

**Rote Fahne: The year 2022 is considered to have been a “turning point in history”. What is your assessment?**

**Gabi Fechtner:** With his *Zeitenwende* (turning point in history) Chancellor Olaf Scholz at least made it to the “Word of the Year”. He used the term to describe the new orientation of imperialist Germany’s foreign policy toward the open preparation of a Third World War. In 2022, for the first time since World War II, an **open war of imperialist blocs** began. But 2022 stood for further profound crises: It became apparent that the gradual development of the global environmental crisis had transformed into a **global environmental catastrophe**. 2022 was a year of **galloping inflation** and the impoverishment of the working class and the broad masses. But it was also a year of growing discontent with the government, awakening class consciousness among the core of the industrial proletariat, and, not least, **general societal crises in more and more countries of the world**. While depression spreads among opportunists against this crisis background, the MLPD proved to be a stable point of orientation in the confusion among the broad masses that initially arose on all sides. After all, previous leaders of the peace movement mutated to become open warmongers on the side of Ukraine, and the Greens, who once started out as an environmental party, pushed the expansion of fossil fuel combustion with lignite, coal-fired power plants, and fracking gas. The AfD, of all parties, demagogically presented itself in a social-fascist manner as an advocate of immediate peace in Ukraine, while the Left Party and the German Communist Party (DKP) have remained vague.

**Rote Fahne: Last year the central promise was given that arms deliveries and “sanctions” would quickly put an end to the war in Ukraine. How could that fail so grandiosely?**

**Gabi Fechtner:** In the meantime, both sides of the warfare are in a crisis, in a war which is unjust on both sides. As early as mid-November 2022, the highest-ranking U.S. general, Mark Milley, came to the assessment that “*The probability of a Ukrainian military victory ... happening anytime soon is not high, militarily.*” This, when only a few months ago, Ukraine’s unconditional victory was proclaimed to be the guiding principle. NATO’s Ramstein Conference in January initiated a **further stage in the escalation of world war preparation**. The delivery of Leopard tanks was previously considered to be a “red line”. Shortly after Olaf Scholz set up the delivery of jet fighters as a new red line, Poland, France and the U.S. are now considering precisely this delivery. In the meantime, the phrase is making the rounds that there should be no more red lines.<sup>ii</sup> Meanwhile, Russia is increasing its (active) army from 1.15 million to 1.5 million soldiers and is waging its **inhumane** war on the backs of the Ukrainian population. Ukraine’s counteroffensive has brought death to tens of thousands more soldiers and civilians. **We have never been so close to a (nuclear) Third World War as we are today**. It cannot be assumed that the masses in the warring countries can be lastingly won for this war. An imperialist war cannot be waged indefinitely and won without or against the majority of the population. In Germany as well as in other countries, the further advancing transition of NATO to an open war party could become a **culmination point in the approval of the masses**. In any event, in opposition to the deafening war drums, the MLPD will educate even more intensively about the character of the war and organize active resistance. The activities on the anniversary of the beginning of the war on February 24 will play an important role in this.

**Rote Fahne: What role are the new-imperialist countries currently playing?**

**Gabi Fechtner:** The new-imperialist countries are profiting from the clash between the imperialist blocs NATO and Russia. This is especially true for **India, China, South Africa,**

**Brazil and Turkey.** Most of the forces of modern revisionism have now adopted a social-chauvinist position and support new-imperialist Russia and China. They are hoping for a more peaceful world from the new multipolar world order. The 29th Federal Peace Council in Kassel in December 2022 even propagates that “*the new multipolar world order could be committed to the principles of social justice, international solidarity, democracy and ecological sustainability*”.<sup>iii</sup> This is the position of opposing the imperialist superpower USA with the uncritical support of smaller or other imperialist countries. This is incompatible with Marxism-Leninism, which states that there can be no concession to any brand of imperialism. In reality, the **struggle for the redivision of the world is coming to a head**. The **USA and China** are the **centers of bloc formation** in the imperialist struggle for the redivision of the world. Both are preparing for new “major conflicts”. Contrary to the claim that the West has not been so united for a long time, trade conflicts are also intensifying between the USA and the EU. The so-called Inflation Reduction Act is a program of subsidies and protectionism in favor of the investments and production of international finance capital in the USA. New-imperialist Turkey is playing a remarkable double game with its NATO membership and, at the same time, close economic, political and military cooperation with Russia. It is an active warmonger in the Middle East region, with raids on Syria, Iraq, a special targeting of the Kurdish liberation struggle, and constant threats against Greece.

**Rote Fahne: In the summer of 2022, the UN sounded the alarm about the worsening environmental crisis. Are the analyses of bourgeois environmental research correct?**

**Stefan Engel:** The UN report does actually see a dramatic worsening of the global environmental crisis. However, it is not able to interpret the very real facts correctly, because it evaluates the whole development on the basis of its observance of the Paris Climate Agreement.

This agreement, however, was from the outset not a scientifically based target, but a foul compromise. Based on purely mathematical calculations of past developments, the Paris Climate Agreement arbitrarily assumes that a global warming of 1.5 to 2 degrees could still be coped with by humankind. However, this has now been proven **wrong**. The world is now at an average of 1.2 degrees of warming,<sup>iv</sup> at which a number of **new manifestations** in the environmental crisis have already occurred. In their sum, they mean that humankind is now at the **beginning of a global environmental catastrophe that is successively spreading and deepening**. There are, for example, a number of developments that environmental research had previously not taken into account in the necessary way. These are **irreversible** and, **even without direct human intervention**, signify a **new phase in the destruction of the existential foundations of humankind**: The **melting of polar ice** reduces the **albedo effect**, which reflects the warming rays of the sun back into space, and this is now dramatically heating up the world’s oceans. Not to mention that this will cause a significant portion of today’s land masses and islands to disappear irretrievably into the ocean. The **thawing of the permafrost** releases around 1,500 billion tons of CO<sub>2</sub> and methane gas. Methane amplifies the greenhouse effect up to 25 times more than the same amount of CO<sub>2</sub>. With the accelerated **melting of glaciers** by 2050, humanity will lose its largest reservoir of drinking water, which will additionally cause many rivers to dwindle to mere rivulets. The accelerated **deforestation of the Amazon rainforest** has resulted in the Earth not only losing a major CO<sub>2</sub> sink. It has also contributed to the permanent disappearance of a growing number of species of flora and fauna throughout the biosphere. The **enlargement of the ozone hole** has dramatically worsened the life-threatening contamination of the Earth’s surface by radiation, causing entire species to disappear and also dramatically increasing skin cancer. Last but not least, **ocean currents**

have changed so much in recent years that the balance between the southern and northern hemispheres is increasingly being irreversibly disrupted.

The **accelerated process of destruction of the basis of life on earth**, which has now begun and is **associated with violent eruptions – we call this a global environmental catastrophe** – is a complete fiasco for humankind. The sole responsibility lies with the imperialist world system and the solely ruling international monopolies.

Bourgeois environmental research cannot come to such an assessment, because it only argues immanently to the system and largely disregards the fundamental connections between humanity and nature. Accordingly, it makes its predictions only according to **mathematical algorithms**, which are blind above all to unforeseen developments. In our forthcoming book in the *Revolutionärer Weg* (Revolutionary Way) series, entitled *The Crisis of Bourgeois Natural Science*, we address in more detail this problem of the **increasing lack of a scientific approach in the natural sciences** and its dramatic consequences. Only the revolutionary **struggle to overcome the imperialist world system and to establish the united socialist states of the world** decides whether this process of the global environmental catastrophe, which has already begun, can still be **dampened or even stopped** in its humanity-threatening quintessence. For such a society-changing struggle, the environmental movement, the working class and the broad masses of people must come to grips with the influence of imperialist and petty-bourgeois ecologism.

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[www.reuters.com/world/europe/us-general-plays-down-odds-near-term-military-victory-ukraine-2022-11-16/](http://www.reuters.com/world/europe/us-general-plays-down-odds-near-term-military-victory-ukraine-2022-11-16/)

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iii

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iv

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