

Brief History of the SOL Cobas Route until the Struggle against the Green Pass

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1. The roots of our experience of struggle are to be found in the struggles of the (largely immigrant) proletariat in the world of distribution, intertwined with the class-political course of a part of the movement against state racism. Struggles that began in 2008, which developed for more than a decade (and which in fact continue to this day) and which made it possible, especially in northern Italy, to put in place new relations of force against the main multinationals in the sector, and thus to initiate a new path of trade union and political organisation that is conflictual and independent of the trade unions linked to the regime's left, which basically grew under the banner of SI.Cobas.

The SOL Cobas can in some ways be considered a rib of the SI.Cobas where, in May 2016, due to strong disagreements in the national executive, some of its leaders, including myself, were expelled from the organisation, producing a split involving about a thousand organised workers.

We do not think it would be of particular interest to go into details or, even less, to emphasise the theoretical and political differences between these two organisations; for those interested in this, we refer to our founding document (currently only available in Italian), which can certainly provide a better understanding of the reasons for that split and the different paths that followed in the years to come.

Our stance against compulsory vaccination and related social regulation

In view of the reasons and premises of this conference, we feel it is important to point out how 'operation Green-Pass' (which is far from over, even if, at the moment, the social and political restrictions that have characterised the last 30 months have been almost entirely suspended) has represented a veritable 'Waterloo' for the whole of the trade union and movement political groupings that, generically, could have been represented until then by the adjective 'antagonist and class left'.

Groups and organisations that were torn apart by the regime's offensive and perfectly aligned with the regime's propaganda and policy. And all this while, in an inevitably fluid and contradictory manner, a movement with unprecedented but essentially proletarian characteristics, independent of the bourgeois political apparatuses and, above all, international; just as global was the authoritarian management of what we call the 'pseudo-pandemic'

It is at this particular historical juncture that as the SOL Cobas leadership group, first spontaneously then, in relation to the growing action of the mass movement, and thus in an increasingly conscious manner, we took an active part in this movement, seeking to make an active contribution, through an organised presence in the squares (particularly in Lombardy and Campania) and promoting three national strikes, characterised precisely by the fight against the compulsory vaccination and the Green-Pass.

Certainly this deployment of ours has been anything but painless. Indeed, we can certainly say that this deployment produced, first and foremost, an internal political battle within the trade union, from the top to the grass-roots, since the tendency of the industrial proletariat as a whole was basically not to oppose the operation of discipline imposed through compulsory vaccination.

We speak of a direct experience that, however, beyond the partial and limited results, allows us to be here today and to be able to make a contribution with respect to the understanding of the dynamics of the struggle against imperialism, from the angle of Europe, i.e. the cradle of Capitalism itself

1. The majority of workers, even if they did not actively adhere to the regime's campaign and the narrative that represented it, did not oppose it. There were, however, important exceptions (first of all, think of the October struggle of the Trieste dockworkers who, although neutralised by the regime and its 'repressive intelligence', nonetheless put in place a force, objectively linking itself to international struggle dynamics. In this sense we think of the strikes in India, the struggle of the Canadian truck drivers, the palace attacks in Romania, while the world squares were and have been active for over four months, in the four corners of the planet
2. An absolutely central role in the determination of this 'political neutrality' of the proletariat must obviously be sought in the political and trade union leaderships of the proletariat without any distinction between regime organisations and supposedly antagonist/classist organisations which, on the contrary, were active supporters of it. However, it would be wrong to interpret the 'passive neutrality' of the class only in relation to the conjunctural political alignments of these directorates. It is our profound conviction that subjectivity or, if we prefer, the superstructure, stands in dialectical relation to the property relations that determine it, we must necessarily look at the momentary backwardness (at the very least we are talking about half a century although, in my opinion, this time-span should be extended to the Second World War and its existences)
3. These observations must necessarily be intertwined with the further developments of the world capitalist crisis and war scenarios that have promptly concealed and replaced the health emergency with the political-military one. by the new 'Russia campaign' waged by dominant imperialism, in its desperate (and therefore very dangerous) attempt to save itself from its own irreversible historical crisis, in which the destructive elements tend to take over from the historical cycle of overproduction crises and thus make the 'historical and natural' transition from trade war between powers to military confrontation between them almost irreversible

The war scenarios and organisational perspectives of the revolutionaries

Starting from these premises, objective and subjective, on these bases of analysis made possible by the fact that a worldwide movement against the green pass has taken the field (but not yet against the imperialist war; even if it seems no coincidence that, almost all the 'No green pass' groups tend to take sides against NATO intervention and sympathise with the 'Putin resistance') I consider it possible and necessary to draw some outlines for the future (even the immediate

future) with respect to which we must necessarily prepare ourselves (and thus try to advance in organisation as well) well aware that, as history teaches us, it will only be the chaotic eruption of the class struggle that will create new, and in many ways unpredictable, conditions to nurture this historical possibility, which assigns us a 'heavy' role, if we decide to accept it. A role that is not based on the need to 'create the right mass movement' but to provide it with theoretical, political and, possibly, practical-organisational references.

As a worker and trade union 'leader', that is, a member of a path of organisation directly linked to the experience of struggle of the working class, this will be the guiding element, in order to enter into the merits of the perspectives that concern us, with a view to providing an answer to the old but more than topical 'What to do?'

1. **Economic struggle and political struggle: a dialectic that is crucial for us**
2. **The centrality of the rooting of revolutionary Marxism, i.e. a bold, topical programme for proletarian revolution**
3. **An international network, based on those programme elements (yet to be fully elaborated but, in other respects, already in place looking at the events that brought us together at this conference)**

On these three elements, we intend to focus our intervention in the propositional part of the conference. But since this part of the conference is strictly dependent on the outcome of the theoretical and political discussion in the first part, we do not think it appropriate to elaborate in advance on the contents of these three titles, which in any case, unequivocally represent the cornerstones of our daily trade union-political work and our militant theoretical research