

ECUADOR. MARXIST-LENINIST COMMUNIST PARTY OF ECUADOR

"The left, the workers and the peoples in the face of imperialist war"

On February 24 of this year, the threat of Vladimir Putin's regime to invade Ukraine if the government of Volodymyr Zelensky persisted in its intentions to join NATO materialized. Displaying its great war power, the Russian army launched a combined offensive, achieving important positions on Ukrainian territory. In response, the Ukrainian regime proclaimed resistance to the invasion, calling on the Western powers to back its determination to expel the invading troops. Thus began the most recent of the wars of the capitalist world today.

Unlike other localized conflagrations, this war generated great tension and world reaction, aligning one or another imperialist power in specific positions, according to its own interests, threatening the escalation to other levels – and many spoke of the possibility of the beginning of a third world war – showing that it is not an isolated war conflict but a new expression of an inter-imperialist war.

The reasons exhibited by one or the other of the protagonists of the war hardly represent the tip of the iceberg for its underlying reasons. On the Russian side, the defense of the rights of the inhabitants of the Dombas region to their independence was argued; and, on the Ukrainian side, their "sovereign" right to resolve their future with the incorporation into the European Union and NATO.

In reality, the back yard of the operations of this war is the scene of an inter-imperialist war that confronts, on the one hand, Russian imperialism, which is known to be stalked and threatened; and, on the other, the confluence of the so-called western imperialist powers led by the United States of America, England and several of the imperialist powers of the European Union such as Germany, France, etc., which have in the Zelensky regime a puppet government subservient to their hegemonic interests.

Although the Western imperialist powers have not yet intervened with their own troops and official formations in this war, instead they have mobilized all other resources at their disposal in order to neutralize, deter and push back the Russian Army, among which are:

Economic, financial and trade sanctions, aimed at suffocating the Russian economy and affecting the living conditions of its population,

- Direct military assistance with military equipment and technical advice to the Ukrainian government and army, as well as with the mobilization of contingents from mercenary outsiders,
- Direct economic and financial assistance, with the injection of large amounts of resources channeled by the various imperialist governments into the Ukrainian regime,
- Censorship and blocking of all Russian media, to ensure advantage in the information war,
- Multiple diplomatic pressures, aimed at exalting the figure of Zelensky and his regime and demonizing Putin's,
- Pressure and blackmail of the other rival imperialist power China, trying to avoid a more active role in the economic and commercial unblocking of Russia.

The same action is being promoted with India and other countries.

- Sanctions and exclusions for teams and athletes from international competitions; among other measures.

That is, the so-called Western imperialist powers, affiliated to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization – NATO, have a leading role in the development of this regime, affirming that it represents the confrontation of fundamental interests and objectives of one or the other imperialist powers, that this war is an inter-imperialist War.

For the United States of America, England and the imperialist powers of the European Union it is of strategic importance to advance their economic, political and military frontiers to Russia's borders – an imperialist power that they consider not only an undesirable rival, but also one dangerous and threatening

to their interests. For that, "the operational capacity of the Alliance will be strengthened with a considerable expansion of troops and deployment of means to increase its response capacity and deterrence", as resolved at the NATO summit on June 29 and 30 in Madrid, reiterating that "the allies are committed to increasing military spending and defense-related investments in order to face new types of threats..."

On the other hand, for the Putin regime, it is a matter of life and death to prevent NATO member countries from bordering its frontiers. In its contradictions, rivalries and disputes with other imperialist powers, Russia suffers and resents the stalking of the Western powers, which are increasingly narrowing their positions towards their borders, thus constituting a serious threat to their areas of influence and their very survival.

China, for its part, is maintaining its agreements with the Russian power, although under an apparent neutrality. It is clear, however, that the contradictions and rivalries between China and the United States of America are facing moments of exacerbation, such as what happened recently in Taiwan, in which China intensified its military exercises in the face of the provocative visit of the Speaker of the House of Representatives of the United States, Nancy Pelosi. Inter-imperialist disputes over geopolitical control of the East are at the heart of this war.

In addition, Ukraine itself is of strategic importance; it is one of the countries with very fertile farmland and, until before the war, it was one of the largest producers of cereals, grains, vegetables, seeds, sugar, meat and milk, being called "the great breadbasket of Europe." In 2021, according to the International Grains Council, it was the world's fourth largest exporter of corn and the sixth largest exporter of wheat. In addition, it is rich in iron ore, coal, manganese, graphite, titanium, magnesium, petroleum, nickel and wood and has an important industrial base. It has an advantageous location, given its coastal profile in the Sea of Azov and the Black Sea, fundamental for the connection and trade through the Mediterranean Sea.

Of course, in this confrontation the great interests of the imperialist monopolies are present. In the first place, the arms industry, which in the war multilaterally expands its businesses, leaving the remittances of weapons lagging behind technologically, while, raising the sales of new arsenals, taking advantage of the permanent increases in the military budgets of the imperialist powers themselves and of the dependent countries.

The energy monopolies (oil, gas, electricity) are multiplying their profits, imposing exorbitant prices and tariffs on consumers under the pretext of the market.

Merged with the other monopoly branches, the financial monopolies are making great profits, realizing the war credits in most of the countries engaged in this conflagration.

This coalescing of multiple imperialist interests is also present in the war scenario, through the neo-Nazi and far-right movements that influence the internal politics of Ukraine, and collide with international mercenary forces that, promoted and financed by the extreme right of Europe and the United States of America, have an important role in the leadership of the military forces of Ukraine.

The workers and peoples are the main victims of the war. The first and main victims of this war are the workers and peoples of Ukraine. Millions have been displaced from their homes, tens of thousands have been forced to migrate abroad and there are thousands of civilian deaths and injuries in these months of war. As a result of the war, more hunger and misery are expected for these people.

On the Russian side, thousands of soldiers have lost their lives and, although at different levels than in Ukraine, serious economic effects have been seen on the population.

However, the victims are not alone in the war scenario. The workers and peoples of the whole world, to a greater or lesser extent, are suffering from the effects of this war. The war is causing major economic repercussions at the international level. Stagflation processes are recorded with the combination of

declining economic growth and high inflation rates. In general, the prices of energy, food and services have skyrocketed, in many cases reaching unbearable levels for the peoples.

The purchasing power of the workers' wages is being drastically reduced, while millions have been laid off from their jobs.

All this because "it is worth paying the price of freedom," as Boris Johnson put it when asked by a journalist about the cost of helping defend Ukraine.

That is, , the governments of the imperialist powers are once again placing the cost of this war on the backs of the workers and peoples of the world.

Condemning the imperialist war in Ukraine means fighting imperialism and fighting to overcome the capitalist system

"Imperialism is a fierce struggle of the Great Powers for the division and redivision of the world. It is therefore bound to lead to further militarization in all countries, even in neutral and small ones.." Lenin, The Military Program of the Proletarian Revolution.

In the war in Ukraine, neither the interests and aspirations for independence of the inhabitants of the Donbas Region, proclaimed by the Putin regime, nor the defense of "freedom" proclaimed by Biden, Johnson and most governments of the Western powers, are at stake.

The interests of the imperialist countries and their monopolies for the control of food and natural resources are present, as well as access to their markets. It is about the intensification of inter-imperialist disputes, which increase exploitation, sow hunger and death in their desire to favor the interests and appetites of their monopolies.

That is why, in the political-military contention of the imperialist powers and the owners of big capital, we cannot take sides in favor of one or another power or bloc that promotes war, since by their nature they are enemies of the workers and peoples. We denounce the imperialist military blocs and the increases in their war budgets as instruments and expenses of domination, oppression and death, and we demand that these resources be allocated to solve the growing needs of food, health and education of millions of human beings in the world, who today are suffering from hunger and multiple deprivations.

We communists, Marxist-Leninists, take a stand together with the working class and the peoples of the world. In the context of the present inter-imperialist war in Ukraine we express our solidarity with the workers, youth and people of Ukraine, the direct victims of the war, while continuing the fight against capitalist exploitation and imperialist domination.

We promote the position of "The ICMLPO (which) condemns this war and the warmongers who promote and feed it, we unite our voice to that of millions of workers, youth and women who are fighting for peace, demand the end of the war and the dissolution of NATO and the other military blocs of the capitalist countries and the imperialist powers, for they constitute a sword of Damocles hanging over the life of peoples." (International Political Situation. ICMLPO 2022)

At the same time, we reiterate our commitment to continue the struggle for revolution and socialism, the only way to overcome capitalism in its imperialist phase, recognizing with Lenin that "Only after we have overthrown, finally vanquished and expropriated the bourgeoisie of the whole world, and not merely of one country, will wars become impossible." Lenin, The Military Program of the Proletarian Revolution.

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August 2022