

The Ukraine War's consequences for revolutionaries in Norway

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Note: The original article was published on February 27th. There have happened significant developments in the war since then, which the reader must take into account; yet we believe the main political conclusions of the article still hold true.

This is an attempt to draw some political conclusions, after Russia's invasion of Ukraine, on this war's consequences for revolutionary organization in Norway. The following points must be considered as contributions in a debate [as opposed to authoritative truth claims -Ed.]:

1. Russia's attack on Ukraine is a clear violation of the Ukrainians' right to self-determination, and represents Russian imperialism's attempt to maintain hegemony in Eastern Europe. We must take a stand for the Ukrainians' right to self-government, for ordinary Russians protesting against the war, against Russian occupation in Ukraine as well as against further NATO expansion in Eastern Europe.

2. Russia's invasion does not change the fact that the United States is still the main enemy of the people of the world. It is US imperialism that has the most military bases abroad, that has started the most wars, that has supported the most coups in oppressed countries, and that benefits most from the exploitation of both other countries and the internal colonies.

3. When we take a stand *against* Russian imperialism, it is not a stand *for* US imperialism. On the contrary, we maintain that it is our special duty as communists in Norway to fight against Norwegian and American imperialism. Karl Liebknecht's slogan that the main enemy is in our own country is still correct.

4. The pro-American Norwegian bourgeoisie will continue to exploit the war for its own propaganda purposes. At the more open level, to increase support for Norwegian NATO membership and for «out of area» operations. But also as a «lightning conductor» to divert attention away from domestic political crises and dissatisfaction.

5. Germany's closure of the Nord Stream 2 project, and the economic sanctions against Russia, cause EU countries to lose access to cheap Russian gas. This will, firstly, mean that electricity prices in Europe will rise in the short term, and will also facilitate increased Norwegian power exports. This will affect prices here at home, as Norway is fully integrated into the common European electricity market. It has also been reported that food prices will increase.

6. As a result of the inevitable increase of electricity and food prices, it is likely that the masses will defend their welfare and demand price controls. It is impossible to say exactly what form these demands will take, and what kind of combat methods will be used. We can expect the demands to start as spontaneous mass mobilizations, which will then be taken over by the reformist organizations and diverted into forms that are harmless to Capital. We can also expect that the most pro-American wing of the Norwegian bourgeoisie will use the price crisis to propagate a line of confrontation against Russia, of the type «win the war to end the crisis».

7. We must give our full support to the masses' struggle to defend their living conditions, and work to elevate the struggle for price controls to a struggle for revolution and

socialism. At the same time, we must wage an uncompromising fight against those who want to exploit the crisis as a pretext for increased incitement to war against Russia.

8. In the coming time, we should pay special attention to the following tasks:

- to expose US imperialism as the main enemy of the peoples of the world;
- to propagate against Norwegian participation in NATO military buildup in Eastern Europe;
- to show solidarity with activists and political prisoners in Russia who are fighting against the imperialism of their own country;
- to fight against anti-Russian chauvinism; to propagate against Norwegian membership in NATO;
- to bring out in the most pedagogical way possible that all war except people's war is against the interests of our class;
- to organize people's dissatisfaction with rising prices;
- to work to keep the reformists from gaining hegemony in the protests that are emerging;
- *to raise the struggle against the consequences of market fluctuations into a revolutionary struggle against the capitalist system itself and for red power.*