

# Imperialism -1/5

- **Imperialism** is the **Highest Stage of Capitalism** – Lenin.
- **Imperialism** has 3 - dimensions: Economic, Military, Ideological – Lenin analyzed the economic aspect in his 1916 pamphlet.
- The economic essence of imperialism is **monopoly capitalism**.
- Struggle for and seizure of **sources of raw materials**, especially for the basic and most **highly cartelized industries** is a characteristic of imperialist stage.
- **Monopoly Banks** - from modest middleman enterprises into the monopolists of **finance capital**. Finance capital is bank money applied to industries.
- **Monopoly** grows out of **colonial policy**. To the numerous “old” motives of colonial policy, **finance capital** has added the struggle for the **export of capital**, for **monopoly profits** .

# Imperialism – 2/5

- **Exploitation** of small or weak nations by a handful of the most powerful nations, monopolies, oligarchy, domination, — imperialism is - **parasitic or decaying capitalism**.
- **Parasitism:** the creation of the “rentier state”, in which the bourgeoisie ever-increasingly degree lives on the proceeds of capital exports and on its super profits.
- **Tendency to decay:** In the epoch of imperialism, certain branches of industry, certain strata of the bourgeoisie and certain countries betray, to a greater or lesser degree, now one and now another of these tendencies.
- Overall, **capitalism grows far more rapidly** but which also manifests itself in the **decay of the countries which are richest in capital (Britain) in 1900 onward, G-7 now.** For example, see Midwestern towns after 2000.
- **Imperialist stage is capitalism in transition, from vital to moribund.** So, imperialism is a stage of **weakness of capitalism**.

# Imperialism – 3/5

- **Military Power dimension** of Imperialism – military acts as the bailiff for monopoly capitalism, so it is secondary to the economic essence of imperialism.
- **Ideological dimension** - this influences its victims to believe the imperialist country or countries. Example: G-7, are a force for good not just for themselves but for the exploited countries as well, as they help democracy and human rights. It also convinces workers inside the imperialist countries that the capitalists are job producers.
- **The economic dimension** however is the heart of imperialist stage of capitalism, military the muscle, ideology the mind. However, military and ideology depend on the economic dimension.

# Imperialism – 4/5

- **Imperialist stage of capitalism was reached in 1900.** Britain was conquering and colonizing much of the world from 1757, when it first established a colony in Bengal in India. But Neither Marx nor Lenin, called that period the imperialist stage of capitalism. (Ben Norton Video)
- Imperialism is global, binding all countries in its chain, which was broken in 1917 in Russia and in 1949 in China, then Korea, Vietnam, etc.
- From 1945 to about 1975, the US capitalism was vital, not moribund.
- **Massive amount of capital - destroyed in WWI and WWII**, so, capitalism **came out of moribund condition**. It became full of **vitality**.
- **The military dimension enlarged**. But that was also the case with Britain before 1875, which period Lenin did not describe as stage of imperialism. Nuclear weapons added.
- **By 1973, capitalism once again reached its highest stage of imperialism**, with its epicenter in the US.
- **Disunity between USSR and China**, was exploited by the US, which put a lot of pressure on the USSR in arms-race, using vast expansion of credit, leading to the collapse of the USSR.
- **Revisionism started in 1956**, and later resulting in Russian nationalism were the internal and main factors for the demise of the USSR.

# Imperialism – 5/5

- **Capitalism, thanks to China's labor-power, from moribund turned to vital stage for two decades.** The compulsion was as much for the US and EU to invest in China as for China needing that Capital in 1989. But CPC maintained control, unlike weak states.
- **Chinese capital** formed & accumulated; capitalism reached again to the **moribund stage by 2008.**
- **India under BJP** is attempting to repeat the Chinese model, using US, Euro, Japanese and Chinese overproduction of capital. So, **capitalism may again revitalize** for a decade at best. But it will further the shift the power to Asia.
- **20<sup>th</sup> century Socialist Revolutions and National Liberation movements** have changed the world such that capitalism can develop in the Third World countries, in those that are large and have political power centered firmly. This is what is so different about the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.
- **BRICS formed in 2009**, as an economic association of non-imperialist countries, in which capitalism was the system of production to develop their economies free from imperialist pressures of G-7. The G-7 can't prevent it. It is Multipolarity, which is a democratic revolution at geopolitical level. This is proof that capitalism is in its weak stage of imperialism in G-7. US led G-7 control of world is finished.

# Fascism

**Communist International 1928:** “Under **special historical conditions**, the progress of the bourgeois, imperialist, reactionary offensive assumes the form of Fascism.

## **The special conditions:**

- (a) instability of capitalist relationships; the existence of considerable declassed social elements, the pauperization of broad strata of the urban petit-bourgeoisie and of the intelligentsia; discontent among the rural petit-bourgeoisie.
- (b) menace of mass proletarian action. To stabilize and perpetuate its rule the bourgeoisie is compelled to an increasing degree to abandon the parliamentary system in favor of the fascist system, which is independent of inter-party arrangements and combinations. This is what is at play in the US, and in parts of Europe.

# Does MAGA Politics indicate rising Fascism? – 1/2

- **MAGA** – Make America Great Again – coined by Trump harkens back to time when High School pass US workers, mostly white males, had industrial, well-paying jobs with a defined pension and healthcare benefits and colleges were free or affordable to their children. Women were home makers and part time workers after children went away.
- **Democratic Party**, which had support of well-paid Union workers thru 1960s and **Republican Party**, which had support of the small business owners and college educated suburban white men and women, lost these, as jobs shifted to China in the 1990s.
- **Democratic Party** then sought support of the **monopoly finance** capitalists and the **Republican Party** also of **large industrial capitalists**. Both used the money to mislead workers that good times lie just slightly ahead. Trump exposed them both and won in 2016 and again in 2024. Biden won 2020 because of Covid mishandling, promise of infrastructure investments and of raising taxes on the rich.
- **The Great Recession of 2007-8** convinced vast majority of workers that both parties are lying. The Government rescued the big capitalists – too big to fail - and printed trillions of dollars, that were not backed by work produced by performed labor. This fictitious capital has led to sharp rise in prices of all commodities now. The lower half of the US workers cannot survive now as they used to be able to do before 1970s.

# Does MAGA indicate rising Fascism? – 2/2

- **Trump's MAGA** movement does not represent fascism at present. It is rather an attempt to return to old Capitalism, in which social hierarchy, would be the way to control the workers, and full freedom given to capitalists. MAGA will cut social spending and reduce social wages, use high technology and AI to increase production efficiency to make US production more competitive in world markets. Towards that Tariffs on China, Mexico and Canada just announced.
- **Imperialist wars**, either enlarging the current or adding new; Trump is unlikely to do. He wants to bring Russia and India on the US side, to isolate China and reduce its power by Tariffs on its commodities.
- **The new alignment** that Democratic Party has attempted to forge - identity based – women free of men, children free of parents, gender freed from Nature. Harris was running a moderate Republican Party campaign against George Wallace like campaign of Trump.
- Trump was luckier than was Wallace, he escaped two assassination attempts.



# Imperialism & Fascism in 21<sup>st</sup> Century - 1/2

- **European Fascism** of 1920-1945 period was a response of capitalist crisis of overproduction in Germany, lacking access to markets, blocked by large colonial imperialists. Both Italy and Germany were under pressure from its working classes organized by the communists. Fascism attempted to solve it by aggressive militarist means – suppressing worker militancy, conquering Eastern Europe & the USSR.
- **The Socialist Revolutions** of the 20<sup>th</sup> century help overthrow colonialism, where masses struggled so heroically inspired and assisted by the socialist countries, so recolonization has become impossible.
- **Neo-colonization** was an attempt to reassert dominance 1950s onwards, but it fails and turns out badly for the imperialist country. North Korea, Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos, African countries, Iraq and Syria and Afghanistan, and the Pink Tide in Latin America show that imperialism can't succeed, as did Britain in 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century in the colonialism phase. It is failing in Palestine as well.
- **Today, Markets** are open to all capitalists. Overproduction is the issue, from vast accumulation of capital that can keep increasing production but limited ability of consumption in the masses, who are in debt. Environmental disaster is now a big danger. World war with Nuclear holocaust, regional wars have failed. G-7 is stuck.

# Imperialism & Fascism in 21<sup>st</sup> Century - 2/2

- **In India, neo-colonialism** failed. First Nehru led Congress Party, now Modi led BJP, which today represents the monopoly capital of India give the state greater **sovereignty** than rulers of Britain, France, Germany and Japan. Russia, despite the breakup of USSR, a devastated economy in 1990s, has regained its sovereignty: Ukraine war proves it. And of course, China, Vietnam & even tiny Laos have more sovereignty, more than when they were colonized or semi-colonized countries thru mid 20<sup>th</sup> century.
- **New Fascist forms:** Neofascism, Third World Fascism, others? - Mehmet
- **Neofascism is rising in** the US, as it decays; the EU is also decaying, as capitalism gains ascendancy in Asia.
- Modi, most Indian Marxists believe is using Hindutva's **Neofascist ideology** to consolidate political power to rapidly push India to be the 3<sup>rd</sup> largest economy by 2029, in the way CPC consolidated, as a communist party, and rapidly developed capitalism in China.

# Conclusion



- Imperialism is the **moribund** stage of capitalism – reached around 1900
- The US became the workshop of the world after 1945, due to destroyed capital – capitalism became **vital** again
- Capitalism returned to **moribund** stage, accumulation in Japan and Europe by 1975
- US war cost in Indochina + Korean War earlier, led to dollar be a “promissory note” backed by Oil revenues from the Gulf.
- Credit expansion solved stagflation by Reagan – arms race broke USSR
- Chinese workers exploited by Western surplus capital made capitalism **vital** again, but by 2008 accumulation returned it to **moribund** stage
- Capitalism’s **vitality** has shifted to Asia, G-7 cannot recover without WWIII. Colonialism impossible and Neo-colonialism do not work.
- US workers hope to return to the past – voted for Trump. It won’t happen. Neofascism will rise unless stopped communists succeed.
- Socialism needs a new vision to organize US workers to its side to stop Fascism.