

Ukraine: Whose War Is It?

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Preface

Life is extraordinarily rich. It cannot be confined to templates. Every historical development must be considered within its own existential conditions, with all its unique aspects taken into account. Intellectual slugs or narrow-minded individuals attempt to make sense of a series of events through memorized clichés. For them, everything can be explained through extremely simplistic templates. However, in reality, these so-called "explanations" themselves are in dire need of explanation!

The "Ukraine tension," which escalated into direct armed conflict as of February 24, was immediately met with ready-made templates by a significant portion of the socialist movement. Neither the historical development of the issue was taken into account, nor were its unique aspects explored. "The struggle for imperialist hegemony (i.e. inter-imperialist war)" became the magical formula that "explained" everything at once for a very wide circle. Neither the two people's republics of Donbass were part of the equation, nor the neo-Nazi fascists who held real power in Kiev. Nor was the fact that the so-called "very imperialist" Russian bourgeoisie had actually formed a unity of interests and destiny with the imperialist "West." Neither concrete class relations nor the unique historical situation were part of this "explanation." Simply saying "No to Imperialist War" was more than enough! In truth, this "sharp" assessment was nothing but an expression of avoiding confrontation with the real imperialists, of not standing directly against that dreadful front, of "not rowing against the current."

As for us... As the reader will see again in this compilation, we had been conducting a concrete historical

analysis of this long-coming war for a very long time. When the war broke out, we had behind us a considerable body of these scientific analyses. Based on these analyses, we called out to the working peoples and all forces on the labor front to "Choose Your Side." We raised this call knowing full well that we would be isolated, that we would draw all the lightning upon ourselves; we raised it knowing that we would be "rowing against the current" alone!.. At the heart of the political approach we developed was the refusal to compromise on political courage and a scientific perspective. To not compromise on the correct revolutionary line at the cost of being alone; to not shy away from expressing revolutionary thoughts that we believed aligned with the class interests of the proletariat, no matter the cost, has always been the line followed by Leninists throughout their history.

This war, now in its third week, proves how accurate our pre-war views were. Developments are aligning with our theoretical predictions.

In compiling this collection, alongside making the current tensions and conflicts more understandable for our readers and enabling them to see the historical and social realities underlying the surface events, we aimed to enlighten the revolutionary proletariat about the possible future directions of global developments and to bring their concrete historical tasks to consciousness. Our readers will learn about the historical development of the current issue and see how such world-scale events are approached through the selection of articles included in this compilation.

When it comes to scientific truths and revolutionary politics, not giving in to the uproar created by the bourgeois world and the so-called "public opinion" manufactured by their massive propaganda machines has always been a fundamental characteristic of the Leninist approach. The compilation you hold in your hands stands as one of the proofs of a steadfast and resolute stance against the current that sweeps many along.

We are at a turning point. At a critical juncture. In-

sistence on scientific truths may impose isolation, even if temporarily, especially in such critical periods. But we know that the "reward" for insisting on scientific truths is always given by historical development.

This "reward" will find its true meaning when the scientific revolutionary ideas put forward align with the real aspirations and tendencies of the masses and transform into a material force.

The proletariat is a revolutionary class that saves not the past or the present, but the future.

Sinan Kaleli

ODESSA 2014: BLOODY SHADOW OF THE THIRD REICH

The red flag bearing the hammer and sickle, raised over the Reichstag—the German parliament building—symbolizes the defeat of Nazi fascism. The date is May 2, 1945i. Nazism, which had plunged the world into bloodshed for six years and perpetrated unspeakable atrocities, lay vanquished.

May 2, 2014—69 years after the Nazis' defeat. A small group of activists sets up tents on Odessa's Kulikovo Square, continuing their pro-federalism protests, oblivious to the impending catastrophe. What began as demonstrations on Kiev's Maidan (Independence Square) had escalated into a US-backed fascist coup, plunging the country into turmoil. In the eastern regions, the Russian-speaking population's native language was abruptly banned...

Donbas rose in armed resistance, rejecting Kiev's authority. Crimea, repudiating the fascist coup in Kiev, held a referendum to join Russia, with 93% voting for unification. In Mariupol, the anti-Kiev movement was brutally crushed, while Kharkov succumbed to fascist intimidation. A climate of fascist terror engulfed the nation. Meanwhile, in Odessa, a group opposing this fascist tide staged a defiant yet tragically unprepared protest—their tents pitched on Kulikovo Square.

During the day, clashes broke out in the city center between fascists and anti-fascists. Two fascists and four anti-fascists lost their lives. Tensions were high. Later, a crowd of 1,000 people, including football hooligans armed with chains, baseball bats, knives, Molotov cocktails, and machetes, descended on Kulikovo Square. The fascist "Right Sector" group and other neo-Nazi groups led the

charge. There was no police force to stop the frenzied mob!

The attackers begin hurling Molotov cocktails and firing weapons at the crowd in the square. The besieged protesters seek refuge in the nearby five-story building, known as the Trade Union Palace. And then... scenes all too familiar in these lands unfold—a grim reminder of the universal nature of fascism. The building is set ablaze, engulfed in flames from Molotov cocktails. Gunfire rains down on the structure without pause. Those captured are brutally hacked apart with machetes and axes. Desperate individuals fleeing to the windows to escape the inferno are shot at point-blank range. Some leap from the building in a bid to survive, only to be met with violence from the mob below. The wounded, lying helpless on the ground, are lynched. For 45 agonizing minutes, the fire brigade is conspicuously absent. Police units stand by, refusing to intervene. Official reports state that 42 people were brutally massacred in the building that night, with 240 others injured. The descendants of the Third Reich, defeated in 1945, enact a savage ritual of vengeance 69 years later.

Forty-two people perished in the building that night, with six more killed in the morning shootout, bringing the total death toll to 48. Yet, the full extent of the tragedy remains unknown—some succumbed to severe injuries in hospitals, while others died years later due to the trauma. To this day, the Council of Mothers continues its door-to-door efforts to uncover the truth and bring clarity to the events.

What is particularly striking is that, following this horrific massacre, only one individual faced punishment—and that person was from the attacked side! Is this not astonishing to the people of this land? Even five years later, the fascists responsible have yet to be held accountable. On page 24 of the UN's quarterly report on human rights in Ukraine, it is noted that fascist groups stormed the court handling the case, and the judge narrowly escaped harm thanks to the intervention of lawyers.

Ukraine, a land that bore witness to some of the most brutal massacres of the Second World War, found itself

once again engulfed by fascist violence in the 21st centuryii. History revels in ironies, but not in coincidences. It is no accident that Ukraine became the stage for such suffering, nor that the fascists operated with such organization and confidence. This tragedy is rooted in a long and complex historical contextiii. In more recent history, the Yushchenko era (2004 and beyond) stands out as a critical period, marked by the rise of the 'color revolutions,' with Ukraine's own 'Orange Revolution.'iv It was during this time that fascist groups began receiving significant support and gaining strength.

As Okay Deprem aptly noted in an interview: "We can continue to view Bandera's heirs as mere pawns. They played a pivotal role in the Donbass war, but they were never fully autonomous—always tethered to control mechanisms and dependent on external forces. The US and its allies were the primary backers of Ukraine, and there is ample evidence to support this. It began with the Right Sector, which gradually evolved into paramilitary units and small counter-guerrilla forces. These groups did not emerge out of thin air. While they were less visible prior to 2014, it later came to light that they had been training in neighboring countries years before the conflict escalated. On the surface, their presence was not overt, but in cities like Lvov, the towering statue of Bandera served as a stark symbol of their influence. In essence, even the pre-2014 government tacitly permitted the existence of Nazi-aligned organizations."

Europe begins in Ukraine,' Hitler once proclaimed. 'Severing Ukraine from the Russian axis' and 'integrating it into the West' could only be accomplished by vilifying its socialist past and rehabilitating former Nazi collaborators. War criminals were rebranded as 'national heroes' and 'freedom fighters.' This imperialist strategy inevitably fostered the growth of fascist ideologies, whitewashing the atrocities of the Nazi empire and the Third Reich. Historical massacres were systematically denied. The enemy was labeled as 'Moskali'—a derogatory term for Russians—while the Nazis and their collaborators were glorified as saviors. Once again, the imperialist world found itself treading in

Hitler's footsteps.

Had history not already set this precedent? Was the so-called 'fight against communism' not built upon the very foundations of the Nazi regime—its officials, intelligence operatives, propaganda machinery, and clandestine organizations? Let us not overlook the fact that the mastermind behind this endeavor was none other than Reinhard Gehlennv, the former chief of Nazi intelligence.

Fascism is nothing more than a manifestation of capitalist domination! Consider capitalist economics—even the widely celebrated liberal capitalist model—and push its principles to their logical extreme; what emerges is pure Nazi ideology. (For those skeptical of this claim, Lester Thurow's **The Future of Capitalism** offers a compelling analysis.)

The Odessa massacre and the fascist coup in Kyiv are neither singular nor isolated events. They represent a historical echo of the Third Reich's bloodstained legacy, while simultaneously exposing the face of modern fascism. This atrocity lays bare the intrinsic link between capitalism and fascism. Today, it is the globalizing tendencies of world capitalism that pose a universal threat to humanity. Fascism and fascist movements are increasingly effective in confronting humanity's efforts to transcend capitalism. As comrades from Donbas have powerfully articulated, 'street terror and state terror merge into one' in the face of popular resistance.

To defeat fascism, one must first comprehend its roots. The scientific and coherent response to the challenges of modernity lies not in liberalism or conservatism, but in Marxist internationalism. Fascism emerges from the very essence of capitalism—a system that dehumanizes us and reduces everything around us to mere commodities.

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May 3, 2019

i In fact, the simple red flag was planted in the evening hours of April 30. But it was dark and could not be seen. Then, on May 2, the red flag with the hammer and sickle was raised on the Reichs-