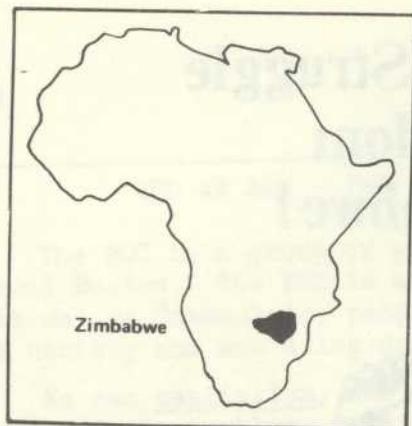


Support the Struggle for Freedom in Zimbabwe!



"I was born in a poor family. I would listen to my parents talk about poverty being imposed on them by a system run by a group of people who had invaded our country and taken our land. This kept growing in my mind and I decided that if I had power I would hit this system and knock it down. When I started reading revolutionary books, I discovered it was possible to fight a group of oppressors and turn things around."

Josiah Tongogara, Zimbabwe freedom fighter, 1938-1979



In Zimbabwe, a small country located in Southern Africa, the African people have been fighting a long war against brutal colonial and racist oppression. Although Zimbabwe has been in the news a lot recently, we are never told what the African people are fighting for. Nor are we told the meaning of their fight for us here in the U.S.

This pamphlet presents the communist analysis of Zimbabwe. Communists view Zimbabwe in a way which is very different from the U.S. news media. Communists believe that the fight for freedom of the Zimbabwean people is

very closely connected with the struggle for a better life in this country. What does a war in a small country in far away Southern Africa have to do with us? Let's begin with the history.

From White Conquest to African Revolution

The British came to Zimbabwe in the 1880's. The system of modern imperialism was developing then - growth of giant monopoly corporations in the Western capitalist countries (U.S., Great Britain, France, Germany, etc.). The need of these monopoly corporations for markets and investment opportunities resulted in aggressive colonial expansion by the Western powers into the Third World.

In a bloody war, the British conquered Zimbabwe. They named their new colony Rhodesia, in honor of their leader, Cecil Rhodes. (Rhodesia and Zimbabwe are the same country. Zimbabwe is the African name, Rhodesia the colonial name.) The white settlers came to Rhodesia for one purpose only - to take the wealth of the country for themselves and British imperialism. They stole the best land and forced the Africans to work in white-controlled farms, mines, industries, and as servants in white homes. The mines and industries were for the most part owned by British and South African corporations. Later on, U.S. companies became involved.

The white-controlled government passed racist laws which discriminated against the Africans and gave privileges to the whites in all areas of life. (These resemble the apartheid laws of South Africa.) The racist idea that white people are superior to all other people (white supremacy) was used to justify the racist system.

In 1965, Rhodesian Prime Minister Ian Smith declared Rhodesia independent from Great Britain. He did this because Britain was pressuring the white settlers to grant the Africans some concessions in order to

head off African rebellions. Smith vowed that there would never be African majority rule in Rhodesia. No country in the world recognized the outlaw Rhodesian government. In 1966, the United Nations voted sanctions, declaring it illegal to trade or have any financial dealings with Rhodesia.

Organized African resistance to white domination was growing throughout the 1950's and 60's. This involved petitions, demonstrations, boycotts, strikes, and other forms of peaceful protest. These were met by the Rhodesian government with increasing violence and repression. The war of national liberation began in 1967. The Zimbabwean people had learned through bitter experience that the white rulers were not about to give up their power peacefully. The liberation struggle is being led by ZANU (Zimbabwe African National Union) and ZAPU (Zimbabwe African People's Union). In 1976, ZANU and ZAPU joined together in a military and political alliance called the Patriotic Front.

By 1978, the Patriotic Front was clearly winning the war. In an attempt to appease the Africans and world opinion, Rhodesian Prime Minister Ian Smith got Bishop Abel Muzorewa and some other "sell out" Africans to join him in a new settlement. In exchange for positions in the government, these Africans agreed to continued white control of the army, police, courts, land, mines, and factories. Muzorewa became the new Prime Minister, and Smith remained as a minister in Muzorewa's cabinet. The Patriotic Front did not participate in this farce, and no government in the world recognized it as being legal.

The war intensified. New negotiations began, involving the Patriotic Front, the Rhodesian government, and the British. In December, 1979 an agreement was signed which set up a new constitution, a cease fire, and an election to be held in March, 1980. The elections open the possibility for a peaceful transfer of power to the Patriotic Front. But as we shall see later, the story is far from over. Unfortunately, it is very unlikely that things will be put right in Zimbabwe without a lot more struggle.

The Patriotic Front

The Patriotic Front is a movement of the workers and peasants (poor farmers) of Zimbabwe. They suffer the most from the fact that a few white settlers and foreign corporations control the wealth of the country while the working people are exploited by them. In order to improve the lives of the Zimbabweans, the wealth of the country must be returned to the people. While ZAPU and ZANU started as movements to end white political rule, their programs push them toward socialism - control of

the farms, factories, and mines by the workers and peasants. Under socialism, the economy will be planned for the benefit of the workers and peasants, instead of for the profit of the white settlers and foreign corporations - at the expense of everyone else.

The Main Enemy

The immediate enemy of the Patriotic Front and the Zimbabwean people has been the white settlers, who came there with imperialism. But their enemies in the long run are the imperialist powers which are involved in Zimbabwe - the U.S., Great Britain, and South Africa. Any moves by the African people to take control of their economy would put them in direct conflict with the imperialist powers.

By far the strongest imperialist power (economically and militarily) is the United States. Ultimately, all the imperialist countries rely on the United States to back them up. It is for this reason we can say that in the long run, even though South Africa and Great Britain are more directly involved in Zimbabwe, U.S. imperialism is the main enemy of the people of Zimbabwe.

If we look around the world, we see the same situation elsewhere. In Puerto Rico, the United States controls the country as a colony. Many other countries are independent in name but in fact are dominated by the U.S. and its imperialist allies. This situation is called neocolonialism ("new type" colonialism). Most of Africa and Latin America and much of Asia are dominated by neocolonialism. The most hated rulers, like the Shah of Iran, Duvalier of Haiti, Somoza of Nicaragua, and Marcos of the Philippines are kept in power by the United States (at least until the people overthrow them). In these neocolonial situations, American companies cooperate closely with the local rulers in stealing the wealth of the country and exploiting the labor of the people. Under Muzorewa, Zimbabwe would be such a neocolony.

Since World War II the major conflicts in the world have been between imperialism and Third World peoples fighting for national liberation. In every single case, the U.S. has played a major role as the leader of the imperialist camp - China, Korea, Vietnam, Cambodia, Angola, Mozambique, Guatemala, Chile, Iran, Nicaragua. The examples are endless.

It is socialism which represents the ultimate threat to imperialism, because it is based on people's needs rather than the drive for profits. Socialist revolution will put an end to imperialism.

It is important to understand that imperialism isn't just a bad policy that would go away if only there were good people running the government and corporations. Imperialism is the system of monopoly capitalism spread worldwide. The drive for profits, which is basic to the capitalist system, forces the giant monopoly corporations to search for new markets, raw materials, and cheap labor in every corner of the globe. In order to keep the system strong, the U.S. government must support them in every way possible in this search.

So the overall picture is that not just in Zimbabwe, but throughout the world, the U.S. and its allies are lined up against the interests of working people, and favor the wealthy few and the corporations. For this reason, we say that U.S. IMPERIALISM IS THE MAIN ENEMY OF THE PEOPLE OF THE WORLD.

In the U.S. - A Ruling Class and a Working Class

It's quite shocking for most Americans to be told that U.S. imperialism is the main enemy of the world's people. However, this does not mean that most Americans are the main enemy of the world's people.

Only the U.S. capitalist class benefits from imperialism. The capitalist class consists of the small minority of people who control the productive wealth of the country - the land, factories, mines, and raw materials. The capitalist class is led by the handful of individuals who own and manage the giant banks and multi-national corporations.

This class not only controls the wealth in the U.S. It also controls the economies of the countries around the world under the domination of U.S. imperialism. The big bankers and corporate owners reap the profits made from exploiting the land, raw materials, and labor of the peoples of Africa, Latin America, and Asia.

Because the capitalist class controls the government, as well as the economy, we also call it the ruling class. It is the U.S. ruling class that is the main enemy of the world's people. The vast majority of the people of the U.S. who work for a living (the working class) are not an enemy of the world's people. In fact, the capitalist class has no more regard for the U.S. working class than it has for the rest of the people of the world.

The capitalist class wages a relentless war against the working class, in order to maintain and increase its wealth and power.

The drive for profits is the basis of the capitalist system. The single goal of capitalists is to make the highest possible profit. Every gain which the working class makes cuts into ruling class profits. So just as the drive for profits forces the ruling class to exploit the peoples of the Third World, it also forces them to keep the U.S. working class down.

They keep the working class down in a thousand different ways, all in the name of profit. Keeping profits high means keeping wages and pensions low. You can't have it both ways. It means workers getting hurt, sick, or dying from exposure to unsafe machinery, long hours, poisonous fumes, dusts, and chemicals. It means speedup, automation, layoffs, union-busting, right to work laws, and runaway shops.



High profits for the oil companies mean soaring gasoline and home heating oil prices, while the nuclear industry's drive for profits threatens us with unimaginable disaster.

The profit-making system takes a special toll from people of color and women. For the same work, both people of color and women receive lower pay than white male workers. The capitalists pocket the difference as profits. People of color and women are channelled into the worst, lowest-paying jobs, and they face the highest unemployment.

This racism and sexism which are built into the capitalist system hurts white male workers as well. If white male workers "ask for too much," the boss threatens to bring in low paid or unemployed Black, Puerto Rican, immigrant, or women workers to take their place, thus driving down the wages, working conditions, and job security of all workers.

Worst of all, the capitalists play different groups of workers off against each other in competition for jobs and in countless other ways in order to keep the working class divided - white against Black and

Puerto Rican, men against women, skilled workers against unskilled workers. Racism, especially, has historically served this function. This classic "scapegoat" strategy is used to fool white workers into thinking that people of color are the source of their problems, rather than the ruling class and capitalist system itself. The greatest fear of the ruling class is that of a working class united in struggle against them.

So U.S. imperialism is not only the main enemy of the people of Zimbabwe and the rest of the world. It is also the main enemy of the U.S. working class. Just as their future lies with socialism, so does ours.

Under socialism, rule by the few - the capitalist class - will be replaced with rule by the many - the working class. The productive wealth will no longer be privately owned, but will be owned by the working class as a whole. Therefore production will no longer be done for the profit of corporate owners and bankers. It will be democratically planned to put the tremendous resources of our country to use for the benefit of the ordinary people.

Socialism will open the way for improvements in all spheres of life. Resources can be shifted from military and other types of wasteful spending which benefits only the capitalist class to housing, education, public health, and public transportation. Jobs can be made healthy and safe. Pollution can be controlled. We will take care of our elderly with the dignity they deserve. When the working class rules, it will have no interest in promoting racism and sexism. On the contrary, it will wage a determined struggle against all forms of inequality. Instead of promoting divisions, it will actively build working class unity.

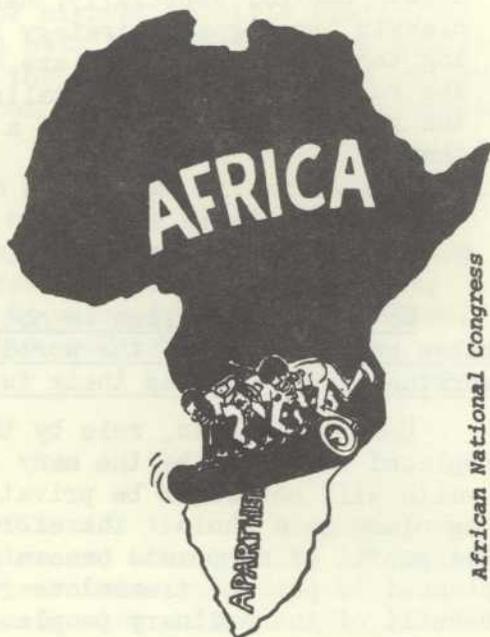
Proletarian Internationalism

Up against a common enemy (imperialism) and heading for the same goal (socialism), the interests of the working class and oppressed peoples in the U.S. and around the world are fundamentally the same. Together, the working classes of all countries form an international working class with common interests.

Communists call international solidarity with the working class and oppressed peoples of other countries proletarian internationalism (proletarian means working class). A victory over U.S. imperialism anywhere in the world is a victory for the entire international working class. A victory for the Patriotic Front in Zimbabwe will mean a big shift in the balance of power in Southern Africa, and will be a tremendous step forward for the international working class in its struggle against imperialism.

The struggle to defeat U.S. imperialism will be long and difficult. Most working class people in the U.S. don't yet see the necessity of overthrowing U.S. imperialism. Nevertheless, these people can still be won to a proletarian internationalist perspective. This is because most Americans identify with people who are fighting against tyranny and because the U.S. working class would make many immediate gains by supporting the Patriotic Front. Let's see how.

The U.S. government spends hundreds of billions of dollars to protect U.S. ruling class interests around the world. (To add insult to injury, this spending is one of the main causes of inflation.) Every dollar that the U.S. government spends in support of the Smith-Muzorewa forces is one more of our tax dollars used to keep corrupt and repressive forces in power in another country. The U.S. working class must demand an end to this criminal waste of our hard-earned tax dollars. We must demand that the U.S. government stop giving aid to reactionary governments around the world. We must demand drastic cuts in military spending. The money saved must be spent on human needs here - housing, education, public transportation, and decent pensions for senior citizens. Last but not least, the lives of our youth must not be jeopardized in military operations to protect corporate interests in Southern Africa. We must see to this at all cost.



Reactionary governments are kept in power by the U.S. in order to guarantee favorable "investment climates" (low wages, non-unionized workforce, tax advantages) for U.S. investors. In search of higher profits many U.S. corporations "run away" to countries like Zimbabwe, where wages are low and workers have no rights. Thousands of U.S. workers lose jobs, while workers in countries like Rhodesia continue to be exploited. Only a Patriotic Front victory will prevent Zimbabwe from following in the footsteps of South Africa, Brazil, and Taiwan as yet another great haven for U.S. investors.

The International Struggle Against Racism

Around the world, the people oppressed the most by imperialism are people of color, and racism is used by the ruling class to justify this oppression. This is why the corporate-controlled news media portrays the freedom fighters of the Patriotic Front as "ruthless terrorists."



The capitalist class uses racism to divide the U.S. working class from the people of Zimbabwe, just as it uses racism to divide U.S. workers from each other. Racism misleads U.S. workers into supporting imperialism. So the struggle against racism in the U.S. and the movement in solidarity with the national liberation movements in Southern Africa are closely linked. We cannot build broad support for the Patriotic Front without opposing the racism of the U.S. ruling class. And unity of white workers with people of color in support of the Patriotic Front will contribute to forging the unity necessary for all struggles against the capitalist class.

The U.S. Solidarity Movement

In 1971, Congress passed the Byrd Amendment, which allowed U.S. companies to import chrome and other materials from the illegal Rhodesian regime. This was a direct violation of the U.N. sanctions. Dock workers in Baltimore, Philadelphia, Burnside, Louisiana, and other cities repeatedly refused to unload Rhodesian cargo. These acts were shining examples of proletarian internationalism.

But now that a settlement has been reached and elections are scheduled, there may be a tendency to think that the struggle is over and the Patriotic Front no longer needs our support. Nothing could be further from the truth. The coming period will be absolutely crucial for the people of Zimbabwe. International imperialism is rallying to the aid of the Smith-Muzorewa forces. Because Great Britain and the U.S. have now lifted the sanctions, millions of dollars in aid to the Smith-Muzorewa forces can flow freely into Zimbabwe. For example, Allegheny Ludlum Industries, a large U.S. corporation, has openly stated that it will give campaign contributions to Muzorewa. South Africa is giving millions of dollars to the Muzorewa campaign.

The British governor of Zimbabwe in the period leading up to the election is Lord Soames, a Right-wing member of the British ruling class. The segment of the British ruling class which Soames represents has extensive land holdings in Zimbabwe.

Thus far, Soames has refused to expel South African troops from Zimbabwe, has allowed Muzorewa's private army to roam the countryside freely, has used Rhodesian troops to monitor the cease fire, and has threatened to ban ZANU from participating in the elections. All of these acts are major violations of the agreement, and could lead to its breakdown.

If reasonably free and fair elections are held, we can expect that the Patriotic Front will win a majority. There will then be immediate danger of a civil war initiated by the Smith-Muzorewa forces, as well as the danger of a South African invasion.

So the period ahead will be stormy and fraught with uncertainty. It is our proletarian internationalist responsibility to lend our full support to the Zimbabwean people in this crucial period.

First, we must pressure the U.S. government to end all support for the Smith-Muzorewa forces. Furthermore, the U.S. government must not allow its ally, South Africa, to interfere in the internal affairs of Zimbabwe.

Second, we must raise political and financial support for the Patriotic Front. The Patriotic Front desperately needs international support, particularly in light of the massive aid the other side is receiving from the imperialist camp.

Third, we must always remember that the fight in Zimbabwe is closely linked with the struggle against racism in the U.S. We must actively oppose racism in the U.S., as well as in Zimbabwe. The solidarity movement will only become strong if it is successful in opposing racism in the U.S.

Finally, we must not let the ruling class deter us from these goals. They will try every trick in the book. They will tell us that the Patri-

otic Front "terrorists" are violating the cease fire. They will raise the spectre of a "communist takeover" by "Soviet-backed guerillas." They will tell us that we can't "lose Southern Africa" because of its shipping lanes and mineral wealth. But we can't let them fool us.

The Role of Communists

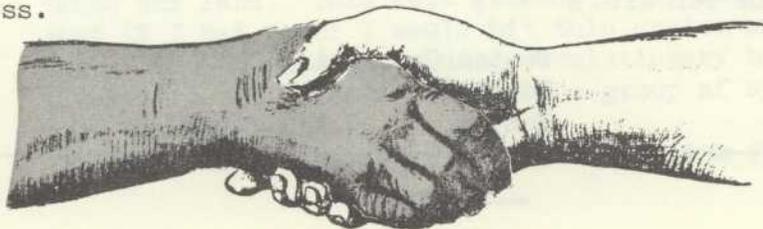
We have seen that U.S. imperialism is the main enemy of the world's people and that it is also the main enemy of the U.S. working class. We have seen that the future of the U.S. working class lies with socialism - a system in which society is run by the working class for the benefit of the working class. However, overthrowing imperialism and replacing it with socialism will not be easy.

History has shown that a socialist revolution is impossible without the leadership of a revolutionary working class party (communist party) consisting of the most advanced and dedicated fighters in the working class. A viable revolutionary party does not now exist in the U.S. The Boston Organizing Committee is a communist organization which is working with like-minded people around the country to lay the foundation for a new communist party.

Communists attempt to provide leadership to the struggles which are of most importance to the working class. These include the trade union movement, the Black liberation movement, the women's liberation movement, the environmental movement, as well as the Southern Africa solidarity movement. Communists attempt to lead these struggles in a direction which represents the interests of the working class as a whole. They fight for immediate gains while at the same time not losing sight of the ultimate goal of overthrowing the capitalist system and building a socialist society which is run by the working class.

Because communists understand the importance of proletarian internationalism for the U.S. working class, they have played a leading role in building the Southern Africa solidarity movement.

In the long run, the greatest solidarity we could give to the people of Zimbabwe and to hundreds of millions of people around the world is to put an end to U.S. imperialism once and for all. The formation of a U.S. communist party will be an important step forward in this revolutionary process.



WHO WE ARE - THE BOSTON ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

The BOC is a group of working people, men and women, who live in and around Boston. The BOC is a Marxist-Leninist organization. This means that we are Communists, people who want to see a fundamental change in our society and are doing something to create that change.

We see capitalism, the economic system of the U.S., as the real source of the problems working people face. Capitalism, with its giant corporations and their endless quest for profits, has no concern for the needs of people. Polluted air and water, terrible schools filled with racial tension, dangerous conditions on the job, the constant threat of a nuclear accident, hard-earned tax dollars spent to fight imperialist wars, people afraid to walk the streets of their cities - this is just a part of the price we pay for capitalism.

We want to overthrow this system and replace it with socialism. Under socialism, the rule of the few would be replaced by the rule of the many. Under socialism, we would no longer be divided. All of us, men and women, people of all races and nationalities, could work together for the same goals.

People all over the U.S. share our desire for life under socialism. But our enemy, the system of U.S. monopoly capitalism and world-wide imperialism, is a monster, and our desire alone will not destroy it. We need a revolutionary movement with the leadership and conscious approach necessary to unite the U.S. people in the struggle for socialism.

Our single most important weapon is the strength we have when we are organized - people welded together to act as one. The tool for this united action, tested and proved by peoples all over the world, is the revolutionary vanguard Communist Party.

The BOC is dedicated to building such a party. Along with like-minded people we can make possible the creation of a new society where the working class is no longer beaten down, but rises and leads us to freedom and justice for all.

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