

The blog editorial

THE GHOST OF A COLLAPSING SOCIETY

The current crisis is a health, economic, financial, social, global, worldwide crisis. To make it short, if we leave aside the situations created by a world war, we could not imagine a crisis on a larger scale. Of course, we "knew" that one day it would come and we imagined it from a theoretical point of view, but to see it with our own eyes, so suddenly and in such colossal a way, is something that leaves us stunned. And when one thinks that a crisis of such magnitude could be triggered by... a virus that in the imperialist countries could cause a mortality rate of 1 to 3 percent of the contaminated subjects (but in the peripheral countries it could be much higher), one would think that, after all, the system of world capitalism could be a colossus with feet of clay. Of course, when society has concentrated such an amount of inflammable material, all it needs is a spark (a virus!) to make everything explode.

The whole world is at a standstill. From China to California and New York, via Europe (and even England has made this choice). The paralysis is coming to Latin America (Argentina is already completely paralyzed and the other countries will follow). The world capitalist productive system is almost paralyzed, either by the decision of governments, or by the lack of necessary elements for production (due to the standstill of production in China and the "domino effect"), or because proletarians refuse to work due to the lack of basic health security.

The stock markets are in free fall, the business world is in total panic, the Central Banks are pulling huge amounts of money out from under the table. But they have already exhausted this channel for rescuing global capitalism. A lot of large companies are expected to go bankrupt and if necessary ultra-liberal governments promise massive nationalizations.

The social consequences are already dramatic for the proletariat and lower middle classes. Not only because of the layoffs of precarious workers and the massive pauperization of those who are "in black", but also because they are expected to be hit in the future by a much more than 2008-2009's devastating wave. And the bourgeoisie is preparing for it. The French state has approved a state of emergency that allows it to violate the Labor Code. At the same time, it has declared that it will mobilize 100,000 police, gendarmes and soldiers to supposedly enforce the confinement of the population. And small shopkeepers, small food producers, restaurants, tourism and the self-employed will be laminated - they are already being laminated - by the current paralysis, the closure of the frontiers and the crisis which will not be of short-term duration.

Peripheral countries are already being hit very hard. The swallow capital is fleeing from them and trying to seek refuge in the imperialist metropolises, further accentuating their unpayable debts. The oil crisis (it has fallen below \$25!) brings to its knees all the producing states that live on it. The crisis of capitalism that we expected will be much more violent than we imagined.

The social buffers that post-war bourgeois society so laboriously put in place, and which all the bourgeoisies were gradually trying to dismantle, will be ruthlessly laminated one by one.

In every country, the whole society, at all levels and in all social classes, is holding its breath. The silence in the streets is the clearest sign of this situation of deep crisis. Governments are in a state of panic. They know that they will have to account for this health, social and economic disaster which is a direct consequence of the indifference, incompetence and failure of the bourgeois states to preserve society and the working masses from the disasters which are the product of capitalism itself.

The 1848 Manifesto began by saying: "*A ghost is haunting Europe: the ghost of communism*". Today it would begin by saying: "*A ghost is haunting the world: the ghost of a society that is collapsing, the ghost of the economic, political and social consequences of a terrible crisis of world capitalism*".

C.N.S. (24-3-2020)