

Notes on... Communist Party of Chile

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The emergence in the early 21st century of ideologically committed groups that could be broadly described as aligned to the Gonzalist wing of Maoism was characterized by a failure to agree amongst themselves as to what the “universal validity of Gonzalo thought” was in strategic and tactical terms. These small Chilean groupings were strong on radical rhetoric and eventually each lay claim to the legacy of the early communist Chilean leader, **Luis Emilio Recabarren** (1876 –1924). The emphasis placed on ideological preparation and the re-establishment of a revolutionary organisation is seen in a continuing appreciation of the dangers of revisionism that is quick to accelerate into an ideological two-line struggle that have set opinions, some would say ultra-leftist criticism , on the international line of world maoism’ arguing the new revisionism raises Maoist flags to attack Maoism.

“Chairman Mao made a distinction "under current circumstances, revisionism is more pernicious than dogmatism" .And those circumstances for us are the fact that revisionism is part of the counterrevolution, while dogmatism is a petty bourgeois deviation within the people; In conclusion, our slogan is to crush revisionism and overcome dogmatism.

...[The Peruvian revolutionary struggle] “ has given us Maoism with a revolutionary character and not that tame and tame 'Maoism' that the new revisionists and the indefinite, vacillating and dogmatic 'Maoists' are spreading in Latin America. “ⁱ

The smallest of these marginal Gonzalists groups, and aligned to the Solroja (Red Sun) network is the self-identified **Communist Party of Chile**. Not to be confused with the URC Red Faction in Chile, associated with the newspaper *El Pueblo* who, after initial criticism now highlights the importance of Recabarren’s contribution to Chilean communism.

This minority pro-Gonzalist trend developed to find political expression that echoed not only the language but seemed to be following a Peruvian template of political strategies in the process of reconstitution the Communist Party. Theirs is an uncritical appreciation of the

MLM mainly Maoism, and in the fundamental contribution to the development of Maoism by Gonzalo Thought school of hagiography: “We assume the position of the Peruvian comrades”

Their views on the anti-revisionist movement is that the “Maoists of the PCR were annihilated and those who survived abandoned to becoming technocrats and others went to hug Avakian in the 80s and then disappeared.”

They date their own appearance in the eighties, when there were young people who sympathized with the people's war in Peru, to the point of making trips to that country. From the Recabarren trade union movement formed in the 1990s, a group of young people reunited with some migrants, formed the Committee to support the Peruvian revolution - Comité de Apoyo a la Revolución Peruana - CARP Chile.

Debate within CARP on party building orientation throughout 2001-2003 saw some depart and the accusation raised that “behind these opportunists were crouching without making themselves known, [those] who would later form the URC.” Union of Revolutionary Communists (Marxists-Leninists-Maoists).

The debate on reconstitution of the revolutionary party saw some proposed joining the ranks of the revisionist party and organizing there the red fraction. Others argue that this was not correct, because said party was a bourgeois party, a completely revisionist, and corporatized organization. The influence of the Peruvian experience and contribution of Chairman Gonzalo was said to be essential in this debate. While the position of not entering was imposed, a new debate began with those who on the one hand did not want to start the reconstitution because they did not have the theoretical training, (this faction were to emerge as the URC) and those who propose initiating the reconstitution based on certain principles and Marxist Leninist Maoist agreements.

When CARP dissolves, some organised in a Communist Propaganda and Organization Committee - OPC, based in Santiago, focusing its agitation against the parliamentary cretinism of revisionism, a magazine "Popular Protest" and a bulletin "Emancipation of workers" circulated, and a Population Cultural Centre established.

What happened in the CARP was repeated in OPC, as the beginning of the reconstitution a two-line struggle expelled the “liquidationist opportunist”, allegedly unmasking one of its characters, for its secret links with the URC.

The decision taken in 2009 definite the “Political Line for Reconstitution”: it concluded that the Recabarren Communist Party could only be recovered by raising its thinking and reconstituting its party. There was an emphasis on ideological lines of demarcation as providing the foundations for the renewal of revolutionary politics in Chile.

“Making the revolution today is 'Raising Recabarren developing the reconstitution of the Communist Party of Chile', reconstitution to start and develop the people's war. “ ⁱⁱ

Relentlessly hammering home the point in its public declarations ⁱⁱⁱ that seem to carry very little weight or impact in actual politics, delusional in the belief that “We are on the strategic offensive” from an organisation that barely registers on the far left and used social media sparingly with eight postings in three years.

It says “Our revolution is a national democratic one” and openly says it is preparing the start and development of the people's war, building the three instruments of any revolution: the Communist Party, the popular guerrilla army and the popular united front; and in 2013 that “The path of encircling cities from the countryside is beginning to unfold” and echo the PCP cry, “We are the initiators”.

“We mainly say Maoism because it was Chairman Mao who developed the universal truths of Marxism more deeply than anyone before; and only another great communist, like Chairman Gonzalo, was able to systematize this development, elevating it to its third and superior stage, Maoism”^{iv}

The basic orientation of the organisation remains that articulated in *International Line* that the fundamental tasks to solve are, domestically, to overcome the danger of capitulation, reconstituting Communist Parties to start and develop more protracted peoples' wars, while internationally to overcome the danger of liquidationism, reconstituting the communist international to organize and direct the world people's war.

Hence a very specific understanding of the function of a new international grouping would involve. In achieving these organisational goals the militants invokes crushing the influence of the old and the new revisionism within Chile and internationally which was broadly identified:

“We take a stand against Avakian and his new synthesis, which is the justification for his capitulationism expressed in denying the preparation of people's war in the United States. Likewise against Prachandra who betrayed the Nepalese people's war, perpetrating a peace agreement and the surrender of arms, to follow the path of social reforms participating in the old State. They are the same positions of the LOD in Peru, and of Sison leader of the Communist Party of the Philippines, who is willing to a truce and finalize a peace agreement, under the assumption that the ruling Duterte is a Democrat who would guarantee the realization of a land reform throughout the country. The case of the Communist Party of Kurdistan, PKK, requires us to learn a lesson, especially if here in Chile a Mapuche nationalist group was spreading it. Ocalan in the 1990s renounced the People's War, Marxism, Leninism, Maoism, and turned the party into a gang of nationalist mercenaries whose ideology is the metaphysics of Kurdish thinking and the currencies of American imperialism they serve today. “^v

As clarified in numerous party statements since the 2011 *International Situation*, it maintains a critical analysis based on its interpretation of the contribution of Chairman Gonzalo, rhetorically promoting as the burning question for a reconstituted party and the international

communist movement that “waging people’s war, or preparing for its beginning and development, is the material basis, practical experience”.

REFERENCES

i The Problem of Ideology. Extract from 'Documento de Arica', 2012.

ii International Line 2011

<http://partidocomunistadechile.blogspot.com/2011/02/linea-internacional.html>]

iii Publically proclaimed in various messages posted on Red Sun and elsewhere employing a radical rhetoric e.g. to combatively finish the first stage of the reconstitution of the Communist Party of Chile, As part of the bold advance of the communists in the world! [<http://www.solrojo.org/Conf%20Italia%202015/PC%20Chile.html>]

Unleash the two-line struggle in the International Communist movement, against revisionism and opportunism! [http://www.solrojo.org/Conf_Madrid_2013/Chile.html]

Initiate and develop more popular wars promoting the reconstitution of the communist parties and crushing revisionism.

iv The Problem of Ideology. Extract from 'Documento de Arica', 2012.

v Against the new imperialist cast, develop the world proletarian revolution, crushing revisionism of all kinds!! Communist Party of Chile November, 2017.