



Rete dei Comunisti

INTERNATIONAL BULLETIN

February 2025



Introduction

This international bulletin of the *Rete dei Comunisti* contains texts relating to the organisation's activity from the 'resumption' of the political year in September 2024 until January 2025.

The specific activity of the *Rete dei Comunisti* within the various 'fronts' and areas of work can certainly not be summarised in an explanatory introduction, and the texts we propose are certainly not exhaustive of the political work done in recent months.

We have selected four elements that we think might be interesting in order to understand our level of historical-theoretical reflection, our commitment to the mass fronts – in this case alongside the conflictual and confederal unionism of the *Unione Sindacale di Base* (USB) – our militancy in the construction of the movement of solidarity with the Arab-Palestinian Resistance and against Zionism, and our internationalist initiative with reference to the Antifascist International in Caracas, which we are enthusiastic adherents of.

The first text is the translation of the presentation of the forum held in Rome on October 4-5-6: 'In Praise of Communism in the 20th Century', which saw more than twenty speeches, including a conspicuous number of international 'guests'. The proceedings are currently being printed and will be presented in the coming months.

The second text is the communiqué written by Rete dei Comunisti (RdC), Cambiare Rotta (Youth Communist Organisation), and OSA (Opposition Students' Alternative) on the unitary national demonstration of November 30th 2024 in Rome and on the path towards the construction of a National Anti-Zionist and Anti-Colonialist Network for Palestine which began with the national assembly of 9 November in Rome, with the adhesion of more than 200 Italian realities, and which then continued with specific cycles of national initiatives articulated in various cities.

The third text is the RdC-Cambiare Rotta-OSA in anticipation of the general strike called by USB on December 13th 2024. A strike strongly opposed by the current centre-right executive and 'criminalised' by the mainstream media, but which had very high peaks of adhesion in some sectors and two national demonstrations.

The fourth text is the RdC-Cambiare Rotta-OSA on the participation of one of our delegations in the World Festival of the Anti-Fascist International in Caracas from January 9th to January 11th 2025.

Praise of 20th century Communism: A Forum to discuss it... and reclaim it!

Was 20th century Socialism and the international communist movement a failure or just a defeat? In the light of the overall regression and the war that the capitalist mode of production is once again unleashing on humanity, can the instances of emancipation and civilisation represented by the socialist experiences of the last century once again represent an antidote and an alternative?

This is what we intend to discuss in a Forum that we as the Rete dei Comunisti are working on for next autumn and to which we ask you to contribute.

We have lived through these three decades with the incompleteness of a reflection – often more removed than begun – on twentieth-century Communism, but as the Rete dei Comunisti we have never lost sight of it. Particularly today, when the conditions and contradictions of the Capitalist Mode of Production allow and, in some way, impose to resume that path and attempt an interpretation of it, advancing some hypotheses and a minimum of synthesis to be put back into the contradiction between socialism and barbarism.

We must point out that we have never been fascinated by attempts to make mere communist identitarianism survive but, in our opinion, a reflection on the potential and achievements of the communist movement in and of the 20th century, today finds a political and ideological function, indispensable to redefine a perspective for communists in the epochal transforma-

tions that are disrupting the world in which we live.

A defeat, not a failure

The thesis on which we intend to discuss is that the labour and communist movement in the 20th century was a powerful force that, as never before in history, changed the world with the emancipation of billions of exploited people, peoples and nations by undermining a social order established over hundreds of years.

The 20th century for communists was a defeat but not a failure. There is a profound difference that must be grasped, deepened, claimed and relaunched.

The first experiments in the material construction of a socialist society alternative to capitalism – what we have called ‘possible Socialism’ in the given conditions – had to come to terms with unprecedented difficulties and problems, which led them to suffer at the end of the 20th century a defeat right in the heart of the capitalist West and in Europe, that is, where the workers’ movement was born and with it Marxist revolutionary thought and the first Socialist and Communist Parties.

But already in countries and realities other than Europe – from Asia to Latin America – things, as we have seen, have been different.

The defeat of Socialism therefore took place there where capitalism was more advanced and

pervasive and Socialism more structured, but it was not a failure as one would have us believe, since the backwardness that resulted did not at all prevent a resurgence of the contradictions of the capitalist system and a blatant international clash that concretely re-proposes, albeit in different historical and political forms, the overcoming of capitalism and imperialism.

In reconstructing the path that began with 1917, we cannot fail to remember that that revolution, as Gramsci said, was made against ‘Capital’, to be understood as Marx’s text, because the revolution in the Europe of the most advanced capitalism and workers’ movement failed, while the Soviet Union had to build its own socialism from primitive accumulation in order to develop productive forces appropriate to internal growth and the climate of war that existed in the first half of the 20th century.

This was true for the USSR, but also for China, Cuba, Vietnam and all countries that measured themselves with structural change and not just a socialist perspective. In other words, the Communist movement had to achieve in a handful of decades – and succeeded in doing so – what capitalist society had produced over centuries, namely a general development of society, knowledge, and the productive forces.

It is from this condition, produced by the unequal development proper to capitalism, i.e. by the contradictions inherent in this social formation, that a revolutionary rupture so powerful that it has no precedent in human history could arise.

A rupture that certainly did not occur in conditions of peace but within a long period of wars that took resources away from the construction

of socialism and also deviated from the original potential inherent in the social revolutions produced.

Socialism and the communists of the 20th century. Not only Europe

The international class struggle in the 20th century forced capitalism into a mutation that then allowed it to set off a reaction at the beginning of the 1980s that, in little more than ten years, led to the collapse of the USSR and the disappearance/diminishing of communist organisations in Europe, but it did not erase from the world and from history the reality of revolutionary and anti-imperialist forces and countries outside Europe, forces and countries that today have found their own relevant function in the growing international confrontation taking place.

They were by no means indifferent to the outcome of the clash between Socialism and capitalism in the 20th century – on the contrary, both the process of theoretical and political impoverishment of the USSR and the communist parties throughout Europe, and the contradictions that opened up in the clash between China and the USSR in the communist camp, and thus the end of an international relationship between parties, weakened it ideologically, theoretically and politically.

For almost thirty years, the supremacy of capitalism has not encountered the shadow of a real enemy, except the invented one of the Islamists. Certainly, there have been some points of resistance such as Cuba and North Korea for example, while others have adapted to the economic system, such as China, Vietnam and the former Third World countries, but the dominant narrati-

ve has basically extolled the ultimate victory of capital and the end of history.

At some point, however, the toy was broken and those who were considered the victors began to falter.

Are the contradictions for a systemic alternative resurfacing?

It is precisely the victory of imperialism that has caused all the monsters already generated in the past to re-emerge. In the same forms but with much more limited possibilities of recovery for capitalism and with manifest objective limits to development, a scenario that we have already tried to explain with the Forums on the “Tilted Plan of Capital” in 2003 and with the more recent one on “The Garden and the Jungle” (2023) on the fragmentation of the world market now admitted and recognised by many.

Against this backdrop, the narrative of a capitalism producing infinite growth and progress breaks down and, on the contrary, its regressive features for the future of humanity become apparent.

An unexpected phenomenon is taking place before our eyes, even for many of us: the world rupture taking place on the one hand sees the historical imperialisms re-compose themselves in the Euro-Atlantic bloc to defend their own hegemonic condition in crisis, and on the other hand other state, political and social subjects – practically the same ones born from the revolutions of the 20th century outside Europe – that are acquiring an antagonistic function, however spurious from various points of view.


‘Well dug old mole’, we can affirm today, all the more so since this factor acquires more intelligible forms in the current world conflict and confirms the topicality of the progressive thrust of the October revolution and subsequent ones, opening a new era.

This is why we intend to organise a forum on ‘The Eulogy of 20th Century Communism’ by autumn, precisely because that history is by no means over, it has been defeated but not failed. On the contrary, it was transformed, and in part it deviated, but that class, revolutionary, communist movement re-emerges today in different forms and puts the current imperialist set-up into crisis.

We certainly do not believe that the political forms of the past century can be reproduced, nor can we know precisely how the situation will develop in the future. In analysis as in investigation we can only proceed by hypothesis and verification.

However, we have to admit that, for those who have been through ‘the big chill’ of the decades at the turn of the 20th century, today we can glimpse the possibility of a resurgence of the international class struggle, even with spurious political forms, starting with the role of states born out of the 20th century conflict or political and social movements other than those of the 20th century.

This means coming to terms with ourselves and figuring out what role we can play as communists and class movement in a society that shows increasingly reactionary, regressive and warmongering features at the heart of advanced capitalism, in the USA as in the EU.



ELOGIO DEL COMUNISMO DEL NOVECENTO

Forum della Rete dei Comunisti


INTRODUCONO IL FORUM E LE VARIE SESSIONI:
MAURO CASADIO / GIACOMO MARCHETTI / SERGIO CARARO / VALTER LORENZI / MICHELE FRANCO

RELATORI
SALVATORE TINÈ / VLADIMIRO GIACCHÈ / JOAN TAFALLA / ANDREA CATONE / GIORGIO GATTEI /
GIANMARIA BRUNAZZI / FRANCO RUSSO / GIORGIO CREMASCHI / VIJAY PRASHAD / PAOLO FERRERO /
LEONARDO BARGIGLI / CARLO FORMENTI / GEORGE MAVRIKOS / LUCIANO VASAPOLLO /
FEDERICO SCIRCHIO (EX OPG) / PAOLO FAVILLI / SAID BOUMAMA / ALESSANDRA KERSEVAN / ADA DONNO /
GIORGIO CASACCHIA / ATILIO BORON / ALEXANDRE HOBEL / PCI / ALESSANDRO PASCALE

VENERDÌ 4.10 DALLE 15.30 ALLE 19
SABATO 5.10 DALLE 9.30 ALLE 14
DOMENICA 6.10 DALLE 9.30 ALLE 14

4 5 6
OTTOBRE 2024

NUOVO CINEMA AQUILA
VIA L'AQUILA, 66/74 - ROMA
WWW.RETEDEICOMUNISTI.NET


Rete dei Comunisti

Continue and expand initiatives against Zionism and Euro-Atlantic imperialism that supports it

As the *Rete dei Comunisti, Cambiare Rotta* (Communist Youth Organisation), and OSA (Opposition Students' Alternative) we are fully satisfied with both the success of the unitary march on November 30th in Rome and Milan, and the organisational meeting of the members of the assembly of November 9th, held in Rome on December 1st, which set itself the goal of moving "towards a national anti-Zionist and anti-colonialist network for Palestine".

These initiatives were two important moments to which we made our contribution in the wake of the action, reflection, and unitary cooperation that we have been pursuing for some time with other socio-political forces on the basis of clarity of positions and shared goals.

Our organisation has in its 'genetic code' an internationalist approach that has always valued Arab-Palestinian resistance in the face of the Zionist cancer.

We have always considered Israel as a pivot in the strategy of global counter-revolution: a function it has uninterruptedly performed against the processes of decolonisation and the struggle for the liberation of oppressed peoples from its support for French colonialism in Algeria to its support for the Apartheid regime in South Africa, to name but two examples.

The Zionist state has also been at the forefront of the development of technologies and military training aimed at social control and political repression in the imperialist countries themselves,

starting with the US itself, as the two successive waves of the #BlackLivesMatter movement have unequivocally brought to light by showing the connections between the US and Israel in this field.

A tendency that is reinforced by Trump's victory in the presidential elections that had as its mass base the messianic and pro-Israel evangelical churches, and the blessing of the Zionist lobby. This tendency of Zionism to polarise the most threatening reactionary forces we saw blatantly in action on 25 April in Italy in the anti-fascist

mobilisations in Milan and to a greater extent in Rome where the garrison of anti-fascists was attacked by the Zionist hordes in cahoots with the extreme right in the capital.

At present, Israel is one of the main pivots - along with the reactionary Arab regimes - of the Euro-Atlantic bloc in the Middle East, which yearns to curb the crisis of imperialism's dominance, having long since lost its hegemonic capabilities. This role, in different quadrants of the planet, is played by other actors with the same function as rogue states: the Nazi Kiev regime in Eastern Europe, the current South Korean political leadership, the Taiwanese 'independentists' or the Japanese conservatives, interested in pandering to Western bellicose policies and the

warmongering adventurism of its ruling classes at all costs.

All this in order to maintain an advantageous position and try to prevent the configuration of a multipolar and polycentric structure in international relations.

It is under everyone's eyes that Israel has become the major vector of war in the 'Middle East' and that it fights on 7 different fronts, and it is absolutely heedless of any even timid political direction of its allies that undermines its autonomy in the pursuit of its goals: the constitution of a 'Greater Israel' (Eretz Israel) from the River to the Sea with a large buffer zone.



In this perspective, the neighbouring countries should be subordinate to it, on pain of being subjected in various forms to constant military pressure and constant attempts at destabilisation/balkanisation, often in cahoots with the most reactionary or pro-Western forces in the quadrant.

In the face of this, the current Meloni government's complicity develops the political assumptions contained in the strategic partnership with Israel to which all the governments that have followed one another for the past twenty years - including those of the centre-left - have adhered, and which have implemented rather than severed relations with Tel Aviv on every level: military, political, economic and cultural.

They have promoted 'normalisation' with the state of Israel, which is a colonialist, segregationist, inherently bellicose as well as genocidal regime.

We think it is the task of all internationalists, progressives and sincere democrats to break this complicity, and to do so we need to sensitise the broadest sections of the subaltern classes by denouncing Israel's current role.

It is necessary to support all this with concrete actions to get our country out of the war spiral into which a transversal pro-Israel neo-Atlanticism that unites all parliamentary political forces is dragging it.

We think that mass mobilisations, boycott initiatives and political agitation are more necessary and urgent than ever.

We also think it is important to denounce the

'militarisation' on the domestic front of social relations against a government action that combines austerity and authoritarianism against those who oppose its plans to create a 'war economy'.

In fact, the popular classes are paying for the construction of this war economy with the desertification of welfare decided by the European Union and the emptying out of the trade union-political guarantees won during the last century at the price of very hard struggles.

We will continue to work hard together with the widest possible spectrum of forces in support of the initiatives that go in this direction, particularly those decided at the meeting on December 1st in Rome - strengthening this path - and the 'general and generalised' strike of the USB on December 13th against the war economy that Meloni and his associates would like to impose.

Communists, in our country, have always been (and continue to be) on the side of the oppressed peoples whose successes have built the indispensable background for the advancement of the instances of social-political transformation carried out by the workers' and communist movement.

One Big Union! With the *Unione Sindacale di Base's* general and generalised strike on December 13th

The *Unione Sindacale di Base* (USB) has called a general and 'generalised' strike for Friday 13 December, which we strongly support.

At the heart of USB's demands is a legitimate opposition to the policies of this government that impact, both in terms of social guarantees and trade union-political freedoms, the general condition of workers in this country; workers who have already been exhausted by at least two decades of wage deflation policies, restriction of trade union rights and absolute disregard for their health and safety conditions, as unfortunately certified by the constant slaughter of workers and the increase in 'occupational' diseases.

For the trade union what is fundamental is tackling head-on the issue of the industrial crisis and its dramatic implications for those employed in the manufacturing sector, a sector that had already emerged with broken bones from the crisis of the second half of the first decade of the 2000s and from the previous production restructuring processes that started in the 1980s, which had changed the physiognomy of the country-system while demolishing the achievements obtained through years of very hard struggles.

The current industrial crisis is not only affecting the peripheral countries of the European Union, but the very 'centre' of its productive structure, directly affecting the Franco-German axis that had been the driving force behind the construction of the Union since the Maastricht Tre-

aty, at the beginning of the 1990s, and is demolishing the development model that it had created and whose distortions are now becoming evident.

The ruling classes of the aforementioned countries and, in general, the continental political elites, including our government and its political-parliamentary 'opposition', do not seem to have any credible recipes, other than favouring a mix of austerity and authoritarianism and laying the foundations for the construction of a real war economy based on the conversion for war purposes of an important part of the production apparatus and the research and training chain increasingly linked to the military-industrial complex.

The economic devastation that the choices made in recent years in Brussels and by individual national executives are causing have precise political repercussions, as we have seen with the calling of early parliamentary elections in Germany and the fall of the government in France, the result of the growing, and in some ways irreversible, delegitimization of a political class that has ensured the freedom of profit for companies at the expense of every most elementary guarantee for the subordinate classes.

What we are witnessing is the failure of a development model within the systemic crisis of a mode of production that makes the competition between political blocs fierce on the economic level and that increasingly has as its outlet the war of war; a ruthless competition that is reaping

the residual guarantees even of those sectors of workers that felt relatively protected against the rampant social precariousness and the growing impoverishment of the working classes.

The effects of the crisis, after having been dumped for decades on the shoulders of the subaltern classes in the so-called PIGS (Portugal, Italy, Greece) and Eastern Europe, or among the less protected groups in the countries of the centre, affect everyone and everyone, and force us to come to terms with the need to impose a radical change of course with respect to the policies implemented so far, and basically accepted by large strata of the subaltern.

Against the downward homogenisation of wor-

king and living conditions, a clear and decisive response is possible that nails the government and the bosses to their responsibilities, puts collective action back at the centre as an instrument to improve their condition and the confederal initiative as a prospect of recomposition of a class unwilling to think beyond the walls of its own company or the narrow confines of its own category.

In these months the legitimate 'intolerance' of important sectors of the labour world is turning into a precise refusal to continue to pay for the choices of a political-economic power plot in cahoots with some confederal unions, through strikes and mobilisations in various sectors that can only find in the general strike of the 13th a

reinforcement of their demands and a revival of their specific reasons for being pissed off.

This trajectory of the resumption of class conflict in our country cannot find an adequate foothold in those trade union and political organisations that have supinely accepted and made people accept the choices made by the European economic oligarchies and the technocrats who embody their interests - including Monti and Draghi - and necessarily passes through the construction of an independent political/trade union opposition and the 'breaking' of the compatibility cage modelled on the interests of both big European capital and that part of the ragged and parasitic bourgeoisie in our country.

In this context, communists in our country are called upon to be an instrument of class recomposition by supporting the paths of combative and confederal trade unionism of the USB as a necessary basis for rebuilding an organised and independent labour movement against the current executive, the political leadership of the EU and the reactionary warmongers of NATO.

This is why we support the general and generalised strike of December 13th and will participate largely in the two planned demonstrations that will start in Rome at 9:30 a.m. in Piazzale Tiburtino and in Milan at 10:00 a.m. at Porta Venezia.



With President Maduro against fascism and for a New World!

A large delegation of the Rete dei Comunisti, Cambiare Rotta – Communist Youth Organisation, and OSA (Opposizione Studentesca d’Alternativa) has been invited and will participate from 9 to 11 January in Caracas in the ‘Festival Mundial Internacional Antifascista por un Nuevo Mundo’.

This Festival is the fruit of a proposal formulated in November during the ‘Congreso Mundial de la Juventud y Estudiantes Antifascistas’, which also brought together in Caracas more than a thousand young people from around seventy countries, including our delegation.

Nicolás Maduro, who spoke at the conclusion of the meeting in November, endorsed the Festival’s proposal, urging in his speech that ‘leaders, young people, workers, peasants from all over the world come to accompany the people of Venezuela to the oath of 10 January’.

Indeed, on 10 January, the newly elected President Maduro will be sworn in and take office for this new term for the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela.

The swearing-in ceremony will be held on 10 January in the Palacio Federal Legislativo, seat of the Asamblea Nacional, and will mark the beginning of a new six-year political period (2025-3031) in which the country is more ready than ever to continue on its long-standing path.

Venezuela is today the country that represents a systemic socialist alternative within the multipolar world, and the beacon – along with socialist Cuba and Sandinista Nicaragua – of the

possibility of redemption for the peoples of Latin America, examples of the possibility of emancipation for the Global South.

The proposal that emerged last September in Caracas – to which we enthusiastically adhered – of the creation of an Antifascist International, of which this important festival is a stage, is a concrete possibility for the advancement of an internationalist proposal based on cooperation between peoples and for a future of peace that openly contrasts with the plans of the Euro-Atlantic bloc elites. Elites who would like to impose their imperialist domination through war, colonialism, slave exploitation of labour power and

cultural subordination to the racist and sexist values of the Western ruling classes.

For these reasons, there has been no shortage of attempts to delegitimise last year’s electoral processes in Venezuela – which we have continually witnessed as observers – and attempts at political destabilisation led by the Venezuelan oligarchies represented by the coup d’état extreme right and supported by western imperialism, who seem to want to continue with their provocations.

The fact that the Meloni government disowns Maduro as president, not recognising the outcome of the 28 July presidential elections, and instead recognises the so-called ‘opposition leader’ Edmundo González as president is a di-

grace for our country that reinforces the significance of our presence in Caracas.

A significance amplified by the fact that the European Union maintains, and indeed expands, the sanctions it has introduced since 2017 against Venezuela and which are added to the actual US embargo through which the various Yankee administrations have tried – unsuccessfully – to strangle the country economically in order to destabilise it politically.

With President Maduro, against the coup oligarchy!

For a New World and against fascism!



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