the fact that their goal was the destruction of Israel as a state. Jordan and Egypt swallowed a large part of the territories that had been envisaged for the Palestinian population under the UN resolution. The warring and non-belligerent Arab states saw to it that over 800,000 Jewish citizens had to flee these states; most of them went to Israel.

Up to the start of the 1950s, 245,000 out of 265,000 Jews left Morocco. In Algeria, all but a few hundred of the 140,000 Jews fled. In Libya, Egypt and Iraq, where the Jewish communities numbered around 250,000, less than 1,000 Jews remained.

The Israeli army had won the war and Israel had expanded its territory through military considerations beyond the original UN plan of division, which had envisaged an Israeli and a Palestinian state. This was the starting point for all future wars and conflicts. It has never been just about the Palestinian population, it was always about the plans of the other Arab states to destroy Israel.

Incidentally: It is also a fact that the largest massacre of the Palestinian population was carried out by the reactionary Jordanian army in 1970 when 20,000 were murdered (Black September)

## On the Current Situation

Currently, the goal of the destruction of Israel is openly sought by above all the Iranian state, the Turkish state, but also by many groups in the Arab states. Organisations such as Islamic State, Hamas, other smaller Palestinian organisations, also the PLO in the wake of Hamas, the Iran-controlled forces of Hezbollah in the Lebanon, etc., have never given up on this goal.

The highest religious leader in Iran, Ayatollah Khamenei, demanded the destruction of Israel most recently on 3 June 2018: Israel is a "cancer" and must be "removed and eradicated" (Frankfurter Rundschau, 5.6.2018).

**Hezbollah** was established in 1985 with the help of Iran. Its ideal was and still is the reactionary Iranian regime, in particular the reactionary and anti-Semitic Ayatollah Khomeini, who stood at the head of the Iranian regime in the 1980s. 30,000 armed mercenaries of Hezbollah, armed by Iran, are based in the Lebanon and fire missiles into Israel.

**Hamas** was founded in the Palestinian Territories in 1987 by the "Muslim Brotherhood", which in the

1930s had collaborated with Nazi Fascists in Egypt and other countries. The deeply anti-Semitic "Muslim Brotherhood", which in Egypt alone had over 200,000 members in 1938, took over the distribution of Nazi literature in many Arab countries, for example the Arabic version of Hitler's "Mein Kampf" and the anti-Semitic "Protocols of the Elders of Zion" in which the anti-Semitic lie that the "Jews aim for world domination" is propagated. The "Muslim Brotherhood" in Egypt was prepared to help the instigation of an anti-English uprising in Egypt in mid-1942 in order to support the Nazi advance to the Suez Canal in North Africa.

The Charter of Hamas from 1988 is its most important programmatic document and retains its validity until today. ... Here we want to briefly quote merely the worst anti-Semitic lies of this document. The basis of the anti-Semitic lies that the charter spreads is the "Protocols of the Elders of Zion". The "Protocols" still belong to the standard repertoire of Nazis who profess support for Hitler and his Nazi party. Article 23 contains just about every anti-Semitic lie from the "Protocols". "Zionists" have gained "control of the international media", they "triggered revolutions in different parts of the world to pursue their interests, e.g. the French revolution of 1789 or communist revolutions." They gained "control over the colonial states" and were allegedly behind the First and Second World Wars. Hamas calls in its charter not just for the military "Liberation of Palestine" (Article 14/15), which means that Israel should be destroyed. It also openly calls for the murder of "the Jews". Article 7 says: "The time will not come until the Muslims fight and kill the Jews..."

Hamas used the chance to establish their own state territory in Gaza after 2005 - after the Israeli army had pulled out of Gaza - for the systematic preparation of a larger attack on Israel which would go beyond individual attacks within Israel. Hundreds of tunnels were dug in order to penetrate into Israeli territory. Since 2005 Hamas has fired thousands of rockets at Israel in order to make clear that the state of war is still continuing.

The Israeli state, a state like many other capitalist states but with a series of specific characteristics, closed off the Gaza Strip for this reason, so that no further weapons could reach the Gaza Strip by sea or through Egypt. The Israeli army carried out several military strikes, also using their air force, against Gaza between 2008 and 2014 with the clear goal of weakening or even destroying Hamas.

Since the start of April 2018, thousands and even tens of thousands have been marching almost daily

on the border with Israel with the aim of violently breaking through the border, penetrating Israeli territory and carrying out massacres. This movement was initiated and is under the leadership of Hamas.

Yahya Sinwar, leader of Hamas in Gaza, had openly declared this goal on 6 April 2018: "We will bring down the border and tear your hearts from your bodies" (Jungle World, 24.5.2018). Palestinian flags with swastikas were raised and kites with clearly visible swastikas were flown. These kites were furnished with incendiary devices and explosives and flown over the Israeli border where in some cases they caused massive destruction.

On 14 May 2018, the anniversary of the founding of the Israeli state, Hamas mobilised over 50,000 people from whose ranks serious attacks against the Israeli border were launched with the aim of breaching the border. In order to avoid the storming of the border, the Israeli army shot and killed over 60 people after issuing clear warnings to the supporters of Hamas. Over 50 of these were members of Hamas as Hamas itself confirmed.

And now there is worldwide outrage, even amongst the so-called "Friends of Israel" which is directed not at the actions of Hamas but against the actions of the Israeli army. In a perversion of historical and current facts Israel is declared to be the aggressor.

## **A Comparison Which Should Motivate to Reflection...**

A comparison proves nothing, historical conditions are different and yet comparisons can motivate us to reflect.

In Germany we know what sort of revanchist propaganda was employed against the resettlement of millions of Germans indoctrinated by Nazi fascism out of from Poland, Czechoslovakia and other states. This resettlement was sweepingly declared to be "expulsion" although it was essentially based on the justified resolutions of the Allies at the Potsdam Conference, resolutions that Germany has to this day not recognised.

There were certainly not just organised resettlements: sections of the Nazi-fascist contaminated population also fled ahead of the advancing Red Army and the growing armed forces which had fought against Nazi-fascism in Poland and Czechoslovakia. Here too, given the well-justified hatred, there were surely attacks against captured Nazi soldiers and this or that measure that was not militarily justifiable. But that doesn't change the fact that it is a great historical lie to talk here of a mass expulsion and to

stylise the circumstances and principles of a justified resettlement as a crime.

And now we imagine that today, 70 years after the resettlement, some group representing the "expelled" together with current political organisations, be it the "Reichsbürger" or some other Nazi group, were to arm themselves, demand a right of return, carry out attacks, dig tunnels after the border has been closed and then fire missiles from Germany into Poland.

Irrespective of the fact that Poland is a capitalist state with a government which is not a shining example of bourgeois democracy, it would nevertheless be pretty clear that, if the Polish army were to shoot dead 50 or 60 Reichsbürger, democratic and revolutionary groups would certainly not be engulfed in sorrow. Of course the reactionary Polish state would seek to exploit the situation to their advantage and to capitalise on the situation. That would put the revolutionary and democratic groups in Poland in a difficult position, because they wouldn't want to, couldn't and shouldn't support their reactionary government.

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Back to the current, real situation and away from this attempt to prompt reflection through a comparison.

Of course it is incredibly difficult for democratic and revolutionary groups in Israel to take a position against their own government in this situation with the aim of working together with democratic and revolutionary groups in Arab states, in Iran, Lebanon as well as in Gaza and in the West Bank. But in Israel it is possible and it is happening.

If we imagine what would happen to democratic groups in Gaza or the West Bank if they were to demonstrate against Hamas or the PLO, then it becomes clear that the situation in Israel is different. (By the way: It is indisputable that there is freedom of religion in Israel. There are mosques in Israel for the Muslim population there. Is it even conceivable that there could be a synagogue in the Gaza Strip?)

## **Fight Against Anti-Semitism Disguised as So-called "Criticism of Israel"**

In the light of this brief outline, we here in Germany are faced with a situation in which current events are being used as a pretext to disseminate and encourage hatred against Jews— something which extends even into the left-wing movement. Here are just a few examples:

An anti-Semitic atmosphere is encouraged by cartoons such as that in the "Süddeutsche Zeitung"

of 15 May 2018, where the Israeli Prime Minister was portrayed as “war-hungry Jew” in the style of the Nazi Propaganda paper “Der Stürmer”.

■ The bourgeois media are full of reports which falsify the historical circumstances and the current situation and which portray Israel as an “aggressor” while more or less directly presenting the attacks on the Israeli border as “justified protests”. Bourgeois politicians are joining in with this chorus.

■ For example, the leader of “Die Linke”, Rieger, wrote on 15 May 2018 on the party’s home page of “inconceivable violence against the demonstrators in Gaza” by the Israeli army (<https://www.die-linke.de>). The newspaper “junge Welt” spoke from a “massacre by the Israeli army” and the reactionary anti-Semitic mass movement in Gaza is falsely transformed into a “Palestinian Liberation Movement” (junge Welt, 16.5.2018) which is allegedly claiming the “right of return for the refugees” (junge Welt, 15.5.2018).

■ The marches and attacks against the Israeli border, organised by the extreme anti-Semitic Hamas with the goal of breaking through and committing a massacre are not mentioned with a single word. ...

■ The Nazis are increasingly using anti-Semitism in their mobilisations. For example, in Dortmund they organised a rally on 14 May 2018 with Palestinian flags and a banner with the slogan “The State of Israel is our Misfortune”. This is, slightly amended, the anti-Semitic phrase from Nazi Germany, where between 1933 and 1945 it read “The Jews are our Misfortune”. The German police protected the Nazi rally.

Our position on Israel points to the danger of a war of destruction and understands current events in this context, yet it must also be clear that the Israeli state, since its establishment, has long been a close ally of the United States, for example, during the Vietnam war, that it had shockingly close relations with the South African Apartheid regime, that it delivered weapons to Pinochet after the military coup in Chile. This is all crystal clear and not in dispute.

It is also clear that the expansion of territory of Israel from military considerations due above all to the wars of 1967 and 1973, as well as the reactionary settler policies, are at the moment serious indictments to be made against Israeli policies by the democratic-revolutionary groups in Israel. The planned deportation at the start of 2018 by the Israeli state of 40,000 refugees from Africa was rightly denounced and opposed by democratic groups in Israel, which ultimately led to the planned deportations being stopped.

Nevertheless, we need to strengthen the fight

against anti-Semitism in the name of so-called “Israel criticism” and show solidarity with all democratic and revolutionary groups in this region and worldwide in order to fight against the heightened conflicts between the imperial Great Powers and between smaller reactionary states and mercenary armies.

For us here, the primary task is to expose and fight against the hypocrisy and demagogic of German imperialism in all of its various guises.

*The leaflet consisted of 4 sides of A4 and contained the additional contribution:*

■ *On the German term „Israelkritik“ („Criticism of Israel“)*

*The subject of the leaflet for July was:*

## **In the Centre of the State: The Nazis and Their Helpers**

The justified criticism of all of the monstrosities of the NSU trial, above all of the cover-up of the co-operation of state organs with the NSU murderers and the absence from the trial of most of the supporters of the small group of three, was reinforced with good reason at the demonstrations which accompanied the end of the trial on 11 July 2018. It was also clear that the answer must not be a strengthening or reform of German secret service “Verfassungsschutz” and also not a strengthening of the police apparatus generally. No illusions in this state – this is how we can summarise this.

No illusions in this state and the police apparatus: that applies also to other events – as should be clear – and which became particularly transparent in this case. Of all things an American professor wearing a kippa who was attacked by a German anti-Semite shows with glaring clarity what everyday reality is like for the stigmatised minorities in Germany.

*On 11 July 2018 Yitzhak Melamed, a Jewish professor from the USA was attacked in the Hofgarten in Bonn by an anti-Semite who swore at him, pushed him and repeatedly tore his kippa from his head. Yitzhak Melamed defended himself as well as he could against the anti-Semitic attacker. After 20 minutes the police, called by mobile phone, showed up. The anti-Semite tried to flee. Yitzhak Melamed had already begun to chase him. With his kippa on his head he was clearly identifiable as Jewish.*

*Four or five policemen launched themselves not on the anti-Semitic attacker but on the kippa wearing Jew who had been attacked by the anti-Semite. In his public statement from 13 July 2018 Yitzhak Melamed*

*explained what now happened.*

“Four or five policemen jumped on me with great force (two in front, two or three from behind). They pressed my head against the ground and then, as I was completely unable to move and could hardly breathe, they began hitting me in the face. After a few dozen further blows I called out that they had the wrong person. They handcuffed me behind my back and hit me a few dozen times more in the face.”

*In the meantime the anti-Semitic attacker was caught but the police let him go shortly after. They now tried to intimidate Yitzhak Melamed:*

“These same policemen shouted at me in English in a cautionary tone: ,Don’t get in trouble with the German police! That was too much for me. I said to them sarcastically ,I have no fear of the German police any more. The German police murdered my grandfather. The German police murdered my grandmother. They murdered my uncle and they murdered my aunt. All on one day in September 1942. So I have no fear of you any more.”

*At the police station Yitzhak Melamed said that he wanted to file charges against the policemen who had hit him. For an hour and a half the police tried to dissuade him from doing so by lies and threats. During the whole time his face was bleeding and he received no first aim. Yitzhak Melamed explains further:*

“Then they began to imply that if I pressed charges against them then they would charge me with resisting arrest.”

Yitzhak Melamed however insisted on filing charges. The next day the president of the Bonn police attempted to present the brutal police attack as a regrettable “mistake” for which she wanted to apologise. Yitzhak Melamed:

“I said to her that human mistakes can happen but that the brutal attack of the police was no mistake. (...) Police brutality is one of the worst aspects of contemporary American society. It is racist and it is cruel. You might think that things are different in Germany. I doubt it very much. The only reason that the president of the Bonn police wanted to ,apologise‘ is that I am a professor at the John Hopkins University. If I were one of those on the fringes of German society then no one would care (and apparently no one would believe the complainant).”

*Yitzhak Melamed sarcastically describes the dishonest portrayal in police and media reports the day after “that I had resisted arrest and that the police consequently were ,forced‘ to hit me” as a typical expression of their “style of training”.*

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The fact is that what the Jewish professor experienced are completely typical reactions of Nazi- and nationalist-thinking and -acting police officers, of which there are a large number, be they supporters of the AfD, Seehofer, Sarrazin or Nahles. It is no accident that there is no investigation into the mass of Nazi-thinking police and members of other repressive authorities such as the army and the judiciary.

Anyone who asks stigmatised minorities, who speaks with refugees, Sinti and Roma, racial minorities will hear thousands of similar stories like that of the Jewish professor. All of those who have demonstrated against this state and been arrested know such threats and can report of the Nazi attitudes of the violent arresting police officers.

No illusions in this state. There will be no alternative to organising militant self-defence in order to oppose the well-organised Nazis inside and outside the state apparatus – and the state apparatus itself.

(The quotes from Prof. Yitzhak Melamed are from his Facebook statement of 13.07.2018)

*The leaflet consisted of 1 page of A4 and also contained the poster: Murdered by the NSU Nazi Murderers!*

*The leaflet from August-September had as its subject:*

## Fight Prejudice Against Turks!

The agitators of the ideology of German nationalism choose a different target for their attacks, defamations and hatred every few weeks, months and years. Sometimes it’s mainly directed against refugees, then against the Greeks, then against Sinti and Roma and so on. At the moment it’s again those people living in Germany who themselves or whose parents or grandparents come from Turkey.

This group of around 3 million people is discriminated against whether or not they have taken German citizenship, have dual citizenship or not. Merely a Turkish name is enough to be the target of insults, exclusion and discrimination, for example when searching for jobs or housing. Whether the person perhaps has Kurdish roots makes no difference to the discrimination experienced.

This has been going on for decades and has led to various related campaigns, for example the campaign against religious people who wear a headscarf. But note that it’s not directed against female German farmers or German nuns, but against women and girls whose (grand-)parents come from Turkey. In

Berlin and other places it's now forbidden to use the Turkish language in many schools in lessons or during the breaks. And Turkish is largely dismissed as a subject in schools.

## **Erdoğan as an Excuse for the Stoking of German Nationalism and Racism**

It's always the same mechanism: Because of some pretext there is a collective condemnation and collective prejudices are stoked up. Thus under the pretext of criticism of the Turkish president Erdoğan and his regime over the last few years, prejudice is whipped up against people whose grandparents or parents came from Turkey and who now live in Germany. Yes, there is a certain percentage of this group in Germany who are voters of Erdoğan. So what? What does that tell us? Even if these discriminated people wrongly hope for support against the hostile atmosphere in Germany from politicians in Turkey, that is no justification for hatred and prejudice against Turks.

The footballer Mesut Özil (who by the way gets booed from Turkish nationalists because he has German citizenship and plays for the German national team despite having Turkish parents) is now being subjected to merciless hounding in Germany because he appeared in a photograph alongside Erdoğan. This is symptomatic of the wave of hostility against people whose families came from Turkey, who were born here or have lived here for a long time and who are collectively categorised and discriminated against in a racist manner.

The highlighting of the hypocrisy and the policy of German imperialism in relation to Turkey (arms exports, the deal to prevent refugees travelling to Germany) and the oppression of progressive and revolutionary Turkish and Kurdish groups in Germany (the ban on the PKK, the trial of the TKP/ML and so on) is important and indispensable. It's quite clear that the struggle against Erdoğan in Turkey is justified and necessary - here in Germany too, for example when he comes to "visit" Germany in the autumn. But that's not enough against the campaign of anti-Turkish prejudice. For it is necessary to fight against the mechanisms of the German nationalist and racist incitement of the population in Germany.

The German nationalists have over the years stockpiled an arsenal of prejudices for use against many different countries. The traditional anti-Turkish prejudice began in Germany with Luther who railed against Turks and Jews. For example, Luther described the Turks similarly to the Jews as

"the servants of the devil" and "the enemies of God" who should be killed. The anti-Turkish caricatures and clichés fill thousands of pages. From this long history of anti-Turkish prejudice in Germany, today's Nazi movement and its helpers, the German nationalists take their ideological munitions. It is no accident that the Nazi murderers of the NSU placed on their death lists primarily people who themselves or whose families came from Turkey. And it was also no accident that the SPD inciter Sarrazin started his 2009 million-selling book of German nationalist and racist attacks with anti-Turkish abuse and defamation.

## **Current Examples of Anti-Turkish Prejudice**

The "#MeTwo" initiative has made it appallingly clear how strong is the latent or open everyday racism that people who are not seen as "German" experience on a daily basis. It is especially directed against people who are seen as "Turkish". Some examples from recent months:

- 13 March 2018: Arson attack on a Turkish vegetable shop in the town of Itzehoe ... .
- 4 April 2018: The city of Kassel cancelled a memorial event for the Turkish NSU victim Halit Yozgut due to "security concerns". The Turkish community in Germany rightly protested against this: "The signal is clear and it says: We couldn't protect you then and we still can't protect you today!"
- 21.4.2018: In Lichtenberg a woman described in the media as "German-Turkish" and a Turkish man were racially abused and violently attacked by two men. The racists set their pit bull on the Turkish man. Those attacked had to be treated in hospital for their injuries.
- Mid June 2018: In Cologne a double-sided Nazi leaflet was sent by post in an apparently targetted way to people who were seen as "Turkish". In it, Turks were called "Turkish bastards" and compared with plague bacteria, called "roaming Anatolian rats" and "rat shit". ...
- 25/26.6.2018: Unidentified persons painted "FUCKING TURKS" in huge letters on a wall in Stuttgart.

## **Anti-Turkish and Anti-Muslim Prejudice**

The animosity against Turks is fed by Islamophobia. Muslims in Germany are faced with an ever-increasing Islamophobia. It ranges from the continuous baiting of Muslims in the internet and anti-Muslim media campaigns to threatening letters, abuse, attacks

against mosques and physical assaults on Muslims and headscarf-wearing Muslim women in public spaces.

■ Politicians and the media launch one Islamophobic campaign after another, be it the debate about headscarves, about honour killings or the campaign against circumcision. Week after week the Pegida and Nazi agitators march on the streets under police protection. The AfD, which is now present in the regional parliaments and the third strongest party in the Bundestag, is systematically agitating there with anti-Islam propaganda. On 26.10.2014 the largest and most aggressive demonstration against Muslims in Germany to date took place under police protection. Several thousand Nazis and their supporters were able to march for hours through the centre of Cologne and to spread their hatred of Muslims.

■ Islamophobic Attitudes: In a survey by the University of Leipzig in 2016, about 50% claimed to feel like a “stranger in my own country”. In 2009 this was “only” 32%. In 2016, 41% of those questioned were in favour of banning Muslim migration into Germany. In 2009 it was “only” half as many.

■ Time and again there are threats, including death threats against Muslims. Two examples: On 14 March 2018 a letter with Nazi symbols arrived at the Cologne office of the Central Council of Muslims in Germany. In it, an explicit death threat was made against the leader of the Central Council, Aiman Mazyek and he was told to disappear from Germany. This wasn't the first death threat against him. The letter contained a white powder which only after a later examination was shown to be harmless. As a result, the office was temporarily closed. On 17 July 2018, about a week after the verdict in the NSU trial, a man walked into a bakery in Heilbronn-Böckingen carrying a pistol and without warning shot several times at the shop assistant, who was wearing a headscarf. Although it was only an alarm pistol, the woman didn't know this. During the shooting she hid behind the counter and then fled into a back room. Through this feigned execution she suffered a severe shock and was afterwards incapacitated for work.

■ State Islamophobia: In 2003 the Constitutional Court determined that there was no legal basis for the ban on wearing a headscarf about which teacher Fereshta Ludin had complained. Consequently eight German regional states passed school laws banning teachers from wearing headscarves. Four of these regions (Hesse, North Rhine-Westphalia, Bavaria and Baden-Württemberg) also created legal rules which gave a privileged status to the wearing of Christian symbols. The Constitutional Court in 2015

then declared both this general ban on headscarves and the privileged position of Christian symbols for inadmissible. Yet Muslim teachers are still having to go to court because they are still being denied the right to wear a headscarf in the school or they are not being employed as teachers in the first place. The courts have delivered conflicting decisions. The “integration minister” in North Rhine-Westphalia then started a new version of the headscarf debate in 2018: It should be legally forbidden for Muslim girls under the age of 14 to wear a headscarf in kindergartens and primary schools, allegedly to protect them from discrimination.

According to reports of the Network Against Discrimination and Islamophobia, the police are increasingly practising racial profiling against people who look like Muslims. They are increasingly the subject of selective, racist police controls especially at rail stations, airports and in public spaces.

■ In this Islamophobic climate there are then attacks against mosques. These include not just damage to property, desecration (e.g. via pigs heads and pigs blood or excrement) and Nazi-graffiti but increasingly arson attacks and explosive attacks, which have to be understood as attempted murder where inhabited buildings are targeted. In the period from 2001 to 2017 there were in total over 500 attacks registered by the authorities against Muslim prayer rooms and mosques across Germany. These attacks have noticeably increased in the last few years.

All of this makes quite clear the task of democratic and revolutionary groups: to oppose the anti-Turkish and Islamophobic agitation and politics and to show solidarity with those people in Germany regarded as “not German” who are abused, discriminated, threatened and harassed.

*The leaflet consisted of 4 sides of A4 and contained the following further contribution:*

## **A Brief History of Anti-Turkish Prejudice in Germany since 1961**

In 1961 the West German state signed a treaty with the Turkish state on the recruitment of “Guest Workers”. Up to 1973 almost 900,000 people from Turkey came to West Germany and to West Berlin. Almost without rights, they were subject to extreme exploitation mostly in large industrial works. They had to do the hardest and most monotonous work and were to all intents and purposes forced to live in barracks. Their stay was supposed to be for a limited duration (“the principle of rotation”) and was tied to their work for a particular capitalist. Initially

their work was limited to one year which was later extended. ... Today, over 50 years later, after many of them have got German citizenship and their children and grandchildren have been born here, they are still placed in a special category: "people with a migratory background". Anti-Turkish prejudice has led again and again in these decades to physical attacks and even to murders.

**1973:** Against the backdrop of economic crisis, a recruitment stop for non-European states was introduced. At the same time, anti-Turkish agitation in the media was dramatically ramped up. ...

As mainly Turkish workers at Ford in Cologne launched a militant strike, protesting about extreme exploitation and discrimination, a surge of German-chauvinist agitation was unleashed by politicians and the media. At the same time the police, in alliance with groups of thugs from the German Federation of Trade Unions (DGB), violently broke the strike.

**1982/83:** "We called for labour power, and people came" wrote Swiss author Max Frisch as early as 1965. And it was clear and logical that the workers from Turkey would increasingly bring their families with them. So it was that in 1980 around 1.5 million people with Turkish roots were living in West Germany. And at the start of the 1980s under the ideological slogan "We're not a country of immigration" the anti-Turkish politics and rhetoric was pushed again. ... On 26 May 1982 the Turkish woman Semra Ertan set herself on fire in Hamburg in desperation and to make a statement against the greatly increased nationalist, racist agitation. In 1983 the Bundestag passed a law encouraging the guest workers to return home. For 10,500 Marks and the return of their pension contributions, people of Turkish origin were supposed to be motivated to return to Turkey, an action which completely failed.

**1985/86:** In Hamburg the Nazis murdered a Turkish building worker in July 1985, and in December of that year the building worker Ramazan Avcı from Turkey. In West Berlin the Nazis distributed the "Anti-Turk-Test, made in Buchenwald – copyright 1986 by Hitler and Hess".

**1992/1993:** In the first years after the assimilation of East Germany, German nationalism exploded to a murderous degree. The targets were all people seen as "not German", including the large group regarded as "Turks".

*The section that followed described the murderous arson attacks on houses occupied by Turkish families in Mölln in 1992 and Solingen in 1993. In all, 8*

*people were killed.*

**From 1999:** The deadly bomb attacks and murders of the NSU Nazis were directly targeted against Turks. This was shown in the bomb attacks in a restaurant in Nuremberg in 2001, in a grocery store in Cologne in 2001 and in the nail bomb attack in the Keup-Strasse in Cologne in 2004 where only by accident was nobody killed - but a large number were seriously injured. Among the victims of the Nazi NSU murderers were mostly people who had been targeted as "Turks".

**2009:** Even before the publication of his nationalistic, racist book "Germany abolishes itself", the SPD member Sarrazin agitated in 2009 in the newspaper "Lettre internationale" not just against "the Arabs" but also against "the Turks", whom he contemptuously dismissed as inferior in an unmistakably racist manner. ...

**2016:** On 22 July 2016 the Nazi David S. murdered nine people in Munich by shooting them after having lured them into a trap. During the murders he shouted "Fucking Turks, I'm a German!". All of his victims were from families who had come to Germany from other countries. Four of his victims ... had Turkish names.

**2017/2018** New heightened anti-Turkish campaign of hatred.

Contact thru:

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\*<http://www.gegendiestroemung.org>

(\*... but don't underestimate the secret services

# Bulletin 3/18



## For the Information of Communist Forces in All Countries

Excerpts and synopsis from the publications of „Gegen die Strömung“  
– Organ for the building of the Revolutionary Communist Party in  
Germany: October - December 2018

Appears in **ENGLISH**, French, Spanish and Turkish

*The subject of the leaflet from October was:*

### Against German-National Ignorance and Anti-Communist Falsification of History:

### The Meaning of the Worldwide Struggles Around the Year 1968

There's currently a lot of hype around the commemoration of the struggles from the year 1968 which are mainly identified as the "Student Movement". But it is not about a self-critical analysis, rather a cover-up, a defamation and a falsification of the history of these struggles. Mostly the events are seen through a purely German perspective, as if it was mainly or only about the events in West Berlin, Frankfurt or Heidelberg. The struggles in many other countries of the world are filtered out, although these were often much larger and of more critical magnitude than in Germany.

### Armed Self-Defence of the "Black Panthers" and the Anti-War Movement in the USA

In the global struggle against the barbaric war of the USA and its allies in Vietnam and then in Cambodia and Laos, the struggles in the USA stand out. In view of the fascist attacks by the organs of state repression and by non-state mobs against the Afro-American civil rights movement, it became clear that the fight against the war of US imperialism in Vietnam was closely linked with the struggle against the anti-democratic and racist foundations of the US society, which emerged on the back of slavery and the eradication of the Native Americans. Thus in 125 large cities there were spontaneous uprisings and conditions akin to civil war after the civil rights leader Martin Luther King was shot and killed in Memphis on 4 April 1968. 22,000 police and 34,000 National Guardsmen were

employed across the country in order to put down all of the uprisings. 46 protestors were murdered, 2,600 injured and 21,000 arrested.

Internationally it was of great importance that in an imperialist state such as the USA the "Black Panther Party" (BPP) emerged, a movement which wasn't anti-communist. It was clear to this movement that it was necessary under all conditions to be well organised, to arm and to defend itself in order to be in a position to allow the necessary political debates and actions to take place which were necessary for the fight against US imperialism. It was very important for the BPP to establish and practise the equality of women in its own ranks (around half of the BPP members were women) and to fight against male chauvinism. One of the "8 Points of Attention" of the BPP was addressed to the men: "Do not take liberties with women".

Added to this was the fact that inside the US army, to a degree largely covered up, the drafted US soldiers carried out many acts of sabotage, they deliberately and consciously opposed their own officers with weapons, killed them. In doing so they made a great contribution to supporting the populations of Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos in their fight against US imperialism. It is estimated that around 350,000 soldiers deserted and around 12,000 defected to the Vietcong. In July 1969 a fire was deliberately started on the aircraft carrier "USS Forrestal" which caused damage of \$7 million and prevented the ship from being sent to Vietnam. The aircraft carrier "USS Ranger" was also sidelined for months due to a sabotage action. And in these years there were ever more large demonstrations in the USA.

*We have not forgiven and we will not forget the dozens of murdered fighters of the Black Panthers and those people who took part in the other large demonstrations.*

### "Forgotten" Large Struggles of 1968 – For Example in Spain, Turkey, Mexico and Senegal

Even in the thick books of the so-called historians of the

1968 movement the large struggles in a range of countries such as Mexico, Spain, Turkey and Senegal are hardly given attention.

■ In Franco's fascist Spain there were an array of struggles and militant conflicts with the apparatus of the state which are almost unknown. ... The mass protests of the students were closely interrelated with the strikes and demonstrations of hundreds of thousands of workers. ...

■ The student movement in Turkey which had developed since the middle of the 1960s carried out many militant protest actions against the Vietnam war starting in June 1967. ... There were serious clashes not just with the repressive state organs but also with murderous groups of fascists.

■ The struggles of the students in Mexico ... were among the most fierce of 1968. ... and finally led to demonstrations with over 500,000 participants. On 2 October 1968 the rulers put down the struggling masses in a bloodbath which murdered nearly 500 ...

■ Less well known is also that in Senegal, a country dominated by and dependent on French imperialism, a form of '68 movement was established against the President and pawn of imperialism Senghor. ...

### **1968 – What it Means When the Proletarian Class Appears on the Stage**

The debate about a possible socialist revolution and the role played by the intellectual or the proletarian class was also significantly influenced by the events of 1968. Whoever looked just at (West) Germany was disappointed by the degree of conformity of the industrial workers there. Yet many amongst the proletarian youth joined up with the youth movement against the Vietnam war, against the State of Emergency laws, against the media agitation but also against the Nazis in (West) Germany and against the reactionary conditions in schools and universities, as the arrest statistics of the police showed.

Yet it was in France that the role of the proletarian class in the '68 movement became very clear. There, the broad mass of the workers arose in struggle – in defiance of the treacherous revisionists of the French CP, who were communist in name only - against the French state apparatus and in solidarity with the street battles of the French youth, whether they were students or not. After a wave of factory occupations in which millions of workers united with students, there was a gigantic general strike on 20 May 1968 of hitherto unknown proportions with more than 10 million strikers in more than 300 of the most important factories. This shocked the state power in May 1968 and showed the huge power of the proletarian class when it becomes active and struggles unhindered by opportunists.

The fusion of the '68 movement with the proletarian forces of the country also occurred in Italy and Senegal. In the 1968 struggles in Italy, factory workers struggling against revisionist-reformist unions joined up with militantly fighting agricultural labourers primarily in southern Italy. The latter were stopped through brutal police and military violence. In Senegal, unionised workers organised solidarity with protesting school students who had been detained in military camps through a national general strike, and also formulated their own demands. Due to the participation in the strike of large sections of the exploited and oppressed population, the president of the country, a tool of the French imperialists, had to give in to the demands of the protest movement and release the prisoners.

### **The Attraction of Communist Forces and Ideas in the Movement of 1968**

The really tremendous wave of struggles and movements in the years 1967, 1968 and 1969 was largely oriented on the leading personalities of the world communist movement of the time, such as Ho Chi Minh, Mao Tse-tung and the guerilla fighter Che Guevara, as was emphasised on the banners of the demonstrators.

Communist literature and books of left-wing intellectuals were distributed, read and studied to a previously unknown degree. It would be correct to say that there was a broad debate about how a new movement could be organised, really oriented on communism after the appalling development of the Soviet Union to a police state, the appalling development of East Germany to a police state and the treacherous transformations of the formerly communist parties in the USA, France and Italy.

The revolutionising movement in China from 1966 had a particular attraction internationally. This movement, which became known as the Cultural Revolution, was directed against a threatening development towards capitalism through bourgeois-revisionist forces in positions of power, which actually came to pass from the middle of the 1970s. Many in the '68 movement were enthused by the fact that millions in the Peoples Republic of China became active in order both to depose the pseudo-communist rulers and bureaucrats, and in the area of education to dismantle and destroy the still dominant bourgeois concepts and "authorities".

China was the only state that strongly supported these student movements and the protests against the Vietnam war in West Germany, Italy, France, the USA, etc., through declarations but also through million-strong demonstrations. From 21 to 26 May 1968 over 20 million Chinese in Beijing, Shanghai, Tianjin, Shenyang, Nanjing, Wuhan, Guangzhou and in many other medium-sized and smaller cities demonstrated their solidarity and support for the developing worldwide struggles.

(See Beijing Review Nr. 22/1968: "Powerful Support – 20 Million Chinese Demonstrate"). In April 1968 Mao Tse-tung published his "Declaration of Support for the Afro-Americans in their Struggle Against Violent Oppression". ...

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It took one or two, sometimes three or four years until the imperialist bourgeoisie in all of these countries (the ruling class in countries such as Spain, Turkey, Senegal, Mexico and elsewhere) were able to suppress and atomise this movement through the tactics of the carrot and the stick, and through reformist and anti-communist pseudo-left-wing ideologies.

Yes, the ruling class of these countries really did succeed at the time. But they will not be able to prevent the evaluation and discussion in those countries of the valuable experience of this time. In the long run they must not and will not succeed. Every newly emerging revolutionary movement will remember the murdered revolutionary forces of this period and will gain inspiration from their debates and their struggles.

*The leaflet consisted of 4 pages of A4 and contained the following further contributions:*

■ *United Militant Struggle of Students and the Rural Population in Japan Against the Vietnam War In 1967/68 around 3,000 farmers joined together with students and around 10,000 supporters to fight against the expansion of a Japanese airport used by the US army in the Vietnam war. The Japanese farmers were explicit in their solidarity with the rural population in Vietnam.*

■ *Mao Tse-tung's "Declaration of Support for the Afro-Americans in their Struggle Against Violent Oppression" of 16. April 1968 (Excerpts). After the murder of Martin Luther King by US imperialists, Mao Tse-tung highlighted the national and international importance of the struggle of the Afro-American population as a signal both for all oppressed and exploited in the USA and also for the support and encouragement of the struggle of the people of the world.*

***The leaflet for November-December was on the subject of:***

***November Revolution 1918/19, Bavarian Soviet Republic 1919, Armed Struggle Against the Kapp Putsch 1920: On the Mass Murder of Revolutionaries***

***Swastika Freikorps and Social Democratic Statesmen on One Side***

For five years, from 1918 to 1923, there were time and

again armed struggles in Germany. The task was to arm important sections of the proletarian class and thus to advance the socialist revolution. This was the case during the November Revolution of 1918, the fighting in January 1919, the short-lived Munich Soviet Republic of 1919 which only held for a few weeks and the armed struggle in the Ruhr region in 1920 (the Ruhr Red Army against the Kapp Putsch).

Nearly all of these class struggles had a defining characteristic: The alliance between the remnants of the German army (Reichswehr) with the Freikorps (which was already flying the Swastika) and the state power (now led by the social democrats) was forged ever closer in their fight against the revolutionary forces. What today hardly anyone knows: Between 15,000 and 20,000 revolutionary workers were mown down in this period, murdered.

It is necessary to emphasise this historical truth even more today because precisely this counter-revolutionary social democracy is held up by self-proclaimed left-leaning press organs to be the saviour of democracy against left and right. In doing so the crimes of the social democratic-led state are partly obscured and partly openly justified. A further variant is to conceal the full scope of the crimes and gloss over them with platitudes.

### **The Betrayal of Social Democracy in 1914 and the Victory of the November Revolution**

The November Revolution was clearly a victory of sorts: At the end of the terrible First World War, begun by German imperialism, Kaiser Wilhelm had to flee and the monarchy at least was abolished. Bourgeois democratic rights were introduced together with rights for the proletarian class in the factories and a genuine universal suffrage (including the right to vote for women).

The October Revolution in Russia was both the impetus and the example, and conversely the November Revolution helped the revolution in Russia in its struggle against German imperialism. The First World War was ended. German imperialism had militarily lost the First World War.

There was huge euphoria amongst the revolutionaries but it became clear that this was only half a victory – and it was the whole counter-revolution that followed.

The leadership of the social democrats had already shown themselves to be traitors to the Second International and its promise of 1912 to answer imperialist war with revolution. It was the Bolsheviks in Russia who were consistent in their fight against the imperialist war and their own state's power and who thus provided the example for revolutionary forces in Europe – and also in Germany – to follow. The best-known names are Rosa Luxemburg and Karl Liebknecht. The small group

known as "Spartacus" established the Communist Party of Germany (KPD) in December 1918 and was the core of the hundreds of thousands of revolutionary workers who, disappointed by the social democrats, were determined to put an end to capitalism. The armed uprising of revolutionary sections of the working class in January 1919 against the bourgeois state, severely weakened by its defeat in the First World War, was supported by the Spartacus League with all the power it possessed. And what happened?

The leading bureaucratic layer of social democrats were left to hold the levers of power by the ruling class and given the political task of regrouping the remnants of the Reichswehr so that they could stand shoulder to shoulder with the swastika-waving Freikorps in order to shoot down the revolutionary working masses, both in 1918 and in the years of fierce class struggle and revolutionary uprisings which followed.

The core of the propaganda of the leading layer of social democrats was a double strategy. With unbounded agitation they railed against the revolution in Russia: the Bolsheviks were equated with Tsarism and an anti-Russian campaign was unleashed. At the same time the politicians Ebert and Noske fought to regain their lost authority by presenting themselves as being far to the left, speaking of "socialisation" and claiming to be radical opponents of reaction in Germany. All lies, but it had an effect and the influence of the SPD greatly increased once more. Nevertheless, in the further course of events, hundreds of thousands of revolutionary workers left the SPD. Over 300,000 members of the old SPD, who first organised themselves in the USPD mainly joined the KPD in 1920 while the rest, led by Kautsky, returned to the SPD.

On the following pages the development of the revolutionary struggles of the League of Red Soldiers and the revolutionary workers was described, together with the bloody counter-revolution of the ruling SPD government.

*One result of the bloody counter-revolution was the murder of Rosa Luxemburg and Karl Liebknecht, the leading figures of the revolutionary uprisings, and the murder of several thousand revolutionary workers by order of the social democratic government.*

*In the course of the revolutionary struggles the KPD was established. There were several general strikes in this period in which several million workers took part. Revolutionary uprisings took place in many German cities such as Berlin, Munich, Hamburg, Bremen and Braunschweig (Brunswick). The sections had the following titles:*

● *From the November Revolution to the January Fighting 1919 (First Stage)* ● *The Founding of the KPD*

*and the Occupation of the Editorial Office of "Vorwärts" ● The Murder of Karl Liebknecht and Rosa Luxemburg ● General Strike and Armed Struggle in March 1919 ● Massacre of the Bavarian Soviet Republic 1919 (Second Stage) ● Kapp Putsch 1920: General Strike and Armed Struggles (Third Stage). The end of the leaflet summarised as follows:*

*In the years 1919 and 1920 it is estimated that not less than 15,000 workers were killed by the white terror, but this didn't stop in 1920. There were armed conflicts at the coal mine of Leuna in 1921 which were put down bloodily. The phase of armed revolutionary struggles ended with the unsuccessful so-called Hamburg Uprising of 1923. All of these conflicts from 1918 to 1923 confirmed what had been formulated in the political programme, drafted by Rosa Luxemburg and resolved at the end of 1918 at the founding conference of the KPD:*

*"It would be crazy to believe that the capitalists would be so good as to accept the socialist verdict of a parliament or a national assembly, that they would peacefully relinquish property, profit and the right to exploit. All ruling classes have fought for their privileges to the last breath. ...*

*The imperialist capitalist class, as the latest offshoot of the exploiting classes exceeds all of its predecessors in brutality, unconcealed cynicism and baseness. They will fight tooth and claw to defend that which is most precious to them: their profit and privileges of exploitation. They will employ those methods of cold malice that they have exhibited in the whole history of colonial politics and in the last world war. ... All of this opposition must be broken step by step with an iron fist and with ruthless energy. The violence of the bourgeois counter-revolution must be countered by the revolutionary violence of the proletariat."*

*The leaflet consisted of 8 sides of A4 and contained the following additional contributions:*

- Why Noske and Ebert are Called Social Fascists
- On the Problem of the Term "Traitor"
- Lenin on the Murder of Karl Liebknecht and Rosa Luxemburg
- Lenin's Greetings to the Bavarian Soviet Republic. In this letter of greeting from 27 April 1919 Lenin emphasised the necessity in this struggle of arming the proletariat and disarming the bourgeoisie.

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(\*... but don't underestimate the secret services