

In this issue

Our previous issue, *Revolutionary Marxism* 2023 was published after the beginning of the Zionist genocide in Gaza. Unfortunately, after wiping out nearly 35.000 Palestinians, the army of the Zionist entity is still continuing its genocidal onslaught in Gaza. They are backed by the imperialists, and many so-called friends of Palestine are doing absolutely nothing to stop the Zionist assault, discounting the fact that Iran and its allies, Ansarullah and Hezbollah, are giving a hard time to Israel in distinct fields. During the winter, the imperialist centres were shaken by huge protests demanding an urgent ceasefire. Spring came with encampments and demonstrations in universities all around the world, which began in the heart of US imperialism. In Turkey, the persistent demand to cut trade relations with Israel, emanating both from the Islamic movement and the left, was not met by the despotism of Erdogan, who had previously secured his position in between imperialists and Zionist Israel. He paid a price in the local elections in March, and had to put a ban on trade with the Zionist entity, but only after having a scent for a ceasefire between Hamas and Israel, which he looked to for restoring the trade.

Imperialism is paving the way for a third world war, not only by supporting the Zionists in West Asia against Palestinians and Iran, but also by relentlessly inciting and supporting Ukraine in its war against Russia, and preparing and shielding Taiwan for a possible war with China. Circling China and Russia, world's neuralgic centre may easily phase out from West Asia to East Asia or Eastern Europe. But today, it's indisputably in Palestine.

For us, finding opportunities and tasks for the establishment of the world of the future with a dialectical approach is only possible by understanding Lenin's dialectical understanding of world politics, his war policy and his political path after the World War. So, a century after the great revolutionary leader's demise, we are proud to say that Lenin is the title and the content of *Revolutionary Marxism's* 2024 issue.

Unfortunate as it is, the legacy of the arguably greatest revolutionary leader in history is either silently ignored or wilfully blemished just as history necessitates that Lenin's lessons be put into action, now more than ever. The utter hostility at worst

and shy ambiguity at best by those who claim to be the heritors of the 20th-century revolutionary history toward Lenin's heritage makes this issue of *Revolutionary Marxism* in the international publishing scene of the left broadly defined. Let alone being discouraged by it; this aberration only consolidates our determination to uphold Lenin's legacy and introduce it to a new generation of militants and intellectuals who turn towards Marxism, not least under the impact of the ongoing genocide in Palestine and steadfast resistance against it.

For this reason, one can state without any exaggeration that publishing a special dossier on Lenin and his legacy is already a statement in and of itself, even beyond its content. Many shades of post-Leninism, from identity politics to intersectionality, seem to be all the rage on the international left. However, as sizeable chunks of the international left – not to say the overwhelming majority of it – spent the last three and a half decades chasing one fad after another, world history proved that Lenin and Leninism are deeply needed not only by those on the left but mostly for masses around the world who bear the brunt of approaching world war and the steady rise of fascism. Ongoing local wars and imminent regional, even worldwide wars remind us the actuality of the Leninist theory of imperialism, while the post-Leninist left seems happy with the dubious honour of an international outlook more often than not in sync with that of NATO. As the national question comes to the fore under very different forms – from Palestine to the Caucasus, from Kurdistan to Macedonia, from the United States and Europe to Latin America and India – Leninist internationalism remains superior to the chimera of EU-sponsored peace. And as popular uprisings rock the world but remain without decisive victories, history calls forth the Leninist party – internationally and nationally – as the force capable of cutting the Gordian Knot that blocks humanity's way.

This issue finds its basis in the conference jointly organised by the International Socialist Center Christian Rakovsky and the RedMed Web Network on January 21st, 2024, that is to say, precisely on the centenary of comrade Lenin's death. The workshop itself saw the participation of militants and intellectuals from all over the world. Their contributions, after a minimal amount of editorial touch, are reproduced in the 2024 issue of the *Revolutionary Marxism* journal. The breadth and variety of contributions – in English, Spanish, French and Italian alike – is testimony to the actuality of Lenin's heritage. Accordingly, the texts that you will read illustrate the importance of Lenin, not as a mere symbol of a bygone past, but as a political and theoretical body of work that proved itself abundantly relevant for the fighters of socialism in the age of imperialism.

The dossier starts with two pieces by Savas-Mikhail Matsas and Sungur Savran for two organisations spearheading the conference, the EEK (Workers Revolutionary Party, Greece) and the DIP (Revolutionary Workers Party, Turkey) respectively. Savran's article here has been substantially broadened in comparison to his contribution to the conference, which contained only a fraction of what the present piece includes. Then, the extent of contributions shows itself from a regional standpoint, in addition to that of topics addressed. Post-Soviet countries and their Marxists assume an important role. Iosif Grigorovitch Abramson, the towering figure of Russian communism, contributes with a short piece on the tactical arsenal mobi-

lized by Vladimir Ilitch Lenin and his comrades in the fateful months leading into the October Revolution. Daria Mitina, from the OKP (United Communist Party in Russia), attacks head-on the denigration of Lenin's legacy by Vladimir Putin and his ilk as she underlines Lenin's role in constructing the great achievement that was the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics. Mikhail Konashev, from the Association of the Soviet Union, takes a steadfast defense of Lenin's legacy as the embodiment of the "unity of revolutionary theory and revolutionary practice." Finally, David Epstein undertakes a discussion of current geopolitics and socialist planning in the 21st century.

Latin America is equally well-represented. Osvaldo Coggiola, from Brazil-Argentina, offers an article-length study of Lenin's political trajectory and the transformation of Leninist as an adjective to Leninism as a noun. Edgar Azevedo, takes Lenin's speech to the 4th Congress of the Communist International as a starting point to discuss what we can learn from this great revolutionary in the construction of revolutionary leadership. Jose Capitan, from Opción Obrera in Venezuela, deals with another historical topic, this time the Rapallo Treaty of 1922. Flo Menendez, from Universidade Estadual Paulista, discusses Lenin's internationalism from a cultural standpoint.

Contributions extend to political analyses by revolutionary organizations and groups from all across the world. Dimitris Mizaras from Marxist Workers League (Finland) asserts the relevancy of Lenin's legacy as the Baltic region, just like the world as a whole, draws ever closer to a disastrous war. From France, G. Bégéneix from ROR offers an in-depth analysis of the French political situation and the need for a Leninist organization to put an end to the crisis. Enric Mompó and Toni Marcó from Red Roja in Catalonia point out how concrete lessons of Lenin could be applied to the current European situation. Gian Franco Camboni from Sardegna Rossa (Italy), reiterates Lenin's call to transform the imperialist war into a civil war. Alex Mitchell, recalls the importance of Lenin through the role of the revolutionary leader in his own political development.

Last but not least, the dossier carries contributions on and from Palestine, befitting Lenin's strategic orientation for the alliance of the working class and the oppressed nations. The Unitary Campaign for the Liberation of Georges Abdallah, which carries forward the cause of the Lebanese communist fighter of the Palestinian cause, braving the prison of French imperialism for the last four decades, opens the dossier. Then, Jeremy Lester recounts his personal experience in the West Bank's refugee camps during the initial stage of Israel's ongoing genocide. After pointing that the war is extended beyond the region, Savas Mikhail Matsas points to a revolutionary international for the emancipation of the Palestinians. Kutlu Dâne, the spokesperson of the Friends of Palestine against Imperialism and Zionism in Turkey, gives a brief rundown of his organization's history and solidarity action. Finally, Burak Saygan from the Revolutionary Workers Party (DIP) in Turkey, retells DIP's congress resolution and approach to the Palestinian struggle.

We hope our readers will enjoy reading our current issue and some will contribute to the journal by submitting manuscripts and actively promoting *Revolutionary Marxism* among broader audiences.

Lenin's Legacy 100 years on

Online conference
organized by
International Socialist Center
Christian Rakovsky and
RedMed web network



21 January
2024



07:00 EST
09:00 Sao Paulo
13:00 CET
14:00 Athens
15:00 Moscow
St Petersburg
Istanbul
23:00 Melbourne