



# NEHAWU Weekly International Monitor

ADVANCING WORKING CLASS POWER TOWARDS OUR 10TH NATIONAL CONGRESS AND OUR 26TH ANNIVERSARY

VOLUME 3. NUMBER 22

05 JULY - 12 JULY 2015

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### 1.1. PRESIDENT ZUMA LEADS DELEGATION TO THE SEVENTH BRICS SUMMIT IN THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION

07 July 2015

#### Presidency Statement

His Excellency President Jacob Zuma has arrived in Ufa, where he is leading the South African delegation to the VII (Seventh) BRICS Summit which will be hosted by the President of the Russian Federation, His Excellency Vladimir Putin, from 08 to 09 July 2015. The theme for the VII Summit is: "BRICS Partnership - a Powerful Factor of Global Development".

A number of meetings are being held in the run-up to the Summit. These include:

- The BRICS Business Council and its Working Groups will meet in Moscow on 06 July 2015 and then proceed to Ufa for a meeting with the BRICS Leaders on 09 July 2015.
- The BRICS Ministers of Finance and Central Bank Governors will meet in Moscow prior to the Summit on 07 July 2015;
- The first meeting of the BRICS Board of Governors of the New Development Bank will also take place in Moscow, on 07

July 2015;

- The BRICS Ministers of Trade and Industry will meet in Moscow on 07 July 2015;

It is expected that, during the Summit, the Leaders will also receive feedback following their meeting on the margins of the G20 Summit in Brisbane on 15 November 2014, at which they asked their Finance Ministers to designate the President and Vice-Presidents of the New Development Bank, in advance of the next Summit.

The Leaders also tasked the Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors with ensuring that, by this Summit, the Contingent Reserve Arrangement (CRA) Working Group concludes the procedural rules and operational guidelines of the Governing Council and Standing Committee of the CRA, and to conclude an Inter-Central Bank Agreement.

The Leaders will also be informed of the status of ratification process within each BRICS Country of the New Development Bank (NDB) Agreement and CRA Treaty.

On 17 June 2015 and 18 June 2015 respectively, our National Assembly and the National Council of Provinces ratified the Agreement and Treaty and necessary Instruments of Ratification and Acceptance have also been signed.

The first meeting of the Board of Governors of the New Development Bank will take place in Moscow today, 07 July 2015, prior to the VII BRICS Summit, and the Board is expected to report to the BRICS Leaders on the steps taken to operationalise the Bank.

The Leaders are also expected to adopt the key Summit outcome documents, namely the Ufa Declaration and the Ufa Action Plan, which will reflect the views of BRICS member states on a number of international issues, and the Action Plan will spell out the areas of cooperation and meetings which will be held during the chairpersonship of the Russian Federation.

The Leaders will also witness the signing of various agreements which indicate a deepening of the BRICS relationship.

In keeping with the tradition of an “outreach meeting” initiated by South Africa when it hosted the Fifth BRICS Summit, and continued by Brazil at the Sixth Summit, President Putin has arranged a meeting between the BRICS Leaders and the Leaders of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), Eurasian Economic Union (EEU) and other invited Leaders.

This outreach meeting is with eleven leaders from the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO- i.e. permanent members inclusive of BRICS members and the following: China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan and observers, which are Afghanistan, Iran, Mongolia and Pakistan) and Eurasian Economic Union (EEU- Russia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Armenia) and other invited states (the Leaders of Turkmenistan and Azerbaijan). This outreach will take place on 09 July 2015.

President Zuma will be accompanied by the Minister of International Relations and Cooperation, Ms Maite Nkoana-Mashabane; Minister of Defence and Military Veterans, Ms Nosiviwe Mapisa-Nqakula; Minister of Arts and Culture, Mr Nathi Mthethwa; Minister of Energy, Ms Tina Joemat-Pettersson; Minister of Finance, Mr Nhlanhla Nene and Minister of State Security, Mr David Mahlobo.

Source: YCLSA Discussion Forum

## **1.2. SALUTATIONS TO THE WORKERS AND PEOPLE OF GREECE FOR REJECTING AUSTERITY AND NEO-LIBERALISM**

06 July 2015

COSATU Statement

The Congress of South African Trade Unions salutes the overwhelming victory of the workers and people of Greece over austerity and imposition of neo-liberalism in a democratic referendum.

The workers and people of Greece have spoken and the mandate is clear; no more International Monetary Fund [IMF], World Bank and European Union [EU] imposed austerity and forward to alternative economic paths to development. It is a clear

message to all.

The workers and people of Greece have had enough and are decisive in their demand for a new job creating economic model that favours the poor and not the greedy banks and elites in the industrialised countries.

The EU troika and the corporate oligarchies are imposing unreasonable demands that would suck even the little remaining blood out of the Greek people, who for years now, have been subjected to the most cruel and savage attacks on their economic sovereignty and right to their own path of development.

For years, the people of Africa have been fed this economic rot by these corrupt institutions to the point of the decay we see all over the continent resulting from the savage attacks on the state, public institutions and social development that serves the people.

Our countries were fattening ranches for the elites of the north, particularly the US and EU bankers, who didn't care about our continent, but about their profits. They left disaster wherever their advice was adhered to.

Greece has proven the way to reject these economic vultures and seek an alternative path to development that serves the people and their societal needs.

The class war being waged on the global working class, including against the workers and people of Southern Europe, which has become the new laboratory to experiment more neo-liberalism and anti-working class policies, must unite the global working class to defend their rights, progressive policies and just development that serves humanity.

Now, the world knows it is possible to defy the mighty IMF, EU and World bank and their policies of profit and more profit, less development and ultimately, no development with the result that your economy and society would collapse, Africa being a living example of all that.

This must give confidence to all workers and other struggling people the world over that it is possible to defeat neo-liberalism and all its similar economic models that have drastically failed humanity and in their wake have left ravages and permanent suffering.

COSATU pledges solidarity with the working class in Greece.

Source: <http://www.cosatu.org.za/show.php?ID=10632#sthash.F4krgYVK.dpuf>

### **1.3. THE AFRICAN UNION REAFFIRMS THE IMPERATIVE FOR DIALOGUE AND CONSENSUS IN ORDER TO PEACEFULLY RESOLVE THE CURRENT CRISIS IN BURUNDI**

08 July 2015

African Union Commission Statement

The Chairperson of the Commission of the African Union (AU), Dr. Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma, reiterates the AU's deep concern at the prevailing situation in Burundi and the serious risks it poses to peace and security in the country, as well as to regional stability.

The Chairperson of the Commission welcomes the continued efforts of the region to assist in finding a peaceful and consensual solution to the crisis facing Burundi. In this respect, she congratulates the Heads of State of the East African Community (EAC) for holding a 3rd Emergency Summit on Burundi, in Dar-es-Salaam, Tanzania, on 6 July 2015. She encourages the regional leaders to pursue and intensify their efforts, bearing in mind the urgency and the seriousness of the situation. She looks forward to the steps to be taken by President Yoweri Museveni, in his capacity as Facilitator of the Inter-Burundian Dialogue. In this respect, the Commission will continue to work closely with the EAC and extend all necessary support to the efforts of its Facilitator.

The Chairperson of the Commission emphasizes, once again, that only genuine dialogue among the Burundian stakeholders and consensus based on respect of the Arusha Agreement for Peace and Reconciliation in Burundi and the Constitution of the country would make it possible to find a lasting solution to the current crisis. She stresses the critical importance of national

ownership. The Chairperson of the Commission urges all concerned to eschew violence and resort exclusively to peaceful means in order to overcome the current challenges. She underlines the need for the scrupulous respect of human rights and fundamental freedoms.

The Chairperson of the Commission renews the AU's commitment to contribute to the search for a peaceful solution, within the framework of the communiqué adopted by the Peace and Security Council (PSC) at its 515th meeting held in Johannesburg, South Africa, on 13 June 2015, at the level of Heads of State and Government.

The Chairperson of the Commission recalls that at its 515th meeting, the PSC agreed on the immediate deployment of human rights observers, as well as on the deployment of AU military experts to verify, in collaboration with the Government and other concerned actors, the process of disarming the militias and other armed groups. She further recalls that the just-concluded EAC Summit called on the Government of Burundi to disarm the Imbonerakure and other armed youth groups allied to political parties, and requested the AU to urgently deploy military observers to oversee the disarmament process. In this respect, the Commission has put in place a Start-up Team of civilian and military experts ready for immediate deployment to Burundi, while efforts are underway to generate additional personnel. The AU looks forward to the urgent confirmation by the Government of Burundi of its readiness to receive the Team without any further delay.

Source: <http://cpauc.au.int/en/content/african-union-reaffirms-imperative-dialogue-and-consensus-order-peacefully-resolve-current-crisis-burundi>

## **1.4. PUDEMO WELCOME ANC'S CLEAR PRONUNCIATION ON SWAZILAND**

08 JULY 2015

### **PUDEMO STATEMENT**

The Peoples United Democratic Movement (PUDEMO) welcomes the stance taken by the African National Congress (ANC) as pronounced by its Secretary General Gwede Mantashe that Swaziland is a police state and that because of the prevailing conditions of repression, the people of Swaziland need solidarity.

PUDEMO welcomes this commitment shown by the South African people, in appreciation that South Africa is a budding democracy and there are many challenges they have to contend with yet they are still committed to ensuring that other countries get to enjoy freedoms that have become a norm in other parts of the world.

The ANC led Alliance has always minced no words on its detest of the dictatorship next door and has not only been vocal about the lack of democracy in Swaziland, but has taken action to encourage the kingdom to democratise.

We would also like to condemn the infantile pronouncement by Percy Simelane, Spokesperson of the Swaziland government who continues to shock and amaze with utterances so devoid of sense and logic, that it has become a wonder why he continues to be paid in light of the damage he is inflicting on Swaziland diplomatically.

What is of equal wonder is the silence of the Swazi Spokesperson's employers when a civil servant continues to spew copious amounts of verbal waste. Amongst other things, it is such tolerance for mediocrity that spares PUDEMO on, in its quest for liberation, in appreciation that the Swazi government is infested with yes men which has rendered it to be so famished of ideas that the head of State has been left unchallenged on the ludicrous pronouncement that Swaziland is a Monarchical Democracy which is a pronouncement that wouldn't be tolerable even in the book of tall tales.

For Simelane to thrive in the art of spewing nonsense talks volumes of the reasoning capacity of the entire government of Swaziland and serves as evidence that Mswati III and the royal caretakers have rendered Swaziland a place where intellectual capacity is legally quarantined to head nodding, thus stagnating debate and rendering the country averse to change. This has ensured that socially and economically Swaziland is rapidly becoming a failed state. In actuality, had it not been for handouts from good Samaritans, Swaziland would have long become a failed state.

Not only is Simelane's pronouncement embarrassing, but it is depressingly shameful. For an entire National Spokesperson to have the audacity to label a well-respected politician from a democratic country as, "... a mistake of nature and a misfit in politics", is not only regrettable but signifies the sorry state that Swaziland politics have reached.

Having ascended the throne as a mere child, Mswati III has failed to grow into a leader, but has chosen the route to surround

himself with vipers and scorpions, which bite and sting anything that tries to disturb the looting of state funds. Simelane is nothing but an offspring of rotten leadership that now holds Swaziland ransom through fear of the security forces.

Source: [https://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?story\\_fbid=804205529692940&id=174152669364899](https://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?story_fbid=804205529692940&id=174152669364899)

## **1.5. ANGOLA: OVER A MILLION PEOPLE LITERATE DUE TO CUBAN METHOD**

04 July 2015

Prensa Latina

A total of 1,139,729 Angolans were literate from 2012 until today with the Cuban teaching method "Yo si puedo" ("Yes, I can"), with the coordination of 42 advisers from the island.

"Due to this result, Angola is the first African country to have over a million literate people using this method", declared to Prensa Latina Alfredo Díaz, advisor of the Angolan Ministry of Education.

The program is used in 18 provinces in that country and in only 13 weeks people who are over 15 (up to 65, mostly women) learn to read and write.

He added that it has been a policy of the Angolan government since 2012 to rehabilitate education in general, especially for adults and one of the main goals was to restore literacy and explained the goal was to have around a million literate people, yearly, by 2025.

Cuban specialists advise Angolan facilitators who carry the main weight of the program execution applied in Haiti for the first time, and spread to other 30 countries later using audio-visual media to support the teaching process. In addition, in the 176 municipalities the results of the advisers are excellent, Díaz declared.

He highlighted the support offered by churches, the Armed Forces, the Women Organization, the Ministry of Interior and Youth Training and from the ruling party Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola.

Another important experience: this year the program is taken to prisons. In some provinces like Luanda, Bie and Huila this is carried out and facilitators are inmates formed by Cubans.

The Angolan government wants the 85 percent of the population registered as literate by 2025, but also wants encouraging and competitive results in 2017 as a part of the Millennium Development Goals of the UN.

In 2006 the Cuban method got the Sejong Award granted by UNESCO.

Source: [http://www.plenglish.com//index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=3950511&Itemid=1](http://www.plenglish.com//index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=3950511&Itemid=1)

## **1.6. CUBA IS FIRST TO EARN W.H.O SEAL FOR ENDING MOTHER-BABY HIV TRANSMISSION**

07 July 2015

Cubainsidetheworld.wordpress.com

A woman has HIV. She becomes pregnant. What are the chances that she can deliver a baby who is not infected?

In some countries, like Yemen, for example, only 11 percent of pregnant women with HIV receive treatment to prevent their babies from being infected. For women who aren't part of that fortunate group, the chance of passing HIV to their infant is as high as 45 percent.

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But in Cuba, the chances are now practically nil. On June 30, Cuba became the first country to receive what can be seen as a global seal of approval – the World Health Organization validation – for essentially eliminating transmission of AIDS from a mother to her baby. (Cuba has eliminated transmission of syphilis as well.)

That doesn't mean Cuba is on a pedestal all by itself. By 2014, more than 40 countries were testing and treating more than 95 percent of pregnant women; some places, including Anguilla, Barbados, Canada, Montserrat, Puerto Rico and the United States, have likely hit the mark as well. But Cuba is the first to go through the WHO monitoring program, which requires data on transmission for at least two years and an on-site visit by WHO members examining care in all parts of the country, including remote, impoverished and underserved areas.

Here's how Cuba did it.

When a Cuban woman becomes pregnant, odds are extremely high she already knows whether she is infected with HIV. She was likely diagnosed at a family clinic near her home, and then referred to a policlinico, or a clinic with a higher level of specialized services, to monitor and treat her HIV, according to Sonja Caffè, regional adviser on HIV and the Pan American Health Organization, the WHO regional office for the Americas.

If she is infected with HIV, when she becomes pregnant, she begins oral antiretroviral treatment, shown to prevent transmission to her newborn in 98 percent of cases.

At about 38 weeks into her pregnancy, if she agrees, she gives birth by caesarean section, which has been shown to reduce transmission of the disease through the birth canal. To further protect the baby from the virus, she is counseled not to breastfeed her child and the child is given antiretroviral treatment for four to six weeks.

The regimen, developed beginning in 1991 by the National Institutes of Health and the French National Institute for AIDS Research, can reduce the chances that the baby will be infected with HIV to less than 2 percent. And it's now being used by health services around the world. But Cuba became the first country in the world to receive WHO validation.

"I think the rest of the world can learn from the way the system is designed in Cuba," says Caffè. "In Cuba, the health services are very close to the people. There is universal coverage, and the services are free. They don't simply invest in hospitals. There is a philosophy of bringing health care to the people in the community."

The same system of care in Cuba helped to improve the population's health in other ways. "When you have a robust primary care system, you get other good results, like low infant mortality," says Caffè. And eliminating the transmission of syphilis from mother to child. About a million pregnant women in the world are infected with syphilis, which can cause miscarriage, stillbirth and serious complications in infants. Syphilis transmission to babies can be eliminated by screening and simple treatment, with penicillin, for example.

This maternity home in Havana provides residential care for pregnant women with medical or social issues.

In the United States, the rate of transmission of HIV through pregnancy and childbirth is below the 2 percent mark set as the WHO standard. But the U.S. has underserved pockets of health care in both rural areas and inner cities. "We visit municipalities, regions and specific sites within a country," says Caffè. The team looks at many areas of the country, including the lowest-performing health centers, to see if, even in those areas, good preventive care is provided. "In Cuba, it was difficult to identify the lowest coverage areas because it has very high coverage of preventive services in all areas," she says.

That's not so true in the U.S., where rates of HIV transmission to infants are higher in poor, minority and underserved areas. "On a national level, the United States has already achieved the elimination target," says Caffè. "But a criteria for validation is that it be met in an equal manner, even in subgroups of the lowest performing areas." In 2009 in the U.S., 162 babies were born infected with HIV – far below the elimination standard, even for poor and minority patients. But while whites had a mother-to-child AIDS transmission rate of 0.1 per 100,000, and Hispanics a rate of 1.7 per 100,000, the rate among African-Americans was 9.9 per 100,000.

As for the total picture worldwide, there were 240,000 babies born with the infection in 2013, down from 400,000 in 2009. WHO's goal is 40,000 a year, so countries still have a long way to go.

Source: <https://cubainsidetheworld.wordpress.com/2015/07/07/cuba-is-first-to-earn-who-seal-for-ending-mother-baby-hiv-transmission/>

## 1.7. MORE THAN 61% OF GREEKS SAY 'NO'

06 July 2015

RT, Moscow

More than 61 percent of Greeks have voted "No" in Sunday's referendum on the bailout deal and austerity measures, reported the Interior Ministry after 100 percent of the vote had been counted.

Thousands of people took to Syntagma square in front of the Greek parliament in Athens to celebrate the 'No' vote, which was called "a big Yes to democratic Europe" by the country's finance minister, Yanis Varoufakis.

"As of tomorrow, with this brave 'No' the Greek people handed us.... we will extend a helping hand towards our lenders. We will call on each one of them to find common ground. As of tomorrow, Europe, whose heart is beating in Greece tonight, is starting to heal its wounds, our wounds," Varoufakis said, as cited by Reuters.

Greek Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras praised the 'No' vote in the referendum, saying that his government is ready to return to negotiations with creditors immediately so that the country's banks could re-open.

"With the difficult circumstances prevailing today you made a very brave choice," Tsipras said in a televised address to Greeks.

Mandate

"I'm fully aware the mandate you gave me is not one of a rupture with Europe but a mandate to strengthen our negotiating position to seek a viable solution," he added.

Greece's chief negotiator, Euclid Tsakalotos, expressed confidence that, thanks to the referendum's result, the country would now be able to reach an agreement with its EU-IMF creditors quickly.

"The first thing is that the IMF report proves that the debt [load] is not viable, and secondly that there is a new popular mandate, as it would seem from the apparent result of the referendum," Tsakalotos told local STAR TV.

Greek officials are not discussing the introduction of a parallel currency in the country, he added.

Aggressive German response

German economy minister, Sigmar Gabriel, said that the results of the referendum had "torn down the last bridges on which Greece and Europe could have moved towards a compromise."

"With the rejection of the rules of the eurozone ... negotiations about a program worth billions are barely conceivable," Gabriel told Tagesspiegel paper.

"Tsipras and his government are leading the Greek people on a path of bitter abandonment and hopelessness," he stressed.

"Tsipras and his government are leading the Greek people on a path of bitter abandonment and hopelessness," he stressed.

The minister's words were echoed by the head of Germany's savings bank association (DSGV), Georg Fahrenschon, who concluded that Greece must now leave the euro bloc.

## Italy

However, Italy's foreign minister, Paolo Gentiloni, urged the EU to keep looking for middle ground with Greece, despite the country's population rejecting the Troika's bailout terms.

"Now it is right to start trying for an agreement again. But there is no escape from the Greek labyrinth with a weak Europe that isn't growing," Gentiloni wrote on Twitter.

## Euro drops

The outcome of the Greek referendum caused a sharp drop in the euro on Monday. The euro fell 1.4 percent against the US dollar to \$1.0955, and 2.1 percent against the yen to 133.50 yen.

The "No" victory was predicted by several opinion polls, including GPO, Metron Analysis and MRB, whose results were released after the polls closed.

Proponents of the "Yes" vote argued that a "No" vote may lead to Greece's exit from the Eurozone, and potentially the EU.

The talks between Greece and the Troika have been stalled since June, after the Eurogroup declined to prolong a financial aid program for Greece or delay payments on earlier debts.

Greece, which has been in crisis since 2009, was supposed to make an IMF loan payment of €1.6 billion by June 30 but failed to do so. It is required to make another major payment of €3.5 billion to the ECB on July 20.

## France

France's President Francois Holland and German Chancellor Angela Merkel will hold a meeting on Monday to discuss the consequences of the Greek referendum, said a statement from Elysee palace.

"The meeting is part of the constant co-operation between France and Germany to find a durable solution in Greece," said the statement.

Greek Finance Minister Yanis Varoufakis will hold talks with nation's bankers later on Sunday, a finance ministry official told Reuters.

Source: YCLSA Discussion

## 1.8. LETTER FROM FIDEL TO ALEXIS TSIPRAS, PRIME MINISTER OF GREECE

05 July 2015

The historic leader of the Revolution congratulated the Hon. Mr. Alexis Tsipras for his political victory and courage regarding the current situation facing the country

Hon. Mr. Alexis Tsipras

Prime Minister of Greece:

I warmly congratulate you for your brilliant political victory, details of which I followed closely through the channel TeleSur.

Greece is very familiar among Cubans. She taught us Philosophy, Art and Sciences of antiquity when we studied at school and, with them, the most complex of all human activities: the art and science of politics.

Your country, especially your courage in the current situation, arouses admiration among the Latin American and Caribbean peoples of this hemisphere on witnessing how Greece, against external aggression, defends its identity and culture. Nor do they forget that a year after Hitler's attack on Poland, Mussolini ordered his troops to invade Greece, and that brave country repelled the attack and drove back the invaders, forcing the deployment of German armored units towards Greece, diverting

them from the initial target.

Cuba knows of the bravery and the fighting capacity of the Russian troops, which, together with the forces of their powerful ally the People's Republic of China, and other nations of the Middle East and Asia, always try to avoid war, but would never allow for any military aggression without an overwhelming and devastating response.

In the current political situation of the world, where peace and the survival of our species hangs by a thread, every decision, more than ever, must be carefully thought-out and applied, so that no one may doubt the honesty and seriousness with which many of the most responsible and serious leaders struggle today to confront the calamities that threaten the world.

We wish you, esteemed compañero Alexis Tsipras, the greatest of success.

Fraternally,

Fidel Castro Ruz

Source: <http://en.granma.cu/mundo/2015-07-07/letter-from-fidel-to-alexis-tsipras-prime-minister-of-greece>

## 1.9. IS NEOLIBERALISM FINALLY RUNNING OUT OF TRICKS?

08 July 2015

Robert Hunziker, Counterpunch

Neoliberalism, the privatization and commoditization of everything that moves, has experienced a great run over the past three decades, jump-started in the 1980s by PM Thatcher and President Reagan, christened in 1951 by Milton Friedman.

Decidedly, “austerity of governmental social programs” is the kissing cousin to “privatization of public assets” as part and parcel of neoliberal principles, for example, Troika (European Central Bank, European Commission, and International Monetary Fund) austerity and “the dismantling and privatization of public health and education systems” (Pablo Iglesias).

Throughout Europe, Troika’s influence, or “neoliberalism on steroids,” has been hand-feeding kernels of dissent to popular uprisings. The imposition of draconian austerity measures inflicted upon Greece and the Mediterranean nation-states is rapidly, very rapidly, nursing a badly bruised European Left back to robust health.

It’s not only Greece where the Left resonates. Thanks to neoliberal dictates amongst the European financial ruling elite, the Left has become fashionably acceptable to everybody in the street, off the street, and across the street. And of even more significance, on a practical basis amongst the aggrieved, the Left appeals more so than ever in recent history, and therein exist a source of strength the Left has sorely missed for decades. “On a practical basis” is meaningful to lots and lots of people whenever social welfare cuts undercut meagre livelihoods.

By now, the whole world knows the Greece story, kind of, meaning that Greece has been seized by leftists, but putting that into a proper context not readily recognized, nor reported, by the international financial press, the Left is increasingly embraced by the 99%. Finally, the 99% has a home!

Not only that, but with neoliberal policy in Greece stripped of its thick veneer of austere outerwear, it’s more than ever exposed in-the-raw all across the continent: “The indisputable failure of austerity policies in Spain has helped trigger a regime crisis, which has opened - for how long, we don’t know - an unprecedented set of political opportunities,” Pablo Iglesias, Understanding Podemos, New Left Review, May/June 2015.

Pablo Iglesias, age 36, a former political science instructor, leads Spain’s leftwing anti-austerity Podemos party. He’s “the guy with the pony tail” on television with huge political impact. “The ‘People of the Television’—el pueblo de la television, or the TV nation, so to speak— didn’t know about a new political party called Podemos, but they knew about the guy with the pony tail,” (Understanding Podemos).

The latest polls show Podemos in a virtual tie with the governing People’s party. A general election is due in Spain by yearend. Maybe, Podemos inserts the dagger yet deeper into the heart of neoliberalism.

Now that Troika has hindered Europe's southern ailing nation-states' dignity of servicing their constituents because of deep cuts in social programs, the Left is filling a vast socio-politico-economics sinkhole. "The emergency policies to 'save the euro' imposed – and soon normalized – by the German-led block have had disastrous effects in Portugal, Ireland, Italy, Greece, and Spain, where millions have lost their jobs, tens of thousands have been evicted from their homes and the dismantling and privatization of public health and education systems has sharply accelerated, as the debt burden was shifted from banks to citizens," Pablo Iglesias, Understanding Podemos, New Left Review, May/June 2015.

Frankly, nothing more needs to be said about reinvigorating the Left beyond that paragraph, explaining the groundswell whereby Europe turns left, defiantly rebuffing rightward digressions into a deepening pit of stringency. Greece has already added an exclamation point. After all, people can only be pushed so far into the gutter before they have nothing more to lose. That's when they fight.

As for Podemos' fight against Spain's entrenched dynasties, "The unceasing offensive against Podemos, conducted with a virulence unprecedented for Spain, reveals the extent to which we are seen as a real threat to the dynastic parties' system," Ibid.

But it's not just the south of Europe. Nowadays, the soft underbelly of neoliberalism is exposed all across the continent, for example, Euronews, March 18th, 2015, "Germany: Violence Flares at Anti-Austerity Protest Against New ECB Headquarters... The main reason for the protest is that the ECB is in the troika and the troika is responsible for the austerity policies that have pushed so many into poverty." Protestors were bussed in from all across Europe.

And, in the UK, "Anti-Austerity Protests: Tens of Thousands Rally Across UK," The Guardian, June 20, 2015. "Between 70,000 and 150,00 estimated to have marched in central London with demonstrations in Glasgow, Liverpool and Bristol" protesting government plans for five more years of austerity... denounced public sector cuts, the treatment of the disabled and the vulnerable through welfare cuts, and the privatization of the NHS."

And, there's more, including shades of the French Revolution's reversion to the guillotine in the late 18th century, "The anarchist group Class War marched with a banner that read: 'We must devastate the avenues where the wealthy live'."

And more, as thousands protested in a show of anti-austerity solidarity in Athens, Brussels, Amsterdam and other European cities all across the continent on the eve of an emergency summit regarding Greece. "Demonstrators said the financial sector should take responsibility for the damage it caused," Anti-Austerity Protests Grip Europe Ahead of Key Summit, Voice of America, June 21, 2015.

The Troika may be on the verge of riding General Custer's horse into battle. Forces beyond the Parthenon are mounting. For example, "The people of Greece have now voted twice to reject austerity. This will inspire millions across Europe that we can do the same. We vow to create a movement so big it stops any austerity in its tracks," Yannis Behrakis, Anti-Austerity Protestors Plan 'Oxi to Osborne' Protests, Oppose Tory Budget, Reuters, July 7, 2015.

Is neoliberalism at its "last stand"?

Source: <http://www.counterpunch.org/2015/07/08/is-neoliberalism-finally-running-out-of-string/>

## 1.10. INDIA AND PAKISTAN SET FOR SECURITY BLOC

09 July 2015

James Tweedie, The Morning Star, London,

India and Pakistan will set out down the road to membership of Eurasian security bloc the Shanghai Co-operation Organisation (SCO) at this week's BRICS-SCO summit.

Speaking at a meeting with Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi yesterday, Russian President Vladimir Putin said that the process of India joining the SCO had begun.

The dual summit of the SCO and the five BRICS nations – Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa – is taking place in Ufa, the capital of the Russian republic of Bashkortostan.

The SCO currently comprises China, Russia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan, but India, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Iran and Mongolia have “observer status.”

Adding the two south Asian giants would greatly expand the SCO’s clout. However, the organisation stresses that it is not a military rival to NATO.

Earlier, Mr Putin met his Chinese counterpart Xi Jinping to discuss co-operation within BRICS and the SCO and current international issues.

“We are fully aware of the difficulties we face in the economy and in international politics, but if we join our efforts, I am sure we can overcome all problems before us and resolve all the tasks,” said Mr Putin.

And Mr Xi added: “We will continue working together with the international community to make our contribution to the cause of peace throughout the world.”

In May, the two leaders agreed to integrate China’s Silk Road Economic Belt initiative and the Russian-led Eurasian Economic Union to boost trade and infrastructure.

On Tuesday, the central banks of the BRICS nations agreed to set up a \$100 billion (£65bn) reserve fund to protect their currencies from volatile markets.

Central Bank of Russia head – and Ufa native – Elvira Nabiullina said that the cash pool would come into effect on July 30. China will contribute \$41bn (£27bn), Russia, Brazil and India \$18bn (£11.7bn) each and South Africa \$5bn (£3.3bn).

Source: [http://www.morningstaronline.co.uk/a-e251-India-and-Pakistan-set-for-security-bloc#.VZ4Gq\\_mqqko](http://www.morningstaronline.co.uk/a-e251-India-and-Pakistan-set-for-security-bloc#.VZ4Gq_mqqko)

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