
Dear Friends,

Greetings from the desk of the Tricontinental: Institute for Social Research.

As one door sharply bangs shut in Kashmir, another opens in Argentina. That is the nature of our struggles. In 1859, Friedrich Engels wrote, “History often proceeds by jumps and zig-zags.” To imagine history as a linear line that moves in a progressive direction is bewilderingly incorrect. It is romantic to believe either that history is conservatively circular – so that change is fundamentally impossible – or that history is progressively linear – so that everything improves in a scientific manner. Neither is possible.

Human history is a struggle between the imagination for a better life and the constraints of the present. Some of these constraints are material, and some are social. Inadequate material conditions and the rigidities of class can hold back human progress. The undemocratic attack on the people of Kashmir comes at the same time as the people of Argentina voted in their primary to overwhelmingly say that they are fed up with the politics of austerity (please see our Dossier no. 10 from November 2018 on the crisis in Argentina and the role of the IMF). Argentina’s population will vote again in October. By all indications, they will throw out their President, Mauricio Macri. Musicians and militants in Argentina have taken the old Italian partisan ballad (Bella Ciao – Goodbye Beautiful) and refashioned it as a cry against neoliberalism and austerity (Macri Chau – Goodbye Macri).
A vitória de chapa Alberto Fernández-Cristina Kirchner nas prévias presidenciais é uma luz no fim do túnel para oился северным Марокко.

Translate Tweet

History might move in stages, but in temporal terms it is bewildering. Large numbers of significant events seem to interweave faster and faster rates. It is hard to keep up with the news, but alone follow what is going on in each country. Tragedies appear suddenly and the names of communities that are little known fly off our lips – The Yazidis! The Rohingyas! In the next instance, they are forgotten, only to reappear by the next calamity. Even as events rush by, history seems to be in a standstill. Nothing really changes. Lives remain precarious, days seem repetitive. The combination of what appears to be the speed of change with the experience of stasis is what is disorienting.

In December 2019, our Dossier no. 23 will do an overall assessment of the situation in South America after the October elections in Argentina, Bolivia, and Uruguay. Okhti Russell, Brazil's former President, reflected on the results of the primary in Argentina with the thought that this was a 'light at the end of the tunnel for Argentina and for Latin America'.

The Indian government's move on Jammu & Kashmir should not merely be seen as an internal matter. It is inextricably linked to the geopolitical atmosphere around the region.

The Communist Party of India (Marxist) called the government's actions the 'murder of democracy and federalism'.

Our comrades Ramnivas Holla, Kaushik Krishnan, Jean Drèze, and Vimal Bhai went to Kashmir on a fact-finding mission from 9 to 13 August. They returned with a harrowing tale, whose

The drawing above is from Chittaprosad, one of the great Communist artists of his day. In my artwork, I represent the tradition of marxism and political reformer', Chittaprosad wrote. 'To save people means to save an artist'. The activity of an artist means the active denial of

The borders of China, India, and Pakistan collide in Kashmir. All three countries have fought wars for parts of Kashmiri territory. India and Pakistan have fought at least four major...