



Rete dei Comunisti

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Ukraine is a historical ridge

Mauro Casadio » Rete dei Comunisti

The qualitative leap highlighted by the war in Ukraine is the direct product of an accumulation of unresolved contradictions in international power relations that have dragged on since at least the 2008 financial crisis. The process has been complex and in some ways 'karst', but today it is bursting into the light of day with unexpected force, just as the rapid timing of the military precipitation was also unexpected.

Of course, for us today the first place is given to the tasks to be carried out in our country and in Europe in the fight against the war, against NATO expansionism and above all against the involvement of the Italian and European people in this war, and against the war economy, which will cost tears and blood to the popular sectors, as we can already see from the slowdown in growth forecast at 4% after the pandemic already dropped to 1%, and the galloping inflation.

We are also against the logic of neither, because NATO is a political-military alliance while Putin is an individual. We are against it because we cannot be conditioned by an ideological approach that for thirty years has seen the "good guys" against the bad guys, who are from time to time Milosevic, Saddam Hussein, Gaddafi, Bin Laden, Assad, the various North Korean Kims and so on.

This logic is in fact the blackmail imposed on us to keep us tied to the master's cart. This is why, in order not to be demonised in turn, we should renounce any reasoning that looks at the historical process under way. This is what Draghi

explicitly said in Parliament. Forget about the end of history, as the same people have always told us, history has never stopped and now risks a new breaking point.

In fact, the problem is not Putin, but what Russia has become after the collapse of the USSR, how it was and how it is governed by the oligarchs who until yesterday were allies of the West and by the political and economic gangsters in power.

So the point to be made is that if for some a Putin subordinate to the West would also be acceptable, for us it is not, not even in this case. Putin is in fact part of the dominant group that sold off the USSR, and for us this is not at all acceptable.

So we are well beyond the "neither" and what seems incredible is the total removal of recent history, even by sectors that call themselves communists.

But this is another history. Certainly to be taken up again.

A crisis of strategy

However, talking only about what is happening in Ukraine is not enough to understand the dynamics at work that have led to this situation.

For years now, in a world that is now "ex-globalised" - as we have been arguing for some time now - there has been a rebalancing of interna-

tional financial, economic and military relations that has contained the US hegemony since the financial crisis of 2007/2008, thus determining a substantial stalemate in world power relations in which no one could clearly prevail over the others.

A stalemate in which the growth of China and the construction of the EU played an increasing role.

This equilibrium, due to the increase in hyper-competition as evoked by Von Der Leyen, is now being overcome except, for now, for nuclear armament which remains as a general deterrent. The event that has 'made official' the manifestation of this imbalance is the flight of the USA and NATO from Afghanistan last August.

The disarrayed retreat from Afghanistan was not only the certification of a political-military defeat, but was the manifestation of a strategic failure which - according to the theory put forward in the 1980s by Brzezinski - intended to occupy the centre of Asia to determine the world's balance.

Therefore, the US/NATO breakaway did nothing but reveal the US vague desire to continue to be the only hegemonic power in the world.

On the basis of this strategy, from 1991 onwards, military interventions were carried out in Iraq, Syria, Libya, and Afghanistan, and attempts to destabilise Iran were stepped up. The US wanted to build a political/military axis that would reach from the Mediterranean to the heart of Asia, occupying a strategic position in order to have both Russia and China 'at gunpoint'. But they failed.

This Western impotence has given rise to a new hegemonically competitive "gravitational" centre, made up primarily of China, which, together with Russia and Iran, is creating a series of agreements to build a vast continental economic area with its own possibility of growth independent of Euro-Atlantic imperialisms.

The repercussions in Europe

The forced accession of Ukraine to NATO originates from and in this context and is by no means an accident of regional dimension.

On the other hand, if we review the conclusions of the G7 meeting in Cornwall in June 1921, the hypothesis of strengthening ties and internal stability within the Euro-Atlantic area was already evident there, where there was talk of a "democratic silk road" as opposed to the Chinese one.

But the downsizing of the US also concerns transatlantic relations, as the international rebalancing underway also affects this area.

The dance at the beginning of the Ukrainian crisis was significant, as the US adopted the same tactics as it did in the 1980s with the Euro-missile crisis in Europe, where on the one hand it threatened the USSR but on the other hand it also wanted to reduce the ambitions of European states. In particular Germany, which was seeking its own autonomy with what was called Ostpolitik promoted by West German Prime Minister Willy Brandt.

The forcing on Ukraine on the one hand aimed at a crisis in Russia with the aim of weakening the Euro-Asian bloc in the process of being for-

med, and on the other hand intended to put the EU back in the 'trenches' by trying to reassert US hegemony in the West.

Unfortunately for Biden, his calculations turned out to be flawed. Putin in fact decided to go on the military attack with the cover of atomic weaponry and the backs of China, which in turn has declared that the relationship with Russia is "as strong as a rock" avoiding attempts to divide them, also because it has to deal with US provocations on Taiwan.

The EU, which can no longer retreat from its own imperialist perspective, has relaunched and after the first unsuccessful attempts at mediation has made a virtue of "necessity", revealing itself to be more militaristic than the United States itself, promoting direct confrontation with Russia and raising the threshold of the danger of generalised war.

It was only at that point that Biden, knowing full well that an atomic war would not only take place on the European stage, denounced the risks of a nuclear conflict, limiting retaliation to sanctions and financial and arms support for Ukraine.

The last mile for the European Union

What is relevant to our political condition is the new leap forward the EU took with the Versailles extraordinary summit to sustain its international role.

For more than 20 years there have been those who claim that the EU is just a 'geographical expression', continuing to deny a reality that is becoming more and more evident, without considering that we are in a process that does not have the 'classical' characteristics, if any, of the

constitution of a new supranational state entity.

The EU as an imperialist power is being built precisely through crises!

The 2008 crisis initiated an advanced phase of economic and financial integration, of which Draghi's presidency at the ECB with "quantitative easing" was the most functional management for continental construction.

The pandemic crisis has led not only to the strengthening of common financial instruments, with the Recovery Fund, but also to the launch of a phase of integration of the European industrial structure that brings back to the continent production relocated worldwide, which proposes a technological leap forward at the cost of closing down economic sectors that are now obsolete, a thesis made explicit by Draghi when he stated that not all companies can be saved.

All this is topped off with an "environmentalist" ideology, which is now crumbling under the blows of war, once again favouring private profit over environmental protection.

Finally, the war in Ukraine has provided an opportunity, which the EU intends to seize, to go the "last mile", that is to say to concretely start the process of militarisation of production, Warfare, which will allow the economic revival and the construction of the European Army so often evoked but now within reach.

The meeting of heads of state in Versailles on 11 and 12 March will clear up any ambiguity in this regard. In the meantime, a truth that has been clear for some time has emerged, namely that NATO has two main players, the US and the EU,

who are striving for strategic parity, which the US will finally have to take note of.

In addition, the European rearmament process has been laid down in black and white, with an investment and planning plan that leaves no room for doubt. On the other hand, at other times, someone said that if the United States of Europe were to be born, it could only be reactionary, but so be it!

And what about the prospects?

Of course it is not easy to make predictions because today one can quickly plunge into military escalation or face a more or less long phase of negotiations and conflict not necessarily limited to Ukraine.

But the error inherent in venturing on 'forecasts' and taking certain outcomes for granted is that of starting from a merely geopolitical logic without considering the structural data that has matured in the passage to the 21st Century.

In reality, the situation we are experiencing is that of the exhaustion of the margins of world growth, understood as a whole, of the "Capitalist Mode of Production", or rather the historical reduction of the rate of profit with respect to

the enormous financial mass in circulation in the world and produced by capitalist development in recent decades.

This is what produces the hyper-competitiveness between capitalisms that are the product of specific histories and interests.

This condition can only accentuate the international conflict beyond the reasons of the states or the reasonableness of the ruling classes. Therefore the outcome that we can rationally foresee now is not at all positive, even if the time-frame of a precipitation will not necessarily be short, but neither can it be projected over a long period of time.

This poses the need for communists, class, social and democratic forces to understand how to deal with the coming years, in which the need for unity among all those 'excluded' from this development, starting with the working class sectors, is as clear as day to all of us.

However, this is possible if we are aware that building unity without producing in the confrontation the quality of analysis, content and perspective of overcoming capitalist social relations is, as has often happened, condemned to last only a season.



With the Strategic Compass for Security and Defence

The European Union becomes a military power in perspective

Rete dei Comunisti

The approval by the Council of the European Union on Monday 21 March of the document on the "Strategic Compass for Security and Defence" takes the political edifice of the EU to a quantum leap in planning.

Not only does the Union now aspire to become a major global player, but it is also equipping itself with the overall military instruments to implement this plan and the relevant funding methods.

The Strategic Compass, with regard to the change of pace in the ability to channel economic resources, is quite clear in this regard: "spend more and better on defence", which is entirely in line with the choices to increase the military budget already announced for the respective countries by, among others, the German prime minister and then the French prime minister.

Reading the document, one gets the impression that the warfare state will become a decisive element in the continent's economic system, and that R&D will focus on the high end of dual-use weapons technology.

The European Union is above all functional to the promotion of the interests of a European oligarchy born out of the more far-sighted fractions of the individual national bourgeoisies that initiated its constitution with the Maastricht Treaty some thirty years ago. This process of construction serves a consolidated continental bourgeoisie

that is equipping itself with the necessary tools to deal with this phase of strategic competition, capable of projecting its own interests in open contrast to the spheres of influence that are being defined by other global players.

It is a project that has demonstrated its undeniable resilience and has been able to transform the crises it has gone through into opportunities for a relaunch, filling the gaps that have emerged in its action towards an ever greater degree of verticalisation of its decision-making processes, a more advanced process of economic and financial integration and a more articulated deployment of the instruments at its disposal, last but not least the military one.

The 50 pages of the Strategic Compass certify, after two years of negotiations among the Twenty-Seven, the convergence on a European defence policy, which stems from a common vision of the challenges that will have to be continually updated, approving a new military doctrine that aims to achieve that strategic autonomy in a series of fields related to war requirements.

A strategic autonomy in a complementary relationship with NATO, but with a different weight compared to the one played until now, able to counterbalance the Anglo-American axis in the future.

The Western defeat in Afghanistan, sanctioned by last summer's daring escape from the Asian

country, and the Russian military action in Ukraine have made it no longer possible for the European Union to postpone the completion of its formation as an imperialist pole.

Quoting the document: 'a new strategic landscape is emerging that requires us to act with a much greater sense of urgency and determination'. In fact, the timeframe of the various objectives listed at the bottom of each section of the Strategic Compass places them as priorities in the binding choices of the political agenda to come and gives a sense of the acceleration of this process already partly underway with PESCO, i.e. Permanent Structured Cooperation.

The EU therefore wants to overcome the "critical capacity gaps" and "strategic dependencies" that undermine its autonomy, and it wants to do so quickly with a broad programme that has 2030 as its ultimate time horizon, and much closer intermediate steps.

The document puts its finger on the role of Russia, its being, so to speak, identified as a sort of global threat to the EU from Eastern Europe to Africa to the Middle East, while China is considered "a cooperation partner, an economic competitor, and a systemic rival".

In the coming years, the European Union will be endowed with a military profile to match all its functions: from the development of a shared intelligence that elaborates a "common strategic vision", equipped with unique command and control structures, to a state-of-the-art defence industry, from permanent cooperation between the various branches of the Armed Forces (Navy, Air Force, Army) and relatively new fields of warfare (Space and Cyber Space) of the dif-

ferent countries, to the creation of its own fully operational multinational and inter-force rapid intervention force.

This 5000-strong force, for which Germany - in the words of Defence Minister Christina Lambrecht - has already made itself available to provide the hard core, will start training next year and be effectively operational by 2025.

The ability to set up military missions will be achieved through a decision-making process in which 'willing member states' will make use of the 'constructive abstention' of those who do not wish to participate without being a de facto obstacle to the implementation of missions. This way, the decision-making processes will not be congested, with a leading group of states (Germany, France, Italy and probably Spain) being surrounded by other "variable geometry" components, thus consolidating war cooperation.

Above all, the EU will increasingly conceive of itself as an actor with a heightened self-awareness in the face of the accelerating process of development of structural contradictions in the development model of which it was the author, and capable of acting from Africa to Asia, passing through the Middle East with a vast range of partners that goes from the African Union to ASEAN, in addition obviously to NATO and the UN.

This continental bloc is already endowed with a certain size that potentially made it a major player in military power, as High Representative for Foreign Policy Josep Borrell recalled on the sidelines of the approval of the Strategic Compass: "The Twenty-Seven spend four times as much as Russia every year and a similar amount

as China, but much less efficiently. We need to be more efficient.

"À la guerre come à la guerre" has once again become the motto of a continental bourgeoisie that has put its helmet back on and intends to make the working classes pay for the costs of this castrensian metamorphosis, despite the growing spectre of stagflation.

As Rete dei Comunisti, we have been affirming for a long time the need for our country to break free from the cage of the European Union and leave NATO, as the only chance for the emancipation of the subordinate classes and now more than ever as an obligatory exit strategy from a

spiral of war that is feeding itself with increasingly serious consequences. In November last year we dedicated a two-day forum in Bologna to deepen the transformations of the EU: "European Union: from imperialist pole to super-state?". The results of this reflection work have become a substantial paper issue of Contropiano published this February and which we are preparing to present in various Italian cities, in order to continue a discussion that we consider central and essential.



Latin America: national campaign at its side kicks off

Giacomo Marchetti » Rete dei Comunisti

On Sunday 6 March, the first meeting of a national campaign in solidarity with Latin America was held at the Arci Guarinelli club in Bologna.

The sense of this initiative was underlined at the end of her speech by Mila Pernice, who introduced the work: we believe that there are the conditions for a strong political campaign in support of the processes underway in Latin America, we believe it is time to build a national mobilisation on these issues because those processes indicate a direction that we feel the need to accompany and support, because the only possible direction is the one that goes towards the overthrow of the capitalist system and its imperialist policies. Why not, in the wake of the construction of socialism in the 21st century.

This first and participated meeting served to get an overall picture of the various countries of Nuestra America, thanks above all to the voices of the many Latin American comrades living in Italy, and to hypothesise a first political agenda for the campaign that will be enriched and more detailed in the months to come.

Representatives and activists from Bolivia, Brazil, Cuba, Peru, Colombia, Ecuador and Venezuela took part.

The picture was completed by Luciano Vasapollo's contribution, which focused mainly on Cuba and Venezuela, showing the overall challenges of the socialist transition in a multipolar world in rapid transformation and where war, unfortunately, seems to have become once again one of

the main tools for solving intercapitalist competition.

The Cuban and Venezuelan situation was also addressed and deepened by Indira Pineda, a political activist of Cuban origin working at the Venezuelan consulate in Naples, and by Adres Barreto, who clarified the meaning and importance of the PSUV Congress currently taking place and drew attention to the struggles on the right to housing, of which he is a promoter, in Italy.

The contribution of the Youth Communist Organisation Cambiare Rotta and OSA, intervening with Eva Olivero from CR, recalled - among other things - the vanguard role played by the youth component in triggering powerful Latin American social movements, such as in Chile, and the role played by Cuban youth organisations first in the difficult fight against the pandemic and then in annihilating the failed attempts at destabilisation last summer.

Mila Pernice, from Rete dei Comunisti, introduced the meeting and chaired it with Guadalupe Aguilar, a cultural mediator and international activist of Bolivian origin.

Giacomo Marchetti, from Rete dei Comunisti, concluded by reviewing the meaning of the initiative in the current context and relaunching the initiatives that will characterise the Campaign in the coming weeks.

The first series of initiatives will concern the Co-

Colombian elections with the elaboration and dissemination of a series of in-depth materials. The Colombian situation, mentioned in several speeches, was deepened by Eder Obando, representative in Italy of the Coalition of the Histórico Pact, which will choose its candidate and his deputy to the Presidency in the primaries to be held, at the same time as the political elections, on 13 March.

He complemented his speech with the screening of the first episode of the first season of the webseries *Matarife*, based on the investigative journalistic work of Danilo Mendoza Leal, shown for the first time in Italy with Italian subtitles for this meeting.

In the coming weeks, the promoters of the campaign will be showing this documentary in various Italian cities, which, as has been mentioned, was the 'straw that broke the camel's back', contributing to a greater level of awareness of what the Uribe system has been.

These initiatives will be important moments of awareness and confrontation, to support the electoral challenge of the Pact towards the presidential elections in May.

Colombia is the only country in Latin America that has been integrating the Atlantic Pact since 2017 and has recently expanded the spectrum of its collaboration with NATO.

The second set of initiatives, the timing and manner of which will have to be decided, will concern support for progressive forces in the presidential election campaign in Brazil in October.

The situation in the country was well illustrated by Frederico Ronconi, an activist in the anti-asylum struggle and a member of the Brazilian Communist Party, who emphasised the need for popular mobilisation and the clarity of the class agenda that commits the progressive forces, primarily the PT, in the current Brazilian political situation.

A third moment on which the campaign will focus is the launch of a national day of mobilisation for 12 October this year, a sort of 'No Columbus Day'.

In the words of Mila Pernice's introduction: as a coordination around the campaign, we want to launch an idea for a national appointment, in the autumn, a No Columbus Day that would fall after the first round of the presidential elections in Brazil, on the date when, as Eduardo Galeano wrote, 'Latin America discovered capitalism' with all that ensued.

An appointment to be built, but absolutely necessary.

If these are the main axes on which the campaign will be structured, it is clear that particular attention will be devoted to monitoring and supporting both the trajectory of the transformation processes in countries that have experienced a progressive turnaround, such as Peru, or that after a parenthesis have resumed that path with even greater vigour, such as Bolivia, as well as countries, such as Ecuador, struggling against a fierce neo-liberalism "back" and looking at future elections as a chance for redemption.

In this sense, the interventions of a comrade from Peru Libre Guizela Alarcon and Luis, and

Gabriel Caisaletin, a political activist from Ecuador, were precious.

In the coming days the recording of the individual interventions of the meeting, which was broadcasted on Contropiano's YouTube channel, will be available.

While the winds of war are blowing impetuously, we think that a first important step has been taken in the direction we had hoped for, aware of the need to continue the widest possible debate on a continent that is a hope for Humanity.



Civil and military nuclear power.

Cambiare Rotta

At the beginning of June, the European Union's decision-making bodies will take the final steps towards approving the inclusion of nuclear fission energy in the green taxonomy, the list of sources considered sustainable and to be financed for the so-called ecological transition.

Over the past few months, the European debate on nuclear power has been gaining momentum by exploiting the critical climate levels reached as a result of a development model that is unsustainable from every point of view: human and environmental. But it was the recent precipitation of war in Ukraine that revealed the real need of the European ruling classes, namely the need to reduce energy dependence on foreign countries as soon as possible, in the face of a greater drive towards electrification, in order to be able to withstand the clash in the era of multi-polar hyper-competitiveness evoked by Von der Leyen in her speech on the Union in September.

With this in mind, but in a context of open warfare, on 10-11 March last at the Versailles summit the European leaders indicated the three strategic objectives to achieve a Europe of power. One of these is energy autonomy, with the definition of the "REPowerEU", a plan to be drawn up by the European Commission by the end of May.

It is necessary to build an opposition to this warmongering and climatic project, we launch an appeal to all social, trade union, political and movement forces to build together a path that, starting from the important mobilization on the

occasion of the global strike for the climate on 25 March, will lead us to a national demonstration on Sunday, 22 May at the Caorso nuclear power plant, a symbolic place in the history of the anti-nuclear movement in this country that in 2022 - thirty-two years after the closure of the plant - will see the start of the dismantling of the reactor.

The reason for this is that a large part of the uranium extraction and processing phases are covered by military secrecy and it is therefore not possible to assess their impact on emissions in a transparent manner. Similarly, as far as the CO2 produced by the decommissioning process is concerned, there is no certain data available to date and we will not have it for another decade, when the most nuclear-connected countries will begin to effectively dismantle their plants. In this sense, the heavy legacy that nuclear fission leaves behind is taught to us by the history of our country: in Italy, since 1987, the year of the first referendum against nuclear power, the decommissioning process of the four Italian reactors is only 30-40% complete and Sogin, the company that manages Italy's nuclear power plants, first passed on the enormous costs of the work to our electricity bills and then went into administration. Today, the resolution on the Single National Nuclear Waste Repository is approaching, but if it is still managed as an S.P.A., it will only produce environmental damage and undemocratic decision-making mechanisms.

Warmongering because: Civil nuclear power also has another face, namely the military one. Enri-

chment technology can produce uranium enriched to over 90% for bombs, so gaining control of nuclear technology means having materials suitable for the production of nuclear weapons. The American bases on our territory at Camp Darby and Sigonella and the military airports at Aviano and Ghedi contain nuclear weapons of various types. And it is precisely from all these bases that weapons are currently being shipped to Ukraine, thereby fomenting a conflict in which the atomic threat is just around the corner.

Faced with the unsustainability of a production

model that devours the present and destroys the future, as a communist youth organisation we feel the urgency of building practical action against nuclearism, taking advantage of the legacy of past struggles that have banned the nuclear industry from Italy and acting quickly, close to institutional decisions. To do this, we will need all those intellectual, social and political forces that are fundamental to fighting against the ecocidal and warmongering drift to which this system is leading us: the demonstration in Caorso at the end of May is an important step in this direction.



Towards the Assault on the sky, it's time to organise!

OSA » Opposizione Studentesca d'Alternativa

With the following convocation document we intend to address the students who have mobilised throughout Italy to build an alternative to the barbarity of the present, starting from schools. As OSA - Opposition Students' Alternative - a few weeks ago, on 19 February, we launched our National Assembly "On the march towards the Assault on Heaven: IT'S TIME TO ORGANISE" for 2-3 April in Rome, as a moment of assembly for reflection, debate and re-launch of the political initiative following the important cycle of student mobilisations that have crossed our country in recent months, seeing our organisation as a protagonist and active part. At the time, we could not have foreseen that the initial tensions on the Russian-Ukrainian border would turn, with the start of the Russian attack on 24 February, into a war of such magnitude, with such an impetuous and destabilising effect for everyone, especially us students. Although we cannot yet know the future course of events, it is clear that the war in Ukraine marks a before and after along the straight line of history and that events and changes in reality will depend on this event not for the coming months, but for the coming years.

In short, we are facing a passage of historic significance, in which reality is changing and which we must understand if we do not want to be crushed by the events of this reality in motion. The National Assembly in April therefore assumes even more importance than before and absolute centrality to be able to face the challenges that we students face. And it is precisely to the students that we turn: starting with this

convocation document - which we propose as a basis for reflection and debate - let us build the National Assembly of the OSA from the territories!

On the other hand, the fact that we students can be protagonists in society and in its change has been demonstrated concretely in recent months. On 6 October, with the occupation of the Rossellini Institute in Rome by the students of the school together with OSA, promptly followed in the same way by the Albertelli and Ripetta high schools in the days immediately following, an unprecedented and original cycle of student mobilisations began compared to those of previous years. From those initial occupations in Rome promoted with our organisation, the student mobilisation gradually spread like wildfire: first in Rome, with over 60 occupied schools, followed by Florence and Turin, and then Bologna, Pisa, Catania, Venice, Milan, Cosenza, Pistoia, Livorno and Viterbo. Subsequently, the death of Lorenzo Parelli and Giuseppe Lenoci, our contemporaries, during a school-work internship, and the subsequent mobilisations that ensued marked a before and after in that cycle of struggles: firstly, in the national extension that the protest reached; secondly, in the raising of the level of conflict and political demands of the students (the Abolition of Alternating School Work, the spearhead of our corporatist school model) and finally in the attention that we managed to wrest from ourselves in the general political landscape of the country. It should also be pointed out that, despite significant moments in the streets, the thousands of students who oc-

cupied the schools did not take to the streets, hence the unprecedented character compared to the classic student movements, which were characterised and expressed their political content through street mobilisations.

In the active participation and construction of this cycle of struggles, we were able to note the centrality and importance of the Organisation, which was expressed through various aspects:

1. first of all in the analytical work carried out over the years on the trends of the school model, which allowed us to understand the direction in which our School was going and anticipate the emergence of contradictions generated by it. Without this important organisational work, not only would we have been deprived of a vision of our school model and our Alternative proposal, but we would not even have been able to understand the anger that led students to occupy so many schools. In fact, for some time now, analysing the reforms of public education and the next steps decided by the National Plan for Recovery and Resilience, we had already sensed that the school was on the verge of losing even the last shred of social function that remained to it, becoming an institution totally adverse to the needs of students for individual and collective emancipation. On the basis of this, breaking with the classic tradition of the student left of the "defence" of the public school, we decided that it was time to set up our own political initiative against this School and so, in August 2021, we wrote our claim platform, called "Breaking the School Cage" precisely to indicate this choice. The student mobilisations that broke out shortly thereafter registered student anger not so much at specific problems in their own institutions, but at a discontent and aversion to the School as a whole. Thanks to the analysis carried out by

the organisation, we were able to understand this immediately, to identify the appropriate watchwords and to raise the level of conflict to a higher level of confrontation, namely that of the school model, which is now de facto bent to the needs of private individuals and capitalist exploitation.

2. Secondly, in the ability to coordinate the struggles of individual schools, uniting them and connecting them to a general and national plan that would make them go beyond their specific reduction. While it is true that the students' struggle was triggered by opposition to the overall school system, it should be noted that spontaneous mobilisations were initially based on an 'internal' plan of struggle, often in opposition to their own school directors, which, for both organisational and political reasons, was not able to connect to other schools. The presence of the Organisation, on the other hand, made it possible not only to relate the struggles of the different schools to each other, taking them out of their specific sphere and strengthening them, but also to raise the level of the conflict, making the students understand the importance of directly opposing the MIUR, the Draghi government and the corporate school wanted and built on the instructions of the European Union and the interests of our continental bourgeoisie. This has favoured the widening of the struggles in other schools and other territories, united by the opposition to the common enemy. Since our Organisation was born in Rome, in 2018, we have decided to bet on the national organisational level and avoid being a simply citizen collective or coordination. We can say today that this bet, pursued with the commitment and dedication of the OSA militants, although not yet fully successful given the limited size of our young structure,

has borne fruit, to the point of reaching out and giving space and prominence outside the large metropolitan cities.

3. In the ability to relate students to other sectors of society in struggle. Since our inception, we have always understood our organisation as student but not studentist, that is to say, even though it is composed of students, it has never limited its political activity to school issues alone. On the basis of this, we have sought and established a solid organisational link with the Union of Basic Trade Unions, as a modern and credible proposal of class and conflictual unionism. The relationship with the organised labour sectors made it possible to bring the student struggles out of isolation, providing examples of struggle and succeeding in broadening the vision of our generation to the global framework of society. This relationship has not only benefited us students "corporately", quite the contrary: it has allowed us to exercise a general political function in the resumption of conflict in the country, enabling us to transmit our anger and conflictual charge to the different sectors that are suffering this crisis. This is also an objective that we set ourselves when we were born, which we have pursued and which has borne fruit: we think that today the subjective bet to be made is to structure a synergistic and lasting link between students and workers. This alliance was able to drive the class movement in our country in the 20th century and today, faced with the crisis of Capitalism and the Western model of development, it must be reconstructed as a priority and dialectically with respect to the new historical, social and political context.

These are just some of the aspects that demonstrate the importance of the Organisation and

its potential strength as an instrument to change reality, as a conscious vanguard capable of driving the spontaneous anger that in recent months has exploded among students. But this is not enough.

The war we are facing shows all the limits of a system in which, for 30 years, the Western powers have thought only of reproducing their own supremacy at the expense of the peoples, fomenting war for their own imperialist interests. While the war industries see their profits soar, the social crisis is worsening and weighing even more heavily on the shoulders of the popular sectors. At the same time, the environmental crisis is raging, bringing the earth closer to an ecological heart attack, and our geopolitical pole, the European Union, by investing in nuclear fission energy, is moving us further and further away from a real solution to the problem, which is only possible in a system where the priority is not private profit but the welfare of the community. On the other hand, the pandemic has shown that social and economic systems such as the Cuban one, where the right to health, schooling, work and a dignified life have always been placed at the heart of the country's development, have proved not only more responsive to the health crisis but have also been able to impose the urgency of an all-round Alternative, with the internationalist perspective of a small country that has, however, taught the whole world that peace and cooperation between peoples can become the rule in international relations, that it is possible to send 'doctors and not bombs', as Fidel Castro used to say.

Faced with this ruined system, which forces us into a bloody future of misery, the need for a total overturning of the development model beco-

mes central. What is needed, here and now, is a new Assault on Heaven to which we can march.

In this sense we launch the call to build together the National Assembly of the OSA from all territories of Italy:

- Let us convene moments of debate and confrontation not only on the basis of this document but also on all the issues that affect our generation.
- We collect the testimonies, experiences and opinions of the students in our schools on the current situation, so that the National Assembly can be a moment in which the reality we live every day can emerge as a fundamental basis for building a counterattack.
- Let us elaborate reasoning, proposals and whatever else we can bring to the National As-

sembly and collectivize, to enrich the debate and further develop the political work: the Organisation is the product of its collective mind, which each of us has the responsibility to develop unceasingly.

This document that we are addressing to the students in struggle throughout Italy is not a formality nor an invitation to mere intellectualistic debate. On the contrary, this appeal, which opens a phase of reflection and reasoning towards and beyond the National Assembly, implies an awareness and responsibility on the part of all those who intend to accept the proposed challenge: that of the Organisation and its construction, of the development of a collective mind and body with which to act in reality.

Those who have the courage to accept it will know where to find us. On the march, "along a steep and difficult road, holding our hands with strength", towards the new Assault on Heaven.



Excerpt of the interview with Pierpaolo Leonardi

- national coordinator of the union -

From the Contropiano interview of 17 April 2022

We want to ask about how the day of 22 April, which was conceived in a different context, was abruptly changed by the war. The country was already in a heavy economic and social crisis, what did the workers of production and circulation of goods have to do against the causes and consequences of the war on society?

For months, long before the war in Europe flared up and became a reality, the USB had set out on a path to relaunch the class-based workers' initiative in the country. The rise in inflation, the impact of the sanctions against Russia on wages and on the economic viability of families, all came into force in the preparation of the 22nd.

Lowering weapons, raising wages became a new watchword alongside those on which the mobilisation started.

The cost of living directly attacks the social bloc of dependent, precarious and falsely autonomous workers who become objectively interested in the change of economic policies and who are the direct interpreters of the need to leave the sphere of strictly trade union disputes and, as in the 1970s, to lead a broader movement that poses the question of wages, of direct and indirect in-

come, of the right to housing, against the cost of living, for workers' power.

What does a 'workers' strike and a national demonstration in Rome mean? You have described this day of conflict as putting the 'workers' variant' back at the centre of the country's political agenda. But this is a strike that also acts openly within and against the capitalist value chain. What does this mean?

For many years there has been talk of the end of the working class, of the end of its function in the country. In this way an attempt has been made, largely successful thanks to the choices of the yellow and pro-owner confederations, to disarm the workers by depriving them of the awareness of their historical function but above all of their function in reality.

The workers, the labourers, those who produce with the April 22 resumes speech and does so together with those who the product of their work circulates and markets it. A variant, that of the workers, in the declination that I said of the value chain that winds from production to marketing of goods and products, which asserts itself as a new enlarged space of conflict to gain new power and role in society.

Wealth belongs to those who produce it, move

it, market it and, beyond the classic categorical divisions, organise themselves and propose themselves, through struggle, as a unitary subject capable of redesigning society and interests.

A decidedly unprecedented aspect that has emerged is the unity between workers and students. Student organisations such as Osa have declared a strike for 22 April. They have written on various banners "Workers-students children of the same anger". How was this alliance of two significant sectors of the antagonist social bloc born and how is it growing?

The unity between workers and students is not a new fact in the history of the social and labour struggles in our country...

Obviously, I was referring to the more recent years, or decades....

In fact, it is more appropriate to say that perhaps the memory and consciousness of the unity of interests between workers and students had been lost, which had gradually disappeared over time. Today capital has provided, as it always does, the elements of recomposition that inevitably make the unity between students and labour forces necessary.

The introduction of alternating school/work periods gave a formidable boost to students' understanding of how their training was being bent to the interests of capital, to the maintenance of corporate command. The school period interpreted as an apprenticeship at work, rather than

as a phase of free and conscious growth, the school of skills, and the skills that companies need, led students very early on to have to fight not only for an open, secular, democratic school, but also against exploitation.

The issue of health and safety in the workplace, which is another of the central themes of the strike and the workers' demonstration of 22 April, the murders at work that are counted every day in the country was immediately connected with the death of the two students who were carrying out real production activities directly in the company, instead of in their own school, and gave the measure of how much class unity and mobilisation is needed.

We can therefore say that after years of lethargy and weak thinking, the workers' and students' conflict seems to have rediscovered within the crisis - and its exacerbation with the war - a function, a class identity and an aspiration for change that seemed to have been removed. The airport workers of Pisa and the dockers of Genoa blocked the arms traffic, building a very broad social alliance around them. Decades after the high points of the workers' movement, can we say that when they take the initiative, workers once again have the ability to unite a broader social bloc around them? Can we look forward more positively than in the past?

There is no doubt that the resumption of the workers' conflict against restructuring in the factories, against relocations, in the countryside against exploitation and slavery, in logistics

against the new slave/production models have given a strong impulse to an overall resumption of the conflict. We are witnessing the resumption of workers' protagonism precisely now that the war seems to have redistributed and redrawn the social and political perimeters in which only behaviour compatible with the overall choices of capital is considered legitimate.

The Pisa and Genoa 'episodes' are not such. Instead, they are the result of a culture tenaciously maintained and nurtured within our ranks that pushes us to intervene directly, with our own tools, the strike, and with our own bodies, the blockades, to prevent the war from overpowering everything and seeing us as accomplices. The mass participation, well beyond that of the sectors of workers directly concerned, which animated the blockades and demonstrations

clearly against the war, against the sending of weapons, against the shifting of resources from social needs to military spending, show that decisive, strong, clear behaviour in terms of objectives and modes of action can make a difference and become elements of a broad cohesion, harbingers of a growth in widespread consensus.

That is what we are working on, and that is what they are trying to prevent us from doing with complaints, dismissals and even provocations by the carabinieri. They have not succeeded so far and they will not succeed in the future. The response of the entire organisation, the drive to continue and the determination in the initiatives of struggle greatly strengthens our awareness that we are on the right path.



MFTU
Los Juntos
FSM
18

Congreso Sindical Mundial
Roma, Italia, 6-8 de mayo de 2022



22 APRILE 2022

SALARI Aumentati

E L'ORA della VARIANTE OPERAIA

Sciopero Nazionale
PRODUZIONE AGRICOLA / INDUSTRIALE
LOGISTICA / PORTI / CARGO / COMMERCIO

AUMENTI SALARIALI ADEGUATI E UGUALI PER TUTTI
NESSUN LICENZIAMENTO
NO ALL'AUMENTO DELLE SPESE MILITARI
CONTRO IL GOVERNO DEL CAROVITA E DELLA GUERRA

CORTEO H.14.00
ROMA -PIAZZA DELLA REPUBBLICA

USB
UNIONE SINDACALE DI BASE

Five thousand workers in the streets together with the students against exploitation, cost of living and war.

USB: a new story has begun in Rome!

Unione Sindacale di Base

Five thousand workers took part this afternoon in Rome in the national demonstration called by the Unione Sindacale di Base, at the same time as the strike of the "workers' variant", proclaimed in all Italian productive sectors, from industry to logistics, agriculture and ports.

"Lower your weapons, raise your wages" was the watchword on the opening banner of the procession, a precise request to the government and employers at a time of crisis already worsened by the pandemic and further worsened by a war that is being ridden to cut the welfare state, from school to health.

In Piazza della Repubblica, Simona Suriano and Yana Ehm, MPs, who brought ManifestA's solidarity, kicked off the event, which was followed by speeches by workers from companies all over Italy. The conclusion, in Piazza Madonna di Loreto, was entrusted to Sasha Colautti, of the USB Private Labour Executive. Together with USB, Asia and the housing movements and delegations from Potere al Popolo, Rifondazione Comunista, PCI and Rete dei Comunisti also took to the streets.

There was also a large contingent of students, who had demonstrated in the morning at the Ministry of Education together with the Genoa dockers. Today the workers are calling for a social alliance with the students and with all tho-

se parts of society, starting with the rest of the working world but also with the many poverty groups increasing in the country, who are suffering from the policies of war and the generalised increase in prices.

Today in Rome, a new story has begun, in which the working world is calling for a broad social convergence against exploitation and the high cost of living, for the revival of wages and pensions, in defence of the environment and the territory and to take Italy out of the war.

This is the message that the 'workers' variant' launched today from the demonstration in Rome.





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