



Rete dei Comunisti

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Systemic crisis and military crisis

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Stalemate as an accumulation of contradictions

If we are called upon to make an analysis of the current situation, we risk being biased if we do not analyse the conditions that led to the present day. Thus, in order to describe the dynamic that now leads to the 'formalisation' of the current contradictions, we must briefly outline the path taken by these in the last decade.

Certainly after the end of the USSR there was a phase of stability due to the possibility for capital to self-valorise using the enormous material spaces that had been created, including China, and the development of the productive forces caused by science and technology and the strong downsizing of the class struggle, from below, at the international level.

This 'virtuous' condition lasted until the financial crisis of 2007/2008, even though it was preceded by other moments of fall for finance, marking an initial change in the growth line, curving towards a more 'flat' trend; and in the past decade, this trend has become even more pronounced.

This state of affairs, characterised by a latent crisis, has not, however, called into question US hegemony and the international balance of power, but has caused potential competitors to grow, effectively leading to a stalemate in international power relations.

It should be made clear that by 'power relations'

we do not mean eminently military ones but, in addition to these of course, we also mean economic, social, ideological, etc. relations, i.e. the overall development of the various players in the field.

The stalemate was brought about by structural factors that I will try to list in a concise manner, starting with a general concept that I believe is most useful in providing a strategic interpretation of the situation.

I am referring to the use of the term 'capitalist mode of production' rather than the term 'capitalism', which defines the specific features of different countries, their competitive relations, but relegates the overall dynamic to the background.

If until the end of the 20th century there existed a bipolar world made up of two antagonistic social systems, '91 determined the potential of the globalisation of the MPC, which in the following thirty years actually materialised; in other words, the possibilities of extensive growth were 'saturated'. The further potential to 'capitalise' other spaces is now residual compared to the already achieved size of the global market.

We have moved from the overproduction of goods in the 1970s to the overproduction of capital, with an enormous process of financialisation, thus allowing huge investments to occupy the productive spaces that have opened up since the 1990s. Faced with the limitation of market growth, which has gradually mani-

festated itself, the available money supply tends to reproduce and enhance only in the financial and speculative dimension. Hence the frequent financial crises and speculative bubbles.

Within the growth of this abnormal financial mass, the monopoly position of the dollar is undermined over time; paradoxically, the first act was the birth of the Euro, i.e. the NATO allies, breaking a de facto situation that had been going on since 1971. Subsequently, the Chinese currency and a proliferation of crypto-currencies became established as a symptom of the steady and consistent erosion of the US monetary monopoly.

A huge increase in the organic composition of capital in production worldwide. This has produced a series of effects on a scale never before experienced historically; the growth of fixed capital in production has been matched by the reduction of the necessary FL. The process that began in the imperialist centres now reaches what were once the productive peripheries that are no longer such; see precisely China.

In economic terms this means a shrinking of the markets for goods, even those within the imperialist countries, caused by the worsening of the working and living conditions of the subaltern classes, who have had ever smaller percentages of the wealth produced worldwide.

A stalemate has also been reached in the military sphere where overall technological development (i.e. also available to relatively important countries) and the nuclear balance have so far prevented the extensive use of capital destruction by war. This has only been possible since the 1990s in limited forms in the dozens

of more or less large conflicts that have been basically decided by the imperialist West.

"Last but not least" the environmental limit and the finiteness of the planet come into direct contradiction with a globalised capital tending towards infinite growth and thus forced to force that insuperable objective limit. This is the reality in spite of the ideological mystification that is made about environmental defence and on which the EU has built its international political image, which is actually quite tarnished today.

The evolution and worsening of these basic contradictions of the MPC has proceeded in a karst way, particularly over the last decade, producing increasingly strong frictions, but which the forces in the field (state, business, political) have contained in order to avoid a conflict from which would have emerged a rupture in the international balance, still dominated by the US, producing a clash with uncertain outcomes, as we are indeed seeing.

End of stalemate, geopolitical reflex and war

The combination of these contradictions has worked systematically and is producing a qualitative leap in the situation that is now before the eyes of the whole world. We can say in summary that the historical rupture underway (we are still at the beginning of its potential) is of the same depth as that which occurred with the end of the USSR, but of the opposite political sign.

The symptom of the point of 'saturation' reached was the flight from Afghanistan of the USA and NATO, i.e. of the entire West. Defeat that was not military, the Taliban did not have the strength, nor is it comparable to the flight from

VietNam where the clash saw the military and nuclear powers of the time, the USA, the USSR and China, directly on the field.

It simply became apparent that it was impossible for the US, despite the absence of strategic antagonists, to sustain the goal it had set itself for the 21st century, namely to maintain and grow its world hegemony.

The impossibility of practising such an objective has thus become apparent, and the wars waged in the Middle East since '91 to secure its control have all failed, as the US did not concretely have the material strength to maintain that role.

Actually, for the Westerners that limitation was already evident and was in some way formalised at the G7 held in June '21 in Cornwall, where the Western recomposition, in the all-out confrontation with China, was evident; so much so as to theorise an Atlantic 'democratic silk road' in opposition to Chinese growth and the possibilities of autonomous growth in Asia.

In short, the Afghan fiasco showed this loss of power for the continuity of the unipolar project, bringing out into the light of day all the contradictions hitherto hidden due to a common will and balance of power.

It was this strategic retreat made in Asia and the need for NATO to consolidate its control in the West, with the extension of this to the East, that produced the Russian intervention in Ukraine, raising the stakes and challenging the EU and the US also on the nuclear level and thus also formally breaking the stalemate.

In a way, he has revealed himself to be a 'na-

ked king' who cannot do with Russia what he has done in the past with Yugoslavia, Iraq, and Libya.

So the Ukrainian events have to do with the rebalancing of power relations on a global level. A rebalancing that opens a phase, we do not know how long, of confrontation and international chaos.

Without going into too much detail, and describing the dynamics albeit crudely, what is emerging is a confrontation between the Euro-Atlantic area and the Eurasian area (with Europe seemingly acting as pivot and friction), where, however, the subjects most in difficulty strategically are the historical imperialisms of the Western world.

In the wide-ranging confrontation that is opening up, far beyond the specific events in Ukraine, the cause of the difficulty stems from the structural fact that the potential for growth is almost all in the hands of the theorised Eurasian area.

This is due to the size of the market and population, the fairly advanced technological level achieved especially in China, the overall military potential with Russia, and natural resources. Elements all to the advantage of this substantial part of the world that could aspire to independent growth from the West.

On the other hand, the Euro-Atlantic area would have much narrower margins for growth, with internal contradictions in both Africa and Latin America and with a balance to be found between the US and the EU, which are in any case competitors even if not antagonists.

This both in monetary terms - the Euro is a se-

parate reality from the Dollar - and in the redefinition of relations within NATO, within which the EU intends to develop its own military capacity.

Alongside these two areas, there is also a crumbling of what used to be Western alliances, from the Arab Emirates to Turkey and others, tending to redefine their own interests beyond what were until yesterday international alignments.

Crisis and demondialisation

The many possible analyses and hypotheses, which can be directed in various directions, will have to be verified in the future developments of a historical change that has actually only just begun. So we are 'allowed' to make hypotheses and bets on scenarios while being clear about their relativity.

There is, however, one fact that is already clear, if we take the point of view of the MPC and not of the individual competing 'capitalisms'; that is, the conditions for growth commensurate with the size of world capital and its need for valorisation are no longer there, unless we move towards a generalised and probably nuclear war. But this is a prospect now premature to investigate.

The partial growths that are possible in the present state of affairs - we are talking about the mass of capital and the profit rates - may be the product of an accentuated exploitation of labour power and nature, understood in modern terms, but also of the clash and competition of interests that are being constituted as financial-economic-state blocks. This is a perspective that certainly does not induce optimism.

As mentioned, the unipolar phase of globalisation seems to have to be followed by the establishment of blocs/alliances in multipolar competition with two main players, but also with other countries attempting to follow autonomous paths suited to their own interests, beyond the possible alignments.

In this scenario, represented here rather succinctly, the specific aspects of the various players in the field are left out, particularly the nature of the states that refer in some way to socialism, i.e. China, other countries in Asia, but also those in Latin America.

The condition we now face with the defeat of the USSR - understood not as a concrete and contradictory experience, but as a possibility of an overall social alternative - is that the dynamics of the MPC have fully asserted themselves worldwide, which leave no room for the mediation of interests; especially today, when the world limits of such growth have been reached, from which one can only regress.

Certainly, the Chinese Communist Party has used this mode of production for its own overall growth while leaving the political system unchanged, certainly succeeding in doing so at least in part; but this is a test to be made to understand whether it will be the dynamics of capital that in the long run will condition the country's strategic choices.

We are therefore going through a regressive phase due to the material limitations listed which, even if it does not necessarily lead to an immediate conflict (NATO over Ukraine sends weapons, but does not intervene and merely makes that population fight on behalf of others),

in the future may very concretely contemplate a nuclear conflict.

This mode of production, in fact, does not envisage general and emancipatory solutions, but only competition to its ultimate consequences; as, moreover, Von Der Leyen reminded us several times when she said that the EU must hold its own in a hyper-competitive world.

Changing conditions for the EU

The change in world balances and the end of the unipolar 'static' phase inevitably affects the long process of building the European Union, acted upon by the dominant groups over time consistently and in relation to the developments that have occurred from time to time in the various steps.

It is no coincidence that when comparing the general picture of the early 1990s with the present one, the only constant that remains and does not regress is the construction of this new state entity, albeit in forms that are not yet final.

Yet there have been many serious obstacles in the decades of construction. Starting with the financial crisis of 1992 and the Maastricht agreement that began the deconstruction of the welfare state, and then the birth of the Euro, which the Cassandras of the right and left practically gave up for dead.

The financial crisis of 2007/2008, the Greek sovereign debt crisis that reflected a continental difficulty in particular of the so-called PIGS, the start of Quantitative Easing managed by Mario Draghi of the ECB, the Ukraine crisis of 2014 - where the EU supported the coup d'état - and

finally the pandemic, often read as a further verification of the EU's impotence.

In reality, it was precisely in this last phase that the EU scored serious points on the economic front, beyond the purely health aspect of vaccines that revealed, instead, the structural crisis of public assistance.

It took the opportunity to create a first step towards a common European debt, which was strongly opposed by the northern European countries, strengthening the Euro in the world market as a side effect, and set about centralising Europe's industrial structure.

The NRP represents this perspective by aiming at a continental restructuring of production, bringing back and shortening the production chains in the European, Mediterranean and North African area, which can also be controlled militarily by the EU.

Finally, an attempt was made to give an environmentalist veneer to energy policies, which in reality was quickly 'peeled off' in the face of the winds of war coming from Ukraine.

In short, the periodic crises that have occurred over the last thirty years have actually been the 'petrol' with which the EU has travelled.

There is no doubt that the precipitating war situation in Europe once again creates a condition that forces the EU's ruling groups to redefine their role in international relations and in the internal political and social hold.

In fact, the question of a European army has been on the table for some time, the need for it

is recognised in order to give the EU a stronger role in the global context, but so far there have been very few concrete choices in this sense.

What is happening is therefore certainly a difficulty but also an opportunity to be reckoned with, and the increase in military spending to 2% is a prime example of this.

Returning to the general picture given above, the United States needs to strengthen its Atlantic sphere of influence, which on the one hand has to reckon with the 'external' enemy, i.e. Russia, which is projected towards a strategic agreement with China, but also with the other Asian states.

India, Iran, Kazakhstan and the former Soviet Central Asian republics and even Taliban Afghanistan are the relations that are being woven at an economic level; the example of the agreement between India and Russia on coal is significant, and diplomatic, with a speeding up produced by the manifest Western impotence in that area.

But there is also the need to re-dimension the autonomy of the EU both politically and economically; not forgetting that the resilience of the Euro still represents a limit to the strength of the Dollar, especially at a time of multiplying currencies and crypto-currencies, as a means of exchange and international reserve.

The current military crisis is exactly the product of these American needs, which are once again aiming to ignite a conflict in Europe by leaving American territory out once more.

This game had already been played in the 1980s

with the Euro-missiles, where basically the classic 'two birds with one stone' were killed, containing the USSR on the one hand and crushing the ostpolitik of Willy Brandt's Germany on the other.

Of course, this American 'game' today is a kind of repetition compulsion, but it falls into a completely different context, and it is by no means certain to have the same outcome as in the 1980s.

The EU has long been saying that it intends to be a power capable of sustaining an era of hyper-competitiveness; declarations to this effect multiplied in the months leading up to the war.

So the hurdle for the EU to overcome is how to stay in NATO, if only because of the military disparity with the US, by becoming an equal debating partner with its obligatory overseas interlocutor, given the international context.

What is being presented to the EU is another test on the road to its 'certification' as a fully imperialist unitary subject. A test whose outcome, at present, is by no means a foregone conclusion, but which lies in the logic of building a 'new' world competitor.

This implies a substantial rearmament with decreasing social spending, which is already in place, the use of fossil energy resources, as Draghi declared, the revival of nuclear power stations, etc.

In short, all the EU pacifist and environmentalist rhetoric and social rights rhetoric is skipped, undermining those political and social spheres

that believed in and supported this hypothesis, starting with Greta Thunberg's vexed and pampered movement.

Finally, the complete acceptance of Ukrainian immigrants, still leaving out those from Africa and Asia, dismantles another piece of the 'go-odist' image on which they thought they were resting the 'soft power' of the old continent.

It is too early to make predictions on the outcome of this transition, because there are many possible scenarios, all susceptible to major changes based on the events that will unfold; but it is important to be clear about the EU's tendency to establish itself as a world power. A power that in our opinion can only be imperialist in character.



A welcome message to the delegates of the World Trade Union Federation (WFTU)

As the Rete dei Comunisti, we would like to greet the more than 400 delegates from over 100 countries who have come to Italy for the 18th Congress of the WSF/WFTU to be held from 6 to 8 May, and all those who are following it from afar.

It is an honour to have you in our country, after more than 70 years since the last Congress was held in Italy when the rubble caused by the Second World War was still clearly visible and so many lives of young people, workers and women had been sacrificed to free us from Nazi-fascism. And it is a very sad spectacle to see their memory insulted with the Draghi government and President Mattarella equating the Italian Resistance of yesterday with the aforementioned Ukrainian 'resistance' of today, and its notorious Nazi battalions.

The more than two years of pandemics, armed conflicts tearing humanity apart, and an ever-worsening ecological crisis demonstrate the danger of the current capitalist development model.

A mode of production, the capitalist one, in which a very small portion of the world's population exploits the wealth produced by the living labour of billions of people, uses technology not for the satisfaction of the needs of the most, and squanders the wealth of the planet, leaving an ever larger segment of the world's population languishing in absolute poverty, without a home, a job and a decent meal, in the absence of medical care and education.

The western imperialism of the United States and that of the European Union, thanks to the Atlantic Alliance, want to impose their neo-colonial world order by nipping in the bud the emergence of a multipolar world. A world where States and Peoples - especially those of the Global South - maintaining, or conquering, their full sovereignty, can choose the path of cooperation and not of conflict, of mutual support and not of war, of progress and not of reaction.

An imperialism, that of the West, which also crushes its iron heel on the necks of the subaltern classes in its own countries, and reduces to a few guarantees what had been the conquests that the world of labour had wrested with hard struggles.

It does not want workers, but slaves, deprived of the most elementary rights; it does not want citizens, but subjects emptied of decision-making capacity, and implements an increasingly discriminatory and regressive policy towards women, minorities and immigrants.

The European Union, which for years hid behind a false progressive ideology, has long since thrown off its mask, and shows itself for what it is: a tool in the hands of the European oligarchies against the working class in its own countries, and the peoples it seeks to subjugate with its own policies in other continents, especially in Africa.

A European Union that is rearming itself, and developing its armed wing, a European Union

that has made the Mediterranean Sea the continent's largest graveyard, a European Union that instrumentally agitates the issue of human rights only in accordance with its own foreign policy interests but does not respect them at home.

A European Union that with the appointment of the Draghi government has commissaried our country, choosing the former head of the ECB as the pivot of a strategy of productive restructuring, decided in Brussels, and of bellicose adventurism that the popular classes are already paying, and will pay more and more, if a social-political opposition worthy of the name does not arise.

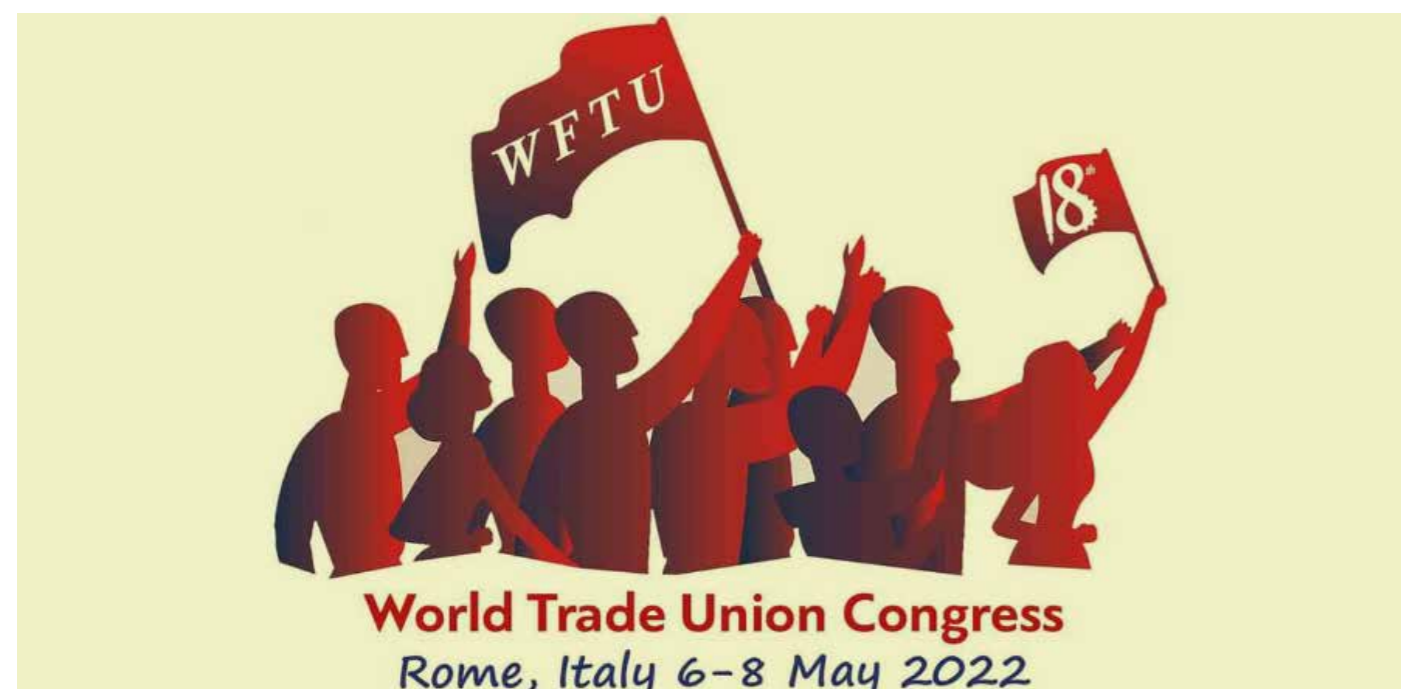
The general strike of 11 October last, called by the USB with all basic and conflictual unionism, and the strike of the private sector of the USB on 22 April last with a national mobilisation in Rome, together with the concomitant student strike of the Student Alternative Organisation (OSA), are the first, excellent signs, which give hope and which as the Communist Network we have immediately supported and helped to build.

In this world context of a tendency to war, the organised workers' movement at the international level is called to a very difficult task, as it was on the eve of the First World War where the follies of the European ruling classes led to that sad butchery that we know so well, and which was not prevented also because of the social-chauvinism of its leaders who betrayed the internationalist spirit.

Out of that catastrophe, however, in what was Tsarist Russia triumphed the Bolshevik Revolution of 1917 that gave a message of hope to all peoples, which we believe is still valid and pulsating.

As the Rete dei Comunisti, thanks to the strength that your presence gives us, we will continue our battle against NATO and the European Union, and to strengthen the independent, confrontational and class-based trade unionism of the Basic Trade Union.

For Peace among Peoples! For Socialism!



Fsm Congress, against war and the war economy

Interview with Cinzia Della Porta, Usb leader, ahead of the World Trade Union Federation Congress to be held in Rome at the weekend.

In this climate characterised by war and the war economy, you will host the World Trade Union Federation Congress in Rome in a few days' time. What expectations do you have of this appointment?

War, crisis, pandemic will be the themes of the 18th congress of the World Trade Union Federation, the international workers' class movement. The WSF is militant, internationalist, class-based and USB has been part of it since it was formed, we joined because we recognise in the WSF the same principles that led us to build the class, unitary, independent, conflictual union in Italy.

The FSM has, since its constitution, placed at the centre of the action of the international workers' movement the constant commitment to fight war and the causes that determine it, today in this situation, the appointment takes on even greater importance. a moment of analysis, confrontation, and above all to define the function of class unions in the world in the current phase.

The congress, from 6 to 8 May, will be an extraordinary event, only previously realised in 1949 with Giuseppe Di Vittorio's CGIL.

There will be 435 delegates in Rome representing 101 countries to which another 300 delega-

tes connected via live streaming will be added, a limitation made necessary by the difficulties linked to the pandemic.

The only time Italy has hosted a world assembly of the WSF was 73 years ago, in 1949 in Milan on the occasion of the second congress, when Giuseppe Di Vittorio, general secretary of the united CGIL, was presiding over the World Trade Union Federation.

Since then, in spite of the splits led in the 1950s by the American trade union AFL and the British TUC, the WSF has grown relentlessly throughout the world, even overcoming the end of the USSR with momentum.

Since 1961, the year in which the CGIL left the international trade union of which it had been the founder and leader in the post-war period, it was only in 2010 that the relationship with Italian men and women workers was re-established and consolidated, thanks to the membership of the USB Confederation.

Now the Presidential Council of the FSM, which met on 1 and 2 February, has decided to entrust the USB with the organisation of the world congress. The number of delegates in attendance will be reduced compared to the most recent congresses in Havana, Athens and Durban (South Africa) due to the difficulties linked to the Covid-19 pandemic, but active participation,

with the possibility of speaking remotely, will be guaranteed even for those who cannot physically be in Rome.

Trade union delegates from all over the world will participate in the Fsm congress. They represent millions of workers in dozens of countries. What can be the points of convergence of this dimension of class internationalism?

435 delegates from 101 countries will participate, representing all continents.

The slogan of the congress is: UNITED WE CONTINUE: FOR THE SATISFACTION OF OUR NEEDS TODAY. AGAINST IMPERIALIST AND CAPITALIST BARBARISM.

The points of convergence are many the war, the competitive mechanism of the capitalist system, the international economic crisis and international competition, the European union, an imperialist pole under construction, the condition of workers in the world, with appropriate differences, is subject to the same logic of exploitation and oppression.

The common analysis of the situation and the resulting paths of struggle, of coordination are essential. starting with the opposition war and the coordination of workers in the value chain from labourers to logistics are necessary elements.

On the global economic crisis and war there are different conditions and perceptions internationally. A very gloomy situation in Europe but a different assessment and condition in the rest of the world. In reverse, emancipation processes seem to run faster in other countries than in 'old Europe'. What do you think about this?

This congress is taking place under particularly difficult and unprecedented conditions for workers all over the world due to the pandemic that has caused millions of deaths, the global economic crisis and the intensification of the struggle for control of markets, energy resources and shipping routes for goods increases the risk of a generalised war and subjects workers all over the world to continuously worsening conditions.

In Latin America, the US grip on hegemony is loosening and turning its gaze elsewhere, processes are underway that point in a direction towards the overthrow of the capitalist system and its imperialist policies.

In Africa, movements are consolidating that are questioning the European imperialist presence and claiming true and not mannerist independence.

In Europe the processes are undoubtedly slower, and this is also due to the strong influence in all countries of the ETUC-affiliated trade unions, which are fed by governments that use them as real social shock absorbers to prevent workers from becoming aware of the causes of their condition of exploitation.

You come to this congress with a significant demonstration behind you, that of 22 April, which put 'the workers' variant' back at the centre. What is your assessment of the demonstration and the signal it sent?

The demonstration on 22 April, with a strike of the production, trade and logistics sectors, saw 'the workers' variant' in the square together with the students.

It sent a huge signal, a class recomposition that we have been working on for some time and that is necessary to respond adequately to the current situation. a combative and true procession, with workers and students, the likes of which we have not seen in a long time.

We brought the workers back as protagonists of a general proposal LOWER THE WEAPONS, RAISE THE WAGES. The workers are showing

that they have clear ideas about the war and about the government's choices, blocking the sending of weapons like in Pisa and Genoa and mobilising for a day of strike like last Friday.

The 22nd was an important day, built with a lot of work on our part and with which we are satisfied both for the result of participation and for what it represents in a situation like this, not a demonstration of representatives but a real worker and student participation. Obviously it is a starting point, but the path is underway, from company specifics to a general plan.



Caorso 22 May: abandon illusions, organise the fight!

Cambiare Rotta

The mobilisation against the project to relaunch nuclear fission energy through the European 'green' taxonomy that we decided to promote on Sunday 22 May at the Caorso power plant was intended to send out a clear signal: in order to save the environment, we must break all ideological and material subalternity with those responsible for the ecological infarction we are already experiencing.

In the face of the brazenness with which the European Union and its member states continue to talk about ecological transition, while in fact they are moving in the opposite direction, the time has come to definitively abandon any illusion that these institutions can listen to and take up the demands of the thousands of young and very young people who in recent years have filled the streets making their voices heard in defence of the environment.

It is not from within the very system that is dragging us towards the abyss that a solution can come. On the contrary, we can concretely see how the processes set in motion on the energy front have as their only paradigms those of competition and profit, and it could not be otherwise for those who must guarantee the maintenance and reproduction of a model based on the systematic exploitation of man over man and man over nature.

As we have had the opportunity to explore with the publication of "Environment and capitalism: the impossible coexistence", there is no sector of the bourgeoisie that has an interest in a real

ecological transition, and therefore physiologically impossible for this to take place because it would mean questioning the founding dogmas of the entire capitalist mode of production, even before its various declinations.

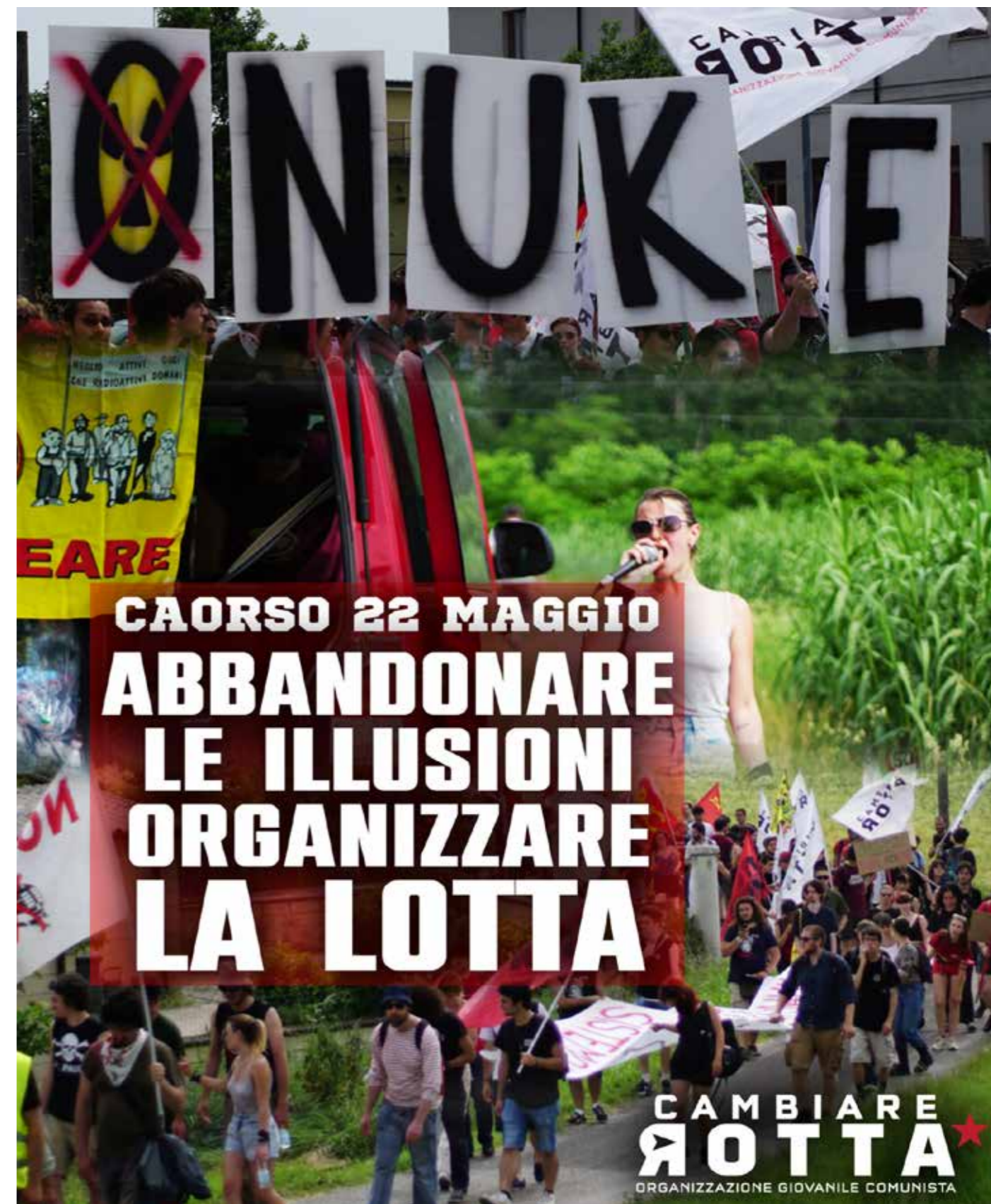
There are no saints to appeal to, it is up to the young generation to take full responsibility for the fight for the environment, aware that in front of us we do not have an interlocutor, but an enemy. With a perspective that immediately indicates the urgency of the rupture, which, however, is not enough without a militant practice and the ability to build organisation and struggle in order to influence the political framework.

It will be necessary to continue organising in order to build the adequate strength to concretely oppose the current model of ecocidal and war-mongering development, hence the European Union, the Draghi government and Minister Cingolani, who represent the current agents of the mortgage on our future.

In the various stages of the path that led us to the Caorso mobilisation this autumn - most recently the conference 'An oxymoron is roaming Europe: it's capitalist environmentalism' - we had the opportunity to unmask the lies that pro-nuclear propaganda hides in order not to admit - often only to themselves - that they are willing to do anything to avoid having to accept the idea that the only way to fight injustice - environmental, social, etc. - is to radically question the dominant social relations.

The Caorso meeting strengthens us in our determination to continue building initiatives of struggle starting with the deadlines for the approval of the green taxonomy and beyond. We

thank the different realities and movements that took part in the day. Against the environmental, energy and military crisis: Let's pull the plug on this system!



No Pasaran!

Cambiare Rotta Bologna

Yesterday evening in Bologna, hundreds of anti-fascists marched through the streets of the city in a compact manner, shouting 'NO PASARAN', a clear and determined watchword in response to the aggression that took place on 4 May. A popular procession, with great youthful protagonism, brought as far as Porta Maggiore, the site of the violence, clarity and anger, two indispensable elements to begin to organise the force and respond blow by blow to the first signs of a new Nazism. The messages of solidarity that arrived from comrades and comrades from different cities and the composite presence of Bologna's antifascist realities show us a road ahead, all to be built. Ineffective or out-of-date anti-fascist liturgies found no place in an attentive square, which had the task and the will to give a real answer to the Nazis who try to raise their heads in our neighbourhoods with intimidation, violence and threats.

Last night's was a square that receives the baton of a militant anti-fascist tradition, because anti-fascist practices live by virtue of the red thread that connects their experiences, in both a geographical and historical dimension: from the Italian Resistance to the Spanish Civil War, which has given us its watchwords, as clear and effective yesterday as today, No pasaràn; from the anti-imperialist movements and parties in Latin America to the popular resistance in the Donbass. These examples teach us a response deployed by class forces, but our task is to read the tendencies taking place now. For this reason, the mobilisation path that saw a first step yesterday is the necessary anti-fascist response

to the return of the Nazi and squadrist threat in our cities and our country. We have taken the first steps towards adapting our practices to the warnings of a new type of Nazi-fascism produced by the conditions of the phase we are living through and the precipitation of the interim-imperialist clash underway. Everything that has been happening in Bologna since 23 April, i.e. since we received the first intimidations, must be read in the light of an international framework that has accelerated exponentially in recent months with the Russian invasion of Ukraine, bringing to maturity processes that had been working in the shadows for a long time.

The war in Ukraine, since its preludes, has been actively supported by the European governing forces, which already in 2014 at Euromaidan harangued the militiamen of the Azov army in Kiev's Maidan Square bringing to the nascent Ukraine 'the greetings of Europe that believes in freedom and democracy'. The fact that today the European Union is sending weapons to the newly proclaimed Ukrainian 'new Resistance', without caring about the 'moods' of its citizens and the retaliation of the war in our countries, is neither accidental nor as heroic as one would like to portray it, but the perfect continuity with the policy of recent years, of silencing the war in Donbass, of legitimising the Nazi militias useful to the cause, and of the pro-Atlanticist alliance (needless to recall again the photos of the Azov militiamen with the NATO flag) in an anti-Russian function.

The use of the fascist armed wing by our sy-

stem does not surprise us at all, as the history of the communists and the class movement tells us very well: it is a recurring element in the class conflict of the 20th century in Italy as well, when the national bourgeoisies averted the class struggle in every form, from financing the squads of historical fascism when the October revolution shook the world and the Red Biennium saw most of the country's factories occupied by revolutionary uprisings, to the use of fascist massacres using the instrument of the state, such as the Piazza Fontana massacre of 1969, the Piazza della Loggia massacre of 1974 and the Bologna massacre of 1980. What needs to be emphasised, therefore, is that fascism is not just the movement of black shirts and bald heads (certainly not to be underestimated and always to be watched), but represents an involution of the imperialist drift, in order to strengthen itself against an internal enemy (the class forces) or with an external enemy (the competitors in the inter-imperialist competition). This is a danger that is becoming more and more vivid within the structural crisis that our system has been experiencing for decades, which started in 1973 (first energy crisis) and has continued to the present day with the 2008 crisis, the sovereign debt crisis and finally the covid: today we also have war. A system in crisis that is once again driving all of humanity towards the abyss, opening the door wide to the forces of reaction and barbarism.

Historical memory and a correct reading of our present must show us how concretely fascism manifests itself today: today the paramilitary militias in Ukraine, the 'state within the state' of the Azov battalion, and the intermingling with government forces and the imperialist NATO structure have been used to control one of the most

unstable borders in history, the eastern border. The eggs left in the east by the imperialist forces are slowly hatching, showing the danger of the snakes that are returning from them.

We are called upon to sharpen our weapons, practical and theoretical, in order to catch up with a reality that is proceeding in giant strides and is polarising to such an extent that today our class enemy has compacted, on the side of war and weapons, taking the Nazi camp into its fold. We must field an anti-fascist response that is equal to the historical challenge posed by the construction of a Black International - which has its theoretical and military basis precisely in Ukraine, and which links with a black thread the Nazi-fascists throughout the West - and the danger of war or nuclear devastation of all humanity.

We would like to emphasise that this legitimisation also goes through the fascists at home, who have been accustomed in recent years to their usual torchlight processions of (false) memory, but are now slowly trying to gain ground. In the neighbourhoods and universities where our comrades live and carry out a political and anti-fascist intervention, in the ports and warehouses where the work side by side with the class unions shows us an increasingly worrying employers' and fascist retaliation: it is from reality itself that we see the dangerous clearance that is allowing a return of nazifascism, from Celtic crosses on the walls to attempts of sexual violence in the city centre.

Yesterday was the first step in this direction, thanks also to the antifascist solidarity of comrades from many cities in Italy who showed us militant closeness: if they touch one they touch all, be-

cause a comrade who has suffered an attempted rape will never be alone. Everyone was in the square, the working men and women, the male and female students, the young people from the working-class neighbourhoods. There were all the anti-fascists who today, as yesterday, know how to recognise the right side of the barricade.

It is our duty today to multiply the mobilisations against the war and against NATO, keeping militant attention high against Nazi regurgitations and against historical revisionism. Let Bologna be a first example of an anti-fascist embankment that we must equip ourselves to build and practise throughout Italy.



2 June: a day of mobilisation against war

Giacomo Marchetti » Rete dei Comunisti

Today is a day of mobilisation against the war. Demonstrations will be held in various cities.

In Rome, at 11 o'clock in the morning, at Largo Argentina, a presidium for 'an anti-militarist and anti-war June 2nd', with clear words: 'Stop sending arms, Italy out of NATO, No to the war economy, Yes to the welfare state'.

An appointment, the Capitoline one, promoted by the Roman Assembly Against the War.

The sense of the initiative is well explained by the announcement: 'In this context that sees Italy fully involved in the escalation of war, we cannot accept a parade of support for the conflict and the transformation of the country into a Republic founded on war. The rejection of this passes through the construction of international relations based on cooperation and solidarity, the rejection of any Nazi-fascist regurgitation and putting work back at the centre of the country's interests'.

An initiative that is explicitly 'in connection with the other anti-war events in the rest of the country'.

In Genoa, the Assembly Against All Wars, which took its first steps about a month ago, has promoted a demonstration that will start at 2 p.m. from the Maritime Station and head towards the west, passing through the popular district of San Pier D'Arena.

A procession that will see the participation of re-

alities from all over Liguria, in addition to those from the Superba, and that will head towards a neighbourhood adjacent to the port that is increasingly characterised by environmental and military servitudes.

The current administration has decided to expand the chemical warehouses, which will cover an area of 77 thousand square metres, transporting 400 thousand tonnes of chemicals a year; this will translate into 30 more trucks a day in an area already characterised by traffic congestion and pollution from ships, also due to the lack of electrification of the docks.

And the docks are now an established transit for weapons devices, including large quantities of explosives, making the port a 'time bomb' that the city establishment pretends to ignore.

Again, the rally's watchwords are clear: 'no war between peoples, no peace for those who sell death'. And they point the finger at the military-industrial complex in the city - in particular the Finmeccanica Group's Leonardo (controlled by the state) - and the arms traffic in Genoa's port of call, which for years has been at the centre of a courageous struggle by a fierce group of dockworkers and activists against the Saudi Bahri line that once a month calls at Genoa, transporting arms for the Yemeni conflict.

The appeal makes it clear how rearmament and conflict are a godsend for the industry of death.

"Since the start of the war in Ukraine, Leonardo

S.p.a. (Europe's third-largest defence company by turnover) has risen on the stock exchange by around 45 per cent, from €6.4 per share (23 February) to €9.3 (4 April)."

The most important mobilisation of the day to say 'No to the military base, neither in Coltano nor elsewhere' will be held in Pisa from 2.30 p.m., with a national demonstration that has been mounting for weeks.

At the centre of the mobilisation is this project, which is highlighted by the appeal's incipit: '190 million of public money for a new military base, 73 hectares of land, inside a natural park, taken away from the community. 440,000 cubic metres of concrete to build runways, terraced houses for the soldiers of the Tuscania regiment, swimming pools, gyms, and other benefits. A new base in an already militarised territory that is becoming a strategic hub of war, decided secretly in institutional rooms that are increasingly distant from our needs'.

It will be a long procession, with meticulous preparation, which has received many adhesions and will see coaches leaving from different cities (Florence, Massa, Prato, Turin, Rome, Bologna and Milan). organised by the No Base Movement - Neither in Coltano nor elsewhere that has been created to oppose this umpteenth military servitude of the territory, which held its press conference precisely at the Pisa military airport.

Rome, Genoa and above all Pisa will be three important appointments, built to have the widest possible participation, on clear watchwords that will give expression to that majority part of the population that is against war and suffers its consequences every day.

From the annual report of the Governor of the Bank of Italy, Ignazio Visco, and from Draghi's words, it is clear what the future, already present, awaits us.

It was Il Sole 24 Ore that highlighted in its headline on the first page what Visco's recipe is: 'No to the price-salary run-up and new debt', while Draghi boasts of a new 'Social Pact', like that of the Ciampi government in 1993, which would blunt social surrender despite soaring prices and the need to invest in a broken welfare state.

Draghi calls for 'unions, companies and government to work together' in a new season of concerted austerity war.

The Unione Sindacale di Base, which has been the protagonist of two important episodes of anti-militarist struggle in Pisa and Genoa in recent months and which promoted the 22 April strike in the private sector with the watchwords 'Down with weapons, up with wages', wrote a very tough communiqué on 1 June entitled 'Overturn the table. Drive out the Draghi government' in which it put these aspects and the complicity of the confederal trade unionism of the CGIL, CISL and UIL leadership

"It is time to overturn the table," writes USB, "to oust Draghi and his government, it is time for a strong season, broad and united, of struggles and strikes and mobilisations, capable of bringing our strength and anger before the government palaces.

That strength and that anger that we have already seen in nuce on 22 April in Rome, where together with the workers the most conscious part of those young generations without a futu-

re that OSA and Cambiare Rotta are organising went on strike and demonstrated, and which will be present in Rome, Genoa and Pisa with

the watchwords: 'From the neighbourhoods, the schools and the universities. LET'S BLOCK THE CHAIN OF WAR'.



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