

profit, capital is very bold. A certain 10 per cent. will ensure its employment anywhere; 20 per cent. certain will produce eagerness; 50 per cent., positive audacity; 100 per cent. will make it ready to trample on all human laws; 300 per cent., and **there is not a crime at which it will scruple, nor a risk it**

**will not run, even to the chance of its owner being hanged. If turbulence and strife will bring a profit, it will freely encourage both.** Smuggling and the slave-trade have amply proved all that is here stated." (quoted in Capital, Volume I, Chapter XXIV, K. Marx).

## THE IMPERIALIST TENSIONS IN THE MIDDLE EAST FLARE UP IN GAZA

The Middle East continues to be in ferment, with each regional power trying to impose itself on the others and as an effect of the moves on this board of the U.S. and China.

### Expansión of China's influence in the region

Chinese influence is spreading in the Middle East, as it is all over the world. With Iran, *"China agreed to invest \$400 billion (...) over 25 years in exchange for a steady supply of oil."* (New York Times, 27-03-2021). Trade exchanges China-Turkey (NATO's second largest army) reached \$24 billion in 2020. (Belt and Road News, 26-03-2021).

China signed agreements worth \$65 billion with Saudi Arabia in 2017. And even with Israel, the U.S.'s prey dog in the region, the relationship has deepened as we already indicated in The Internationalist Proletarian no. 5: *"Israel and China have signed historic cooperation agreements for the construction of the Eilat train, as well as other projects in the future, including the INLAND canal north port of Eilat. (...) The main project on the agenda is the construction of a freight line that will link the ports of Ashdod and Haifa (facing the Mediterranean) with the port complex of Eilat on the Red Sea. In addition, there are plans to extend the line to the Jordanian port of Aqaba. (...) Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has declared that "the train to Eilat is a national priority, because of its strategic and policy importance".* (ICEX, 2012). *"Beijing was in 2018 "Israel's second largest trading partner", (...) the overall amount of their trade exchanges climbed to \$16 billion, being the first importer and the second country where Israeli companies exported the most, which accounted for 10% of total exports."* (La Vanguardia, 09-07-2019).

### The USA movements in the Middle East

The rapprochement between Israel and China gives the U.S. no peace of mind: *"A U.S. Senate committee recently approved a bill expressing "serious security concerns" over the contract between Israel and Shanghai International Port Group for the management of the Haifa port facility."* (La Vanguardia, 09-07-2019).

Israel's economic dependence on the USA and the latent threat of supporting the creation of a Palestinian state are the levers with which the U.S. makes sure that the prey dog remains obedient. The U.S. reached with Israel in 2016 a military aid plan: *"for ten years, the largest defense and security package to another country in the history of the first power, according to a State Department statement. The final sum to be received by Israel amounts to 38 billion dollars. (...) Israel is the largest recipient of cumulative U.S. aid since World War II: \$124.3 billion in current dollars."* (El País, 14-09-2016).

But some sectors are beginning to doubt whether the latter will remain loyal: *"Israel could be left out of America's trusted military, financial, commercial and technological networks unless it acts decisively," to limit Chinese investment in the country, Greenert and Bird wrote. [respectively retired U.S. Fleet Admiral and Vice Admiral from think-tank JINSA]."* (Middle East Eye, 17-07-2019). The Chinese ambassador to Israel was in fact assassinated on 17-05-2020.

The issue is whether the U.S. threat to drop Israel can be hollowed out to the extent that China can prop it up on the other side, imposing its conditions on it.

Something similar happens with another traditional U.S. ally in the region: Saudi Arabia. The U.S. bet on shale gas and oil led the Saudi bourgeoisie to make the price of oil sink. The U.S. threats of legal actions against the Saudi royal family for the attacks on the Twin Towers and the signing of the nuclear agreement with Iran followed. The Trump faction again approached Saudi Arabia, breaking the Iran deal in 2015, which did not prevent the signing of the aforementioned Saudi-China agreement. On the other hand, Saudi Arabia is also trying to develop its nuclear program, which is not regarded by the U.S. imperialism that has even circulated that it would be done with Chinese technology: *"In 2018, Mohammed bin Salman, crown prince and strongman in Saudi Arabia, announced that his country would seek to acquire nuclear weapons if Iran continued its work. His words were not lost in the wind. At the time, Senators Ed Markey (Democrat) and Marco Rubio (Republican) launched a bill whose name was a statement of intent: the "To counter Saudi Arabia's possible pursuit of weapon of mass destruction"."* (La Vanguardia, 07-08-2020).

During the previous mandate, the U.S. succeeded in getting the UAE and Morocco to recognize the state of Israel. With Trump's faction ousted, the U.S. bourgeoisie is once again distancing itself from Saudi Arabia: *"the U.S. president has given the green light to the release of the U.S. intelligence report implicating Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, 35, in Kashoggi's gruesome death."* (La Vanguardia, 26-02-2021) and *"Biden also announced the end of U.S. support for Saudi attacks in Yemen."* (La Vanguardia, 05-02-2021). As a consequence of the change in the U.S. ruling faction, Saudi Arabia and its allies have had to relent in the blockade against Qatar *"which since 2017 relied on an air corridor with Iran to break its isolation"* (La Vanguardia, 06-10-2021), blockade motivated by the support of Qatar through the Al-Jazeera channel and together with Turkey to the Muslim Brotherhood and Hamas.

The development of productive forces in Asia has won the day over the U.S. in its attempts to encircle and isolate China through its military interventions in Afghanistan and Iraq.

In any case, the U.S. ability to keep its "allies" on a short leash is somewhat weakened by the existence of China, which is waiting with open arms for anyone the U.S. wants to punish by "breaking relations".

While U.S. imperialism has based its intervention since the second imperialist world slaughter on directly parasitizing the world and trying to contain or destroy the industrial and commercial development of vast areas of the world, Chinese imperialism goes with the checkbook ahead and exalts the commercial and industrial development of the countries that fall under its influence. It is clear that Chinese imperialism is not doing any act of charity nor does it have an ounce of altruism, but its way of subduing the other bourgeoisies is by exporting technologies, merchandise and infrastructure, which gives it a great advantage over the U.S. which only has greenbacks and

debt to offer in exchange for parasitizing the profits of the rest of the world's bourgeoisies. It is also true that these greenbacks have always been accompanied by the threat of military intervention, but also in this aspect U.S. imperialism is less and less capable of impressing the world.

### **The nuclear agreement with Iran and its consequences**

For some time now, a sector of the U.S. bourgeoisie does not see Saudi Arabia and Israel as a toehold with a future and would like to reach an entente with Iran. The U.S. rapprochement is partly motivated by the transition of the world bourgeoisie towards the so-called renewable energies which will entail a decrease in the relative weight of the importance of oil and of Saudi Arabia itself, as well as of this point of support for the dollar for its role as reserve currency.

With a population almost twice that of Saudi Arabia, UAE and Israel combined, Iran intervenes in Gaza, Yemen, Syria, Lebanon, Iraq and the Gulf, demonstrating the role it plays as a power, which also explains why a sector of the U.S. would prefer to rely on it rather than have it in front of them. In addition to the sabotage of Israeli ships, the Iranian armed forces "stormed the South Korean flagged oil tanker *Hakuk Chemi* and forced it to set course for the port of Bandar Abas, where it is being held" (La Vanguardia, 06-01-2021) to "reinforce the Islamic Republic's position in the face of the negotiation with Seoul of the future of around 7 billion dollars in Iranian assets that remain frozen in South Korean banks." (La Vanguardia, 06-01-2021).

On the other hand, there are many parties interested in trying to block this agreement. The sectors within Israel and Saudi Arabia that see in it the prelude to their agony as allies of the U.S. in the region, the sectors within Iran that prefer to play an imperialist role completely autonomous and opposed to the U.S. or that count on relying on China, the countries or fractions of the bourgeoisie interested in a high oil price since the end of the embargo would bring to the market millions of additional barrels that Iran cannot sell now.

### **Military escalation in Gaza**

It is in this context that the latest escalation of cross-launched missiles between Israel and Gaza has been unleashed. Hamas and Islamic Jihad have deployed an attack consisting on the launching of 3,350 missiles to overcome Israel's defense system: "the Israeli Iron Dome interceptor rocket system (...) The aim is to overcome it by saturation, that is, by firing, like the other day, a hundred projectiles almost simultaneously at the shortest possible distance from Israeli territory so that the Dome system cannot react in time". (La Vanguardia, 13-05-2021).

Israeli repression has been unleashed on the population of Gaza. Some sectors of the Israeli bourgeoisie delude themselves that "it will take years for the militias to assemble the arsenal - 3,350 rockets - fired during these days." (La Vanguardia, 18-05-2021), but in reality, it could well be much less time than they calculate. The reason is Iran's support: "Yahya Sinuar himself said that they were developing their capabilities thanks to Iran's help. In other words, Iran was not lying when it said that the copy of its Fajr-5, the M-75, was manufactured in Gaza. And the same would be true of the most powerful missile, the Syrian M-302 Jaibar (a copy of the Chinese WS-2 under license), which Hamas calls the R-160. (...) It is something similar to what happens with the Iranian missiles fired by the Houthis of Yemen against Saudi Arabia." (La Vanguardia, 13-05-2021).

These macabre escalations are necessary for the sectors of each bourgeoisie to ideologically bind the proletariat itself and

to justify or reinforce with them their position: the Netanyahu sector in Israel to try to force new elections, the Iranian tough sector to block the nuclear agreement, Hamas to give an outlet to the social discontent inside Gaza.

The escalation in Gaza has facilitated the victory of the hardliners in the Iranian elections, but it has not produced the elections that Netanyahu's sector had hoped for. On the contrary, the latter has been toppled by a bloc that includes for the first time an Arab-Israeli party. The alternative facing a sector of the Israeli bourgeoisie is the following: any day now, the U.S. may even drop Israel or, what is practically the same thing, force it to accept a Palestinian state. Then Israel would be swallowed up like a drop in the ocean. The only way to survive would be to integrate as one more Arab tribe, previously integrating the Arab-Israeli bourgeoisie in the administration of joint businesses. We note how the statements of the current ruling faction in the U.S. convey this ambivalence and contradictory character: "The President of the United States was emphatic: "There is no change in my commitment to Israel's security. Period. The president was then categorical in warning that "there will be no peace" until the region "unequivocally recognizes Israel's right to exist as an independent Jewish state". That said, Biden did admit to a change. "The change is that we still need a two-state solution. That's the only answer, the only answer," the U.S. leader insisted." (El País, 22-05-2021).

In the development of the inter-imperialist conflict, the dead are always laid by the proletariat, subjected in Gaza and Israel to the two tendencies of bourgeois nationalism in dispute, the Zionist and the Islamist of the concentration camp jailers (Hamas-Jihad). It will only be possible to develop the situation in the Middle East in the sense of a class conflict through the rupture with all the contending bourgeoisies, both local and international.

### **There will be no peace in the Middle East as long as capitalism exists**

The oil rent and the strategic position in world trade are a curse for the proletariat of the Middle East that will not end as long as we do not abolish capitalism.

The Middle East is one of the areas where the imperious need to liquidate capitalism is most urgent and most evident, where it is most palpably demonstrated that the only way out is to liquidate the mercantile economy forever: there will be no peace in the Middle East as long as capitalism exists.

The Middle East is also the area of today's capitalist world where the need for the resurgence of the international class struggle to make possible an independent class position in the midst of the intense and crushing crossfire of world and local imperialism is most intense and obvious. Only the resumption of the international class struggle and the world communist revolution will put an end to the systematic slaughter and destruction in the Middle East!

Can this happen tomorrow? No. But whoever in the name of a more immediate solution proposes class collaboration with its own bourgeoisie and submission to nationalism, becomes an accomplice of the present macabre game and betrays the only revolution that will be able to put an end to this nightmare. All the rage and impotence accumulated today by the systematic massacre of the proletariat in the Middle East should give us more reasons to prepare this revolution, the only one that will be able to put an end to the situation of oppression and exploitation in the Middle East and in the rest of the world. THIS REVOLUTION WILL COME. And then we will settle accounts with this system

of exploitation and with all the crimes perpetrated on the backs of the world proletariat. As we Marxists have said so many times: *"It is in these strips of encounter between peoples, in these bilingual zones, that proletarian internationalism must give proof of its value, rejecting the flags of all nations in favor of the red flag, the only flag of the social revolution."* (Proletariat and Trieste, Battaglia Comunista No. 8, 1950). The immediate slogan of the Communists in the Middle East can only be:

NO CONCESSIONS TO NATIONALISM! NO SUPPORT FOR ONE'S OWN BOURGEOISIE! BREAK-UP OF THE NATIONAL FRONT!  
INDEPENDENT ORGANIZATION OF THE WORKING CLASS!  
FRATERNIZATION WITH THE PROLETARIAT  
OF ALL RACES AND LANGUAGES!  
JOINT ORGANIZATION OF THE COMMUNISTS IN THE  
INTERNATIONAL COMMUNIST PARTY!

## U.S. PERIPLUS TO FORM AN ALLIANCE AGAINST CHINA

The fraction of the U.S. bourgeoisie that emerged victorious from the last presidential elections has begun to try to regain ground in the international relations level in an attempt to form an anti-Chinese bloc.

On March 12th, 2021, the Quad, considered the embryo of a possible Indo-Pacific NATO, made up of the U.S., Japan, India and Australia, met. This meeting was followed on March 19th, 2021 by the meeting in Alaska between the Chinese and U.S. delegations, which began with a confrontation at media theatre level, but did not prevent them from discussing their business at length outside the press conferences.

This was followed by a series of sanctions by the U.S. and the other Quad members, joined by the EU, against China. China's response was to sanction the sanctioners at its turn and to organize a general boycott to European clothing brands, which still makes them shiver: *"For the third day in a row, H&M stores in China were a wasteland deserted of shoppers. The Swedish firm has hundreds of stores and a turnover of billions in the Asian giant, but it has become a pariah because of the controversy over its refusal to buy cotton from the province of Xinjiang for the alleged use of forced labour. (...) all of a sudden, it has run out of customers, its products are not on e-commerce platforms and even references to its stores have disappeared in Chinese mapping and geolocation applications. A total deletion of the Chinese internet."* (La Vanguardia, 28-03-2021).

### Evolution of the relationship between the USA and the EU

The EU is moving closer to the USA because its economic interests are gradually coming into contradiction with China, which is increasingly penetrating its backyard (Ukraine, Bulgaria, Belarus, Hungary, Slovakia, the Balkans). The latest steps are the creation of a Chinese university campus in Hungary: *"The Fudan University, based in Shanghai, will offer master's degree programs in Budapest to up to 6,000 students; and will receive 2.2 million euros in funding from the Hungarian government"*. (La Vanguardia, 25-01-2021) and the deployment by the Serbian Government of *"(...) a system composed of a thousand cameras with a 'software' capable of identifying citizens in real time developed by Huawei"* (El País, 18-06-2021). The EU has redoubled the blockade of Belarus after the recent military forced landing of a Ryanair plane in Belarus in order to detain an opponent. This blockade against Belarus is a blockade against Chinese development plans in Belarus and, at the same time, pushes Belarus further into Russia's hands. As a sign of this contradiction between the EU and China, in May 2021 the aforementioned reciprocal sanctions on several individuals have served as an excuse for the European Parliament to block for now the implementation of the trade agreement signed with China in November 2020.

In addition, the USA has proposed and agreed with Germany

and France in the framework of the G7 a tax on multinationals with which they will put an end to a series of disputes between them, trying to ensure a common playing field, to which they will try to submit the other countries that compete with them with lower taxes: Hungary and Ireland. Let no one believe that it is a question of raising taxes on large multinationals, but of making them pay in some countries and not in others. The general trend in corporate taxes is not exactly upward.

The U.S. and the EU have also reached an agreement on the reciprocal cancellation of tariffs arising from the Boeing and Airbus dispute (7.5 billion on European exports and 4 billion on U.S. exports). Bilateral trade between the U.S. and the EU remains *"the largest trade and investment relationship in the world, that represents the 42% of both world GDP and global trade in goods and services."* (Expansión, 16-06-2021).

*"However, the tariff peace will be partial, as the EU and the U.S. still have an open conflict over aluminium and steel."* (Expansión, 16-06-2021).

Both imperialisms had already jointly declared in the previous truce to this agreement that *"the global overcapacity is mostly driven by thirds parts", in a clear allusion to China, and pointed out that the distortions it generates "set out a serious threat" to both U.S. and European industries"*. (Expansión, 18-05-2021).

The current dominant fraction in the U.S. is, despite the bluster of the former buffoon and the decrepit appearance of the current puppet, the most bellicose and warlike fraction. As part of its attempt to regain global ground, the conference to revitalize NATO was held. Its message to the world has been: *"Russia and China threaten the international order based on rules"* and *"China is a systemic threat"* (Expansión, 16-06-2021). At this meeting there was Germany which asked to *"find a balance"* with China and there was also Turkey, NATO's second army, which plays an ambivalent and oscillating position between the U.S., the EU and Russia as a way of having an independent role. Turkey is trying to extend its imperialist influence in Central Asia by trying to maintain itself in the Kabul airport when the U.S. troops withdraw from Afghanistan (La Vanguardia, 15-06-2021).

The U.S. has also succeeded in joining the EU in its campaign for a new WHO investigation of the origin of the SARS-COV-2 virus in China.

This EU-U.S. approach is full of contradictory interests. The hand extended by the U.S. to the EU is far from unconditional and, at any moment, the U.S. can resume pressure against the EU, pressure that previously has had as a result the Brexit.

In December 2020, the U.S. recognized Moroccan sovereignty over Western Sahara in exchange for Morocco's recognition of the state of Israel and in March 2021 conducted military manoeuvres with Morocco: *"The Ike Battle Group participated, between the 3rd and 5th, in bilateral manoeuvres with the*