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Capitalism, militarism and the new world order



Sources: Rebellion

After more than half a year of open conflict, the militaristic escalation and destructive spiral linked to the war in Ukraine seem to have no end.

The hatred and aversion generated on both sides and, of course, the same perverse dynamic implicit in any war, with its tendency to grant more quotas of power and influence to the sectors most interested in prolonging it (militarist hawks, ultranationalist sectors, arms industry ...), make it very difficult, in the medium term, a resolution that does not imply the most complete annihilation of one of the contenders. The Ukrainian government, having made its Westernist bet, has a lot at stake: the very survival of Ukraine as a viable state entity. The Russian government, for its part, having crossed the Rubicon of open war last February, is risking the existence of Russia as a power worthy of

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being taken into account in the international concert and, perhaps, in case of suffering a humiliating defeat, implosion and disintegration.

The Effects of warmongering propaganda have spread throughout the body social. In this context, the Western left has seen itself trapped by the binary logic of a narrative that exalts and It mystifies the motives and military actions of one's own side (of which Ukraine would be bastion and battering ram), assuming more or less veiled a post-nationalist and civilizational worldview that It totally departs from the class critique of war. The war of The bourgeoisie can never be emancipatory, it can never be associated with freedom and democracy, unless a letter of nature to its mystifying and nationalistic narrative. It is necessary, More than ever, analyze and denounce the capitalist dynamics that They are at stake, because the present war cannot be understood without that war. analysis.

Propaganda of war and propaganda war

Outside of the battlefield and the tragedies that come with war, one of the remarkable facts of the war in Ukraine is how from the Mass media has been built and transmitted A unidirectional and hegemonic narrative of the conflict that sanctifies one side (Ukraine and the great Western family) and demonizes the opposite (Russia, associated with all the evils that have plagued the History of Western Civilizational Liberalism). A narrative consensual image-based, infantilized simplification, and Emotion has been shaped by big media owned by big guys Capitalist corporations, who are objectively interested transmit a certain version of the facts and that have the Ability to nip in the bud any discrepant or critical line. However, this fact does not explain the blindness with which transmit and swallow unverified information; does not explain that the Almost the entire ideological spectrum has assumed this speech not to leave the photo; Nor does it explain idealization that Ukraine is being made as if it were the last bastion of democracy. Ukraine, an oligarchic and corrupt regime like the Putin's Russia. A State that has more than 8 years of war against a part of its country and which has systematically violated the Minsk agreements of 2015 (at the time sponsored by France and Germany) establishing a precarious ceasefire and It drew a horizon of dialogue exit to the conflict. A State that He has turned the symbols of sinister Ukrainian ultranationalism in state ideology, which counts among its democratic feats the banning of up to 12 matches during the last year, the

Most of them, by the way, left-wing (previously, the Poroshenko government had already taken it upon itself to outlaw the Party of the Regions, ruler before the coup of Maidan, and to the Party Communist).

Perhaps to understand the formation of this consensus we must quote Josep Borrell, who in one of his arrogant attacks of sincerity said: "communication is a battlefield ... In addition to conquering spaces, we must conquer minds"[1]. These words were not addressed to the mainstream media, which already do this work ex officio; They were addressed to the European diplomatic corps, which was supposed to foster harmonious and peaceful international relations. The hegemonic consensus around the intervention in the war in Ukraine and the militarist escalation obeys a closing of ranks of the ruling classes of the Western bloc, with all its political, economic and media organs functioning at full capacity, at the service of strengthening their internal cohesion against a clearly identifiable enemy. After the total involvement in the war effort (the propaganda, the rain of billions in armaments to sustain Ukraine, the acceleration of the capitalist crisis in Europe with all that it entails), after the "disinterested" aid to a country that refuses to be invaded, there are complex geopolitical factors that imply the fracture of the capitalist world order (as we have known it to date) and the horizon of a existential crisis linked to resource scarcity; scarcity, of course, relative to the pace and strategies of capital accumulation.

Clash of civilizations or class struggle?

In this hegemonic discourse there is no place for truth and rigorous analysis, only for war propaganda and Manichaeism. The eternal struggle of good against evil, translated into the language of Western cultural liberalism: democracy against autocracy; Liberal civilization threatened again by totalitarianism. The political strength of the story is based on its ability to form consensus: from the most conservative sectors to socio-liberal progressivism and a certain dizzy left. The totalizing exaltation of the civilizational struggle for democracy (which becomes an identity concept empty of content) manages to suspend all tension and ideological discussion, generating a narrative based on its interclassist power. Perhaps this mystifying epic has a certain distant kinship with the initial past revolutionary impulses of the bourgeoisie against the Ancien Régime, albeit as a nostalgic farce and as a totally out of place spectacle. What is evident is that on the battlefield there is no room for

contradiction and class struggle, especially when writing from offices well away from the front. Ukraine, a people, as a whole, fighting for its freedom, against a Russian autocracy and its servile subjects all thirsting for conquest. Even the comparison with the world of the Lord of the Rings has been employed without blushing: equating Russians with orcs, referring to the threat coming from the east, comparing the doubts and criticisms of a certain part of the left with the collaboration between Ísengard and Mordor. [2]

In fact Ukraine and Russia have much more in common than what comes out to them. Two states born of the collapse of the USSR, devastated by The capitalist policies of plunder-privatization over the years 1990, from which benefited an oligarchy that today monopolizes the most resources. The only difference is that *Putinism* found its fit and consolidation in the reconstruction of the verticality of power, so, with the complicity of the Oligarchy and in line with its interests, put a brake on it. time to the excesses and debauchery of Yeltsin's times. Putin and its oligarchic clique have managed to consolidate themselves as an elite. Ideologically sheltering in Russian nationalism, building strong interclassist consensus, and in political reconstruction and Russia, which from the turn of the millennium returns to the International scene as an actor to be reckoned with, playing the card of the possession of key natural resources to regain a position of strength. In the case of Ukraine, the oligarchy has divided between the Europhile part, in favour of breaking the traditional balances and betting on an organic relationship with The West, and its Russophile part, more conservative and preferably favourable to maintaining trade and economic links with Russia. Until the first one was irreversibly imposed on the second, with the Euromaidan coup, and using artillery Heavy on Ukrainian ultra-nationalism, it could not be started in earnest *nation-building* process, which implied the imposition of a series of cultural vectors and symbolic and exclusion (see eradication) of others, as well as The historical revisionism itself which has also been reproduced in other Eastern countries: criminalization of everything that has to do with the Soviet past (which is automatically equated with the Russian imperialism), relativization of the effects altogether devastators of the Nazi occupation and collaborationism, which erects a national liberation struggle...

In reality, Ukraine has been integrating into the economic and political structures of the West for years. The point of no return was the signing of the Association Agreement between the EU and Ukraine in 2014, which had been years in the making. It should be

remembered that the doubts of President Viktor Yanukovich at the time of signing this agreement, pressured on the one hand by the EU and on the other by Russia, triggered at the end of 2013 the nationalist revolt of Euromaidan. The coup d'état of February 2014 replaced the Yanukovich government with a pro-European government that would sign the agreement shortly after, in June of the same year. But what did this agreement entail? In the line of similar trade agreements, the liberalization of trade and the elimination of rules and barriers that falsify the "free competition" that, as we know, always benefits the large transnational capitalist corporations. It also implied the alignment of economic policies and administrative rules with those of the new "trading partners", convergence in foreign policy, cooperation on energy policies, the obligation to abandon the trade pacts previously signed with Russia... In short, a total rupture of traditional geopolitical and trade balances and the meteoric inclusion of Ukraine in the Western economic bloc. Finally, the agreement also included the requirement to open a process of deindustrialization in the country (especially with regard to heavy and mining industry, especially important in Donbass) and facilitate the arrival of new international investments, conveniently deregulating the labor market and the protection system, something that Zelensky had already begun to do at forced marches before the war. Ukraine, with an abundant and well-qualified workforce, is thus offering itself as a new promised land of local relocation and intensive exploitation of labour. [3]

The class struggle is always the engine of history, no matter how much liberal-bourgeois myths and mystifications try to hide it. Ukraine's recent history is not exactly that of a country heroically fighting absolute evil; It is the story of a broken, devastated country, dominated by oligarchies, ideologically protected by ultra-nationalism, who have chosen to associate it inseparably with the Western capitalist bloc regardless of the cost and suffering. In this process, Ukrainian land is passing into the hands of large international agricultural corporations, which see in the privatization and control of the production of fertile black lands a great business opportunity. The *aid* packages of the IMF and the World Bank after the change of regime were not only linked to the Association Agreement between Ukraine and the EU and the implementation of extreme austerity policies; They were also conditional on facilitating international investments by large agro-industrial corporations, among others. The rampant privatization wave of the 1990s, which put all state lands (inherited from the Soviet Kolkhozes and Sovkhozoes) on sale and benefited a rapacious oligarchy that ended up controlling most of the country's most fertile land,

forced a moratorium that prevented the privatization of what was left of state land and the sale of land to foreign agricultural corporations. Despite the existence of this moratorium, it was estimated that, in 2014, 1.6 million hectares were in the hands of foreign corporations and that 10 large agricultural corporations controlled 2.8 million. [4] By 2021, the area owned by large agri-food corporations had increased to 3.4 million hectares and was estimated to be up to 6 million if land leased by these same large corporations is added, a route used to circumvent the restrictions imposed. [5] The moratorium was finally lifted in July 2021 by the Zelensky government, which at the same time liberalized land that was still state-owned. The reform law and the removal of the moratorium was a condition imposed by the IMF to grant a loan of 5,000 million dollars to support the failed Ukrainian state. Immediately, USAID, the U.S. Agency for International Development, launched a campaign to "educate individual farmers and communities on how to take advantage of new property rights, including how to manage land and how to attract investors." [6] Like vultures.

Speaking of vultures, BlackRock, the world's largest investment fund, recently offered the Zelensky government in a totally disinterested way to attract international investors for the reconstruction of Ukraine. The agreement is for BlackRock to participate in the structure, investment process, governance and use of the reconstruction fund's proceeds. Zelensky's answer, who gladly accepted the offer, is priceless: "We have shown that we know how to win on the battlefield. An important task for us is also to achieve victories in the economic field and to be an attractive country for investors." [7] The economy, the continuation of war by other means? At the same time, political leaders, businessmen and international institutions are drawing up a roadmap to rebuild Ukraine, estimated at about 750,000 million dollars, an amount that could be obtained in a large part of the Russian funds frozen by Western countries [8] and that will benefit, of course, large Western corporations as disinterested as BlackRock.

Europe: decadence and submission

The events brought about by this crisis Geopolitics of incalculable dimensions have revealed the total lack of autonomy of the European Union, both in terms of energy security, as well as in economic and political matters. To Despite his pompous and grandiloquent speeches, full of rhetoric empty, propaganda Europeanist no longer

manages to mask that Europe really does not count Not at all in the realm of international politics.

If it were not for the consequences it will entail for the popular classes the role of Europe in this war would be fun, for example, seeing Germany on its knees, totally powerless at the sacrifice of their industrial capacity on the altar of geostrategic interest of the American hegemon. It would be funny, also, to see how France, which aspired to build and lead a European self-defence policy, swallows without question the NATO relaunch and counts less than Poland and the countries Baltics – great allies and pawns of the United States – in the taking a position on the conflict and the relationship with Russia. Especially significant was Germany's lukewarm reaction to the sabotage of the Nord-Stream gas pipelines, perpetrated in total Security directly or indirectly by the secret services American. Also enlightening was the failure of the attempt to Emmanuel Macron to act as a "mediator" to avoid the Conflict, despised as a dirty rag, both by the Russian side as for the American part.

The calls to free oneself from all dependence on Russian gas and the self-criticism for having allowed such a situation are made without embarrassment, at the same time that Russian gas supplies are replaced by imports of liquefied gas, up to four times more expensive, extracted in large part from fracking, and supplied from the circulation of LNG carriers that cover great distances through oceans and seas (all this, very ecological and sustainable). The new situation of energy supplies will generate, for Europe, a dangerous dependence (oh, coincidence!) on the gas companies of the United States and countries as reliable and democratic as Qatar and Azerbaijan. New sources of supply will, of course, lead to much higher energy prices, which we ordinary Europeans know will gladly and patriotically pay to defend our threatened values. Culminating cynicism, shortly after the sabotage against the Russian-German gas pipeline, the American Secretary of State, Antony Blinken, declared that there was now an enormous opportunity in Europe to overcome energy dependence on Russia and for the energy transition. [9] At the moment, plan A is the replacement of fossil fuels from Russia by other fossil fuels and the enhancement of the latest discovery in green energy, nuclear energy.

Perhaps the picturesque, nefarious and already senile Josep Borrell is the most glaring example of a Europe in decline. Turned into what the Anglo-Saxons call "warmonger", he

has made rearmament and the clash of civilizations his last personal battle before definitive retirement. Borrell, part of the share of social-liberalism that the opaque and obscure institutions of the European Union must have, has maintained in his speeches the gimmicky thesis of the necessary crusade of democracies against the autocratic threat. Lately he has elaborated and defended another thesis with metaphors included, according to which Europe would be a garden surrounded by jungle. The jungle threatens to invade the garden; ergo, to defend against the jungle it is necessary to keep it at bay, intervening militarily if necessary. [10] Mr. Borrell is to be thanked for his attacks of imperialist sincerity: amid so much mystification we might come to believe that all this is really due to a sincere defense of democracy and our advanced civilized values, which, as everyone knows, are the culmination of the history of humanity towards its perfection and which must be a mirror for the barbarians who have not yet reached them.

Russia: the eternal threat coming from the east?

In the hegemonic narrative of capitalism In the Western world, Putin's Russia reproduces the recurring threat that She comes from the East, always ready to devastate and plunder the "paradise" European". The finding of the threat of invasion seemed to be even real if we had to trust the finest analysts and *think Various tanks*, very often smeared by the same institutions that listen to them. Thesis was credited absurd that if Ukraine fell victim to ambitions Russian neo-imperials, then the rest of the countries would succumb as if they were dominoes. Naturally, such a thesis is not Based on a rigorous analysis of military capacity and resources. necessary for Russia to be able to undertake such an operation; it was only an alibi to avoid the necessary offensive. diplomatic that could have prevented this war and, when it broke out, to arm the Ukrainian army and militias to the teeth to fight it for delegation.

As the Relative weakness of Russian forces, unable to carry out Successfully the initial blitzkrieg operation and also advance significantly after the first few weeks, the Initial pessimism has given way to a kind of optimistic exaltation and irresponsible in discovering that, suddenly, the evil empire is It showed like a giant with feet of clay about to crumble. These trends have been accentuated by the Ukrainian counteroffensive. has successfully completed the reconquest of Kharkiv and some points strategic of Kherson and Donbass. The most rigorous analysts and brainy tertullianos, who shortly before

warned of the danger posed Russia and its expansionism for civilized Europe, passed to ridicule her with an air of superiority, and sell the bear's skin before hunting him, anticipating the immediacy of Putin's fall and of the collapse of Russia. Former *seers* such as Helène Carrère-Dencause and Francis Fukuyama, who in their day prophesied the fall of the USSR, they return to act as prophets of *wishful thinking*: Russia's collapse is imminent, with all that would entail Collapse: internal implosion, return to the stage of capitalism Uncontrolled savage of the 1990s, high probability of opening up ethnic and identity conflicts... And they stay so Wide. The almost hysterical cruelty with which certain Western statesmen and analysts yearn for the collapse of *Putinism*, and with it the destruction of Russia, only betrays the fallacy of the Mystifying discourse that they have been selling us: from the This was the beginning, the collapse of Russia. It matters little the consequences and the human suffering that such a possibility.

In this context of anticipation, it gains strength the hypothesis that Russia could eventually use nuclear weapons as a last card to avoid his total defeat. The problem is not that such a hypothesis is formulated, which may become plausible given the case; The problem is that there is no intention to avoid Logic of war that can lead to such a scenario, through an intensification of diplomatic contacts and a Tension cooling. The various actors in this field of They flirt with the nuclear threat as if it were a mere element that can come into play, opening the door in this way that it can really come into play. Russia hints at the use of tactical nuclear weapons to sow doubt in the support of the Western bloc to Ukraine. The answer is absolutely frivolous: Following game theory, a response to the hypothetical use of nuclear weapons, which would go through the total destruction of the Russian army or by the unleashing of A massive nuclear response. The wobbly Joe Biden expresses cheerfully that the world has never been so close to the world. Armageddon and the nuclear apocalypse, and it doesn't look like it's going to do Nothing to avoid it...

Meanwhile, Russia accuses Ukraine of being developing dirty bombs (with radioactive components) and bombing the Zaporíjia nuclear power plant. Occident Suspiciously, he keeps quiet or keeps a low profile. The IAEA (International Atomic Energy Organization), under The UN states regarding the attacks on the nuclear power plant, that There are, but he refrains from mentioning who the responsible; With regard to the development of dirty bombs, he concludes, After a lightning guided tour of less than 3 days, you do not Exist. In any case, what is evident and highly worrying is that not even in the most tense

moments of the Cold War had they been Blocked to such an extent the mechanisms and lines of communication that could prevent the outbreak of World War III.

The future: balkanization and geopolitics of the chaos

It is already an evidence, at first betrayed by attacks of sincerity by some leaders (Biden himself) or senior diplomats, then nothing concealed by the exaltation offered by the prospect of Russia's collapse: the dream Wet of the US hegemon and its allies is the Balkanization of the entire Eurasian space, its division into Unviable and totally controllable states, confronted with each other by irreconcilable national hatreds, and at the same time totally dependent on the big winner of the fragmentation of the space of the extinct Soviet Union. This scenario, although dangerous, It would allow the massive extraction of resources fully functioning yield and drained to the hegemonic Western bloc, and the Incorporation of certain areas in new relocation schemes industrial proximity, as suppliers of cheap labor...

Zbigniew Brzezinski, ideologue of reference of the Yankee hegemon in geopolitical issues, already raised in *The Great Chessboard*, shortly after the collapse of the USSR and the supposed end of history, which States United had the imperative need, if it wanted to remain as the only global superpower, to prevent any An opponent capable of dominating the Eurasian space and challenging American hegemony. The Eurasian space was thus of the strategist who plotted the stagnation of the USSR in the war of Afghanistan, the central space where the game for the Domination of the world. Significant is also the vision he has. said character of Europe: simply a bridgehead of the essential U.S. geopolitics on this board Eurasian... to some extent, an American protectorate.

Permanent war, in action or in dormancy, functioning at the same time as a confrontation factor for the benefit of The West (divide and rule) and as a factor of incessant demand for armament. The geopolitics of chaos prevails: breaking balances geopolitical, create fracture lines impossible to weld, use national and/or ethnic groups as pawns, making use of Surgical interventions when necessary. The strategy The U.S. to maintain its world order has moved in a way growing in this direction. In view of the finding that the Direct military occupation entails economic costs Unassumable, chaos offers a better perspective on what is refers to the cost-benefit balance. Afghanistan, Iraq, Somalia, Libya, Syria, are

not exactly a failure of U.S. imperialism: They are, from a certain point of view, a remarkable success. Areas Geopolitically key have been destabilized and militarized, breaking difficult balances and creating ethnic hatred Irreconcilable: the resulting state entities are nothing more than Greatly weakened or failed states, which fold or will end bowing to U.S. demands and the interests of the big capitalist investors from the West and its allies. Control chaos, when it endangers Uncle Sam's order, only It requires specific interventions: either by delegation, to through "friendly" armed groups, or through attacks with Drones. In either case, the American army never has casualties. That's the theory: reality is always much more complex.

In the case of the present conflict, has anyone wondered, when it ends, where the weapons that are so generously being supplied to the Ukrainian army, its mercenaries and its ultra-nationalist militias will go? Yes: NATO itself and the EU, which, while continuing to supply light and heavy weapons in abundance, warn of the possibility of proliferation of arms trafficking to terrorist groups and organised crime. Already in April, Europol detected significant movements of weapons and explosives from Ukraine to the EU, and at the same time noted that the massive shipment of weapons caused the Ukrainian army to abandon the registration of incoming weapons and their monitoring. [11] Apart from the arms shipments that continue to take place towards Ukraine, the European NATO countries have emptied their arsenals and are beginning to rearm themselves with more modern and deadly machinery. The American demand to increase European military spending to a minimum of 2% of GDP has been met without dissent, regardless of the color of the government (from the extreme right to the socio-liberal left). The big beneficiary? Obviously, the U.S. arms industry. The overall prospect of an unstable and increasingly militarised Europe in the years to come promises juicy benefits, something that the leaders of these companies no longer hide. [12] In this regard, it should be noted that even someone like former Israeli Foreign Minister Shlomo Ben-Ami, little suspected of not appeasing the West, has stressed that the successive phases of NATO's expansion have a direct relationship with the pressures of the arms industry lobby, which has always seen in such expansion a very lucrative opportunity to open new markets for its products. [13]

To make matters worse, there is growing evidence that war may spread to the explosive Caucasus region. Tensions are rising again between Azerbaijan and Armenia (traditionally

allied in Russia) over the Nagorno-Karabakh region. On the other hand, Ukraine and the United States are pushing for another war front in Georgia, around the *de facto* independent republics of South Ossetia and Abkhazia (also protected by Russia); Faced with the doubts of the current Georgian government, Ukraine accuses it of being pro-Russian and the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, at the request of Ukraine, rehabilitates former President Mikhail Shaakashvili (known war criminal and corrupt, imprisoned in Georgia after his escape to Ukraine) as a political prisoner. [14] Europe is becoming a powder keg and the roar of war drums can be heard more and more clearly, stoked by the hawks of the complex and the military industry, which bring death and destruction.

The future: strengthening hegemony American or bipolar capitalism?

Noam Chomsky recently recalled that "the Clinton doctrine provided that the United States would reserve the right to act unilaterally if necessary, and even to resort to the unilateral use of military power to defend vital interests such as ensuring unlimited access to markets, energy sources and strategic resources." [15] This is the real leitmotif behind the full involvement of the United States and its servile allies in the war in Ukraine and the brutal mobilization of resources that has taken place. Intervention by proxy in this war is part of a broader geopolitical strategy for the control of markets and resources, in a capitalist context of crisis that promises to be especially harsh. Uncle Sam has decided to redefine the World Order that he himself had forged immediately after the collapse of his Soviet opponent. This rupture occurs basically because the rules that define the order of global capitalism have ended up relatively weakening the United States, to the detriment of another actor, China, which paradoxically has benefited from the free market, and has made it a flag, forging a powerful network of trade and international cooperation that threatens traditional relations of domination and dependence. Free trade? Free movement of capital? Of course it does, as long as it benefits Western capitalist corporations...

The U.S. Response to the Emergency China seeks to strengthen its hegemony as a single power by employing Two of its battering rams: its ability to sanction or block Economically to any country that challenges its *diktat* and, of course, its stratospheric military capability. Before the The question of bringing Russia closer to Europe or throwing it into the arms of Europe. China, the United States has opted for the second option. This Strategy implies *de facto* the acceleration of the construction of a capitalist

bloc alternative to the Western, led by China, which is a Potential danger to American hegemony. However, States United Nations would not have made a similar move if it did not work with the hypothesize that Russia will be profoundly weakened by the war and, perhaps, that it will collapse and become a state Controllable failure. Even in the most plausible hypothesis of that Russia does not collapse but suffers enormous attrition and that *Putinism* survives with or without Putin, the alternative capitalist bloc would be born. weak. China does not look kindly on the war in Ukraine because it breaks its diplomatic strategy of gaining areas of influence through its Attractive commercial incentives. However, at the same time he knows that, if its ally falls, it will be surrounded by all flanks.

What is certain is that the relations between Western Europe and Russia. Not only because of blasting of the Nord-Stream pipelines and because the United States has already decided irreversibly that this will never be the case. Within the Union There is a geopolitical space, the Trimarium or Intermarium (arising from the Three Seas Initiative), which brings together basically to all the countries of the East, from the Baltic countries to Croatia and Romania, most of them deeply hostile to Russia. This new commercial and geopolitical space has been conceived Without the media echoing it too much, it is sponsored by the United States and led by the reactionary Poland, which already acts as a regional power and whose tendencies Authoritarians and ultra-nationalists are totally overlooked. No You need to be an expert in geopolitics to understand that this space may constitute in the future, if developed with success, an impregnable barrier between Western Europe and Russia, as well as as a renewed guarantee – NATO and American military bases apart – the subjugation of political and economic elites European.

In the militaristic maelstrom in which we are immersed, there is no Zimmerwald in the Western left. Voices against escalation are easily silenced, attacked and accused of collusion with the enemy; Even well-meaning pacifism is suspect. The left, unable to reconstruct a coherent internationalist stance, moves between warmongering and a cowardly silence, between a fervent and rediscovered Atlanticism and looking the other way. The Zimmerwald conference, held between 5 and 8 September 1915, brought together voices against the First World War within European socialism. The agreed manifesto, drafted by Lev Trotsky, had few short-term consequences and the bourgeoisie's World War continued to send millions of human beings to the slaughterhouse. However,

the conference had the virtue of crystallizing and making visible, around the space of the Zimmerwald left headed by Lenin, a fundamental point of view, which opposed the imperialist war of the bourgeoisie to the revolutionary class war and which unceremoniously denounced the opportunist and chauvinist attitude of European Social Democracy. It was one of the cornerstones of the unstoppable rise of the international communist movement that shook the capitalist order. Lessons from history.

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