



Geopolitical
Economy
Research Group

DIRECTOR'S REPORT 2022

(covering 2019-2021)

Radhika Desai, Director



Dear Geopolitical Economy Staff, Funders, Supporters and Friends at the University of Manitoba and Beyond,

I am delighted to present the 2022 GERG report. Thanks to the disruptions of Covid-19, and the vast increase in our activities by zoom, we did not manage to complete our usual biennial report, which would have been due in 2021. Here we are presenting a triennial report.

As you can see, we have not been idle over the pandemic years. Indeed, we have vastly expanded GERG activities in the virtual dimension, launching the International Manifesto Group, increasing the visibility of the New Cold War website and integrating the work of the three wings in an increasingly coherent fashion.

In organising these activities, we have incurred many debts and we would like to acknowledge the main ones here.

- GERG Staff, past and present, including Natalie Braun, Efe Can Gürcan, Brendan Devlin, Julia Greening, Azizul Hakim, Julio Lucchesi Moraes, Ajit Singh, and Helen Sokoloski.
- UM staff, particularly in Arts faculty, helping with technical and communications matters.
- Members of the IMG committees: Jane Aktay, Arnold August, Ajamu Baraka, Adriana Benedeschi, Keith Bennett, Roland Boer, Renfrey Clarke, Jenny Clegg, Jonathan Dai, Ganesh Devy, Mick Dunford, Derek Ford, Alan Freeman, Stefania Fusero, Francesco Galfaro, Paul Graham, Danny Haiphong, Philippe Gendrault, Aidan Jonah, Arn Kawano, Joe Kelly, Kim Koo, Charles Mackelevy, Rasigan Maharaj, Carlos Martinez, Chris Matlhako, Attila Melegh, Glenn Michalchuck, David Paul, John Riddell, Karen Rodman, John Ross, Errol Sharpe, Danial Sihoming, Maria Victor, Suzanne Weiss, Joel Wendland-Liu, and Fernando Ximenes.
- Speakers at our events, their co-sponsors and participants too numerous to mention.
- Today, we constitute a world-wide community, and it all began here at the University of Manitoba, and in Winnipeg!
- And finally, our funders, who include donating members of the public and the following: Arts Endowment Fund, Faculty of Arts, Office of the VP Research, Global Political Economy Research Fund, Department of Political Studies, Manitoba Chair of Global Governance Studies



Radhika Desai
Director
August 2022

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HIGHLIGHTS OF GERG ACTIVITIES IN 2019, 2020, and 2021

Over the past three years, GERG has experienced incredible growth, not least because the events of the time have made GERG an important nexus for the interaction of scholars, students, and those active in the community on themes of common interest. It has facilitated their interaction in building solid theoretical and analytical frameworks for understanding and engagement on the multiplying problems of the world, its societies and of their mutual relations.

In 2019, GERG kept up its tradition of holding a major international conference every two years by hosting the 14th Forum of the World Association for Political Economy, entitled, ‘Class, State, and Nation in the 21st Century’. The forum took place at St John’s College and the University Centre of the University of Manitoba and commemorated the 100-year anniversary of the Winnipeg General Strike, and its impact for workers movements around the world. Attracting scholars from around the world, the conference also aided in cementing closer relations between UM and many Chinese academic institutions, including the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences.



GERG’s book series, the Geopolitical Economy series with Manchester University Press published three more books: *Karl Polanyi and Twenty-First-Century Capitalism*, edited by Radhika Desai and Kari Polanyi Levitt; Costas Panayotakis’ most recent book, *The Capitalist Mode of Destruction: Austerity, Ecological Crisis and the Hollowing Out of Democracy*; and Aleksander Buzgalin and Andrey Kolganov’s *Twenty-First Century Capital: Critical post-Soviet Marxist reflections*.



One of the most important developments for GERG over the last three years was establishment of GERG’s newest offshoot, the International Manifesto Group (IMG). The IMG began meeting to discuss the fast-changing political and geopolitical economy of the world order and its national and regional components at the beginning of the pandemic. With more than two years of activity behind us, we are still growing and developing new activities and functions. With the pandemic still

raging and other crises emerging, including wars, inflation and new waves of labour and political unrest, our work is more relevant than ever. Our organization was always about the all-important question ‘What is to be done?’ and, in 2021, we bit the bullet and wrote the manifesto our name and vocation demanded, ‘Through Pluripolarity to Socialism’, and we believe engagement with its themes to develop them further is important for further progressive advance, both within societies and internationally. As of 11 August 2022, the Manifesto has garnered 800 signatories, has been translated into English, French, Spanish, Turkish, Chinese, German, Italian, Portuguese,

Marathi, Russian, Arabic, Farsi, Tamil and Japanese. Its fortnightly webinars (and they are often more frequent than that as members propose and organise more such events) are its showcase activity and the IMG is planning a hybrid conference for 2024 so that members of its world-wide network of intellectuals, activists, publications and institutions might meet and grow.

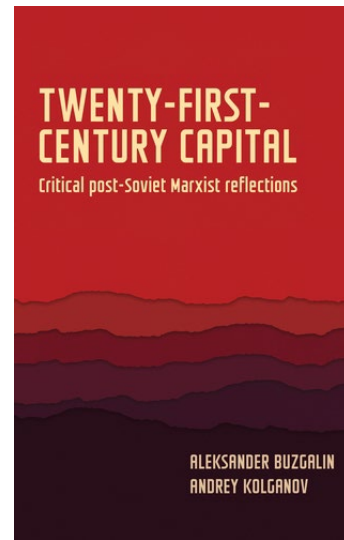
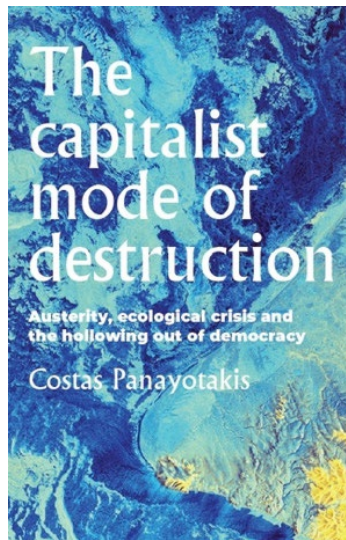
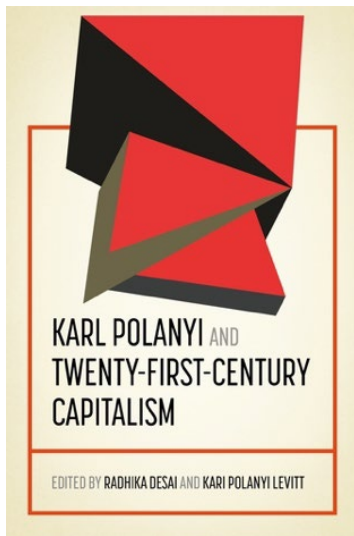
In 2020, GERG participated in the international No Cold War campaign's 'International Convening: No New Cold War' which discussed how scholars, students, researchers, and activists might act to resist the New Cold War being led by Western imperial countries.

GERG organised its own Geopolitical Economy panels at two important conferences with the Society for Socialist Studies. The first at the SSS conference 2019, which took place as part of the annual Canadian Congress of the Federation of the Humanities and Social Sciences in Vancouver, BC, entitled 'Circuits of Capital, Circles of Solidarity,' for which the Geopolitical Economy Panel was entitled 'Venezuela: A Case Study in Faulty Canadian Foreign Policy' and the second in 2021, online, as part of SSS's panels in lieu of its participation in Congress, entitled, 'Understanding and Engaging China From the Left', which has been viewed nearly 9000 times to date.

GERG co-sponsored the 'Conference on Non-Capitalist Mixed Economies (Theory, History and Future)' with the Karl Polanyi Center and in collaboration with the Corvinus University of Budapest and the Rosa Luxemburg Foundation. The conference included twenty-nine presentations, with presenters representing countries including Canada, China, Russia, India, UK, Hungary, Poland, Cuba, USA, Germany, Brazil, Portugal, Ecuador, and Greece. Another 'Conference on Non-Capitalist Mixed Economies' will be held this coming fall, 2022.

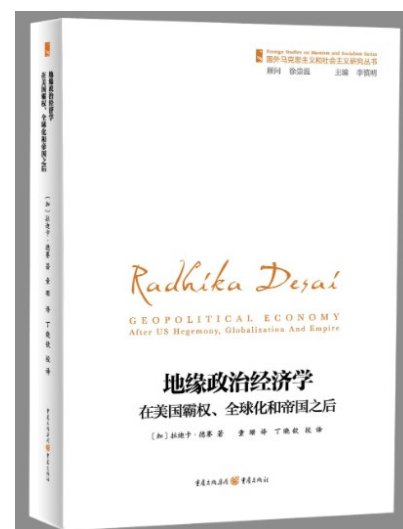
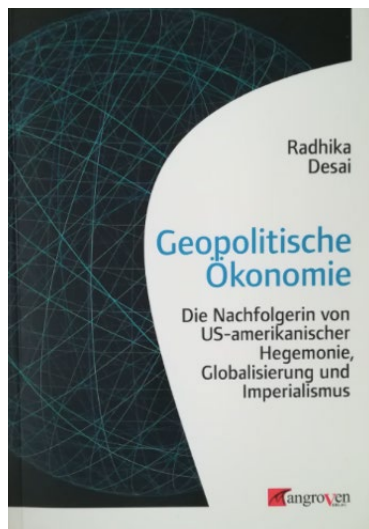
GERG is excited to begin a new partnership with the Mushashi Institute for Social Studies (MISS) at Mushashi University, Tokyo. The first of our planned activities is a symposium on the critically important topic of Japan's long-running secular stagnation and what it has portended about capitalism and the critically important ways in which the experience has fed into policy in other countries. A special issue of *The Japanese Political Economy* on the subject, guest edited by Radhika Desai, has been published: <https://www.tandfonline.com/toc/mjes20/47/4>

PUBLICATIONS



Amidst the turmoil of the last couple years, GERG has forged ahead to continue its work of putting forth publications that are up to the challenge of equipping researchers and readers to understand the present geopolitical moment. In 2020, Manchester University Press published *Karl Polanyi and Twenty-First-Century Capitalism*, edited by Radhika Desai and Kari Polanyi Levitt. Costas Panayotakis' most recent book, *The Capitalist Mode of Destruction: Austerity, Ecological Crisis and the Hollowing Out of Democracy*, was published with Manchester University Press in 2021. Manchester University Press also published Aleksander Buzgalin and Andrey Kolganov's *Twenty-First Century Capital: Critical post-Soviet Marxist reflections* in 2021.

GERG's founding publication, *Geopolitical Economy: After US Hegemony, Globalization and Empire*, by its Director, Radhika Desai, has been published in additional languages including German, Russian, and Chinese. Recently, the argument of this book was updated in Radhika Desai and Michael Hudson's, "Beyond the Dollar Creditocracy: A Geopolitical Economy," a *Valdai Discussion Club Paper*, published in 2021.



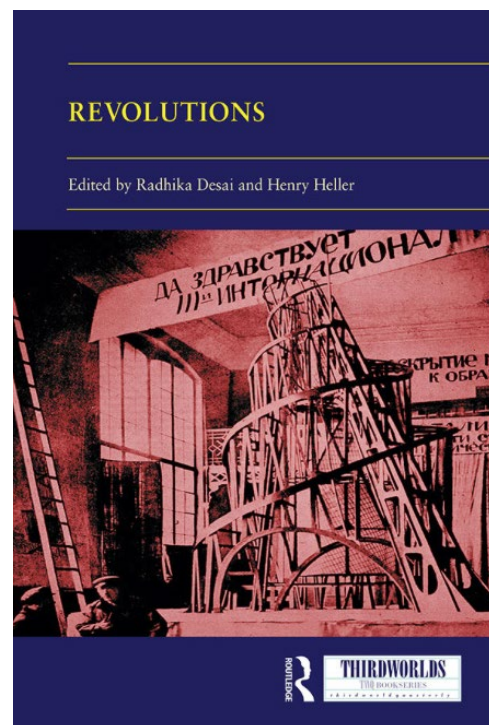
Another institute with which GERG has maintained collaboration is the [S. Y. Witte Institute for New Industrial Development \(INID\)](#) in Moscow. GERG also works with the Valdai Club, and the Journals *Alternativy* and *Problems of Political Economy* all in Russia. Some results of these collaborations are as follows:

Through INID, GERG has published a number of articles including the following:

- Radhika, Desai. "The New Industrial State and Convergence: Antecedents in Marx," in *Научные труды Вольного экономического общества России* (2020)
- Radhika Desai, "Common Dreams or Vulgar Delusions? Elite Preoccupations in Discourses about the 'Commons'" (2019)
- Radhika Desai, "The Past and Future of the International Monetary System," in *Экономическое возрождение России* (2019)
- Radhika Desai, "Marx's critical political economy, 'Marxist economics' and actually occurring revolutions against capitalism," in *Third World Quarterly* (2020)
- Alan Freeman, "The sixty-year downward trend of economic growth in the industrialised countries of the world," in *University of Manitoba GERG Data Group Working Paper 1* (2019)
- Alan Freeman, "Creative Labor, Mental Objects and the Modern Theory of Production," in *Science & Society* (2020)
- Alan Freeman, "A General Theory of Value and Money: Foundations of an Axiomatic Theory," in *World Review of Political Economy* (2020)
- Alan Freeman, "The second opinion: An ethical approach to learning and teaching economics," in *Principles and Pluralist Approaches in Teaching Economics*, Routledge (2019)
- Alan Freeman, "John Komlos's Foundations of Real-World Economics: What every economics student needs to know," *Real-World Economics Review* (2019)

After the publication of *Russia, Ukraine and contemporary imperialism* by Boris Kagarlitsky, Radhika Desai, and Alan Freeman, in Routledge (2018), the 2017 conference also resulted in a major publication, *Revolutions*, co-edited by Radhika Desai and Henry Heller:

<https://www.amazon.ca/Revolutions-Radhika-Desai/dp/1032013613>



COMMUNICATIONS AND REACH

GERG's primary website remains geopoliticeconomy.org, with conference information being hosted at gergconference.ca.

GERG's sister organizations, the International Manifesto Group and New Cold War, now both have independent websites, internationalmanifesto.org and newcoldwar.org, and all three websites can be accessed through links available on each other website. All three websites include links to the two sister organizations, links to donate, and links to volunteer. These changes have streamlined GERG's reach and we anticipate this new set-up will bring increased traffic into each organization's website.

GERG has been greatly increasing the scope and variety of its reach. Since the pandemic has brought work pertaining to research and activism almost exclusively online, GERG has increased the avenues by which people can reach us online, and the means to make the most of the resulting interaction. While email continues to serve as the primary mechanism of communication, the GERG and IMG YouTube channel (<https://www.youtube.com/c/GeopoliticalEconomy>) have become the most important platforms for providing access to our events. Indeed, the increased ease with which we can host and record events has lessened both the time constraints and the travel restraints for contributors and GERG members, especially international ones. GERG continues to work to cultivate our connection to this online base, both scholars and students, and those who are more generally motivated towards learning about the particular causes the GERG aims to address. We plan to expand our social media reach as well, both in terms of which mediums we reach our audience on, and the frequency with which we post content.



INTERNATIONAL PARTNERSHIPS AND COLLABORATIONS

GERG has continued to expand and cultivate its international partnerships and collaborations and in doing so has made valuable contributions to international organizations as well as enhanced the networks of its own members.

Some of GERG's closest international partners with whom we've collaborated on important events in 2019, 2020, and 2021 (detailed in the following sub-sections of this report) include,

- the Society for Socialist Studies,
- the World Association of Political Economy (WAPE),
- No Cold War,
- the Karl Polanyi Center, Corvinus University
- The Valdai Discussion Club,
- Friends of Socialist China, and
- The Rosa Luxemburg Stiftung



Other important international partners include,

- the Shanghai-based World Association for Political Economy,
- the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences,
- Creative Manitoba,
- the Valdai Discussion Club, Russian Federation
- International Development Economics Associates, based on New Delhi,
- the Rosa Luxemburg Stiftung (based in Germany with offices all over the world),
- the Institute for Globalization and Social Movements, based in Moscow,
- the Moscow Academic Economic Forum,
- the St Petersburg Economic Forum,
- the S.Y. Witte Institute for New Industrial Development,
- the Living Wage Movement, New Zealand,
- the International Rosa Luxemburg Society,
- the Christopher Freeman Trust, UK,
- the Witte Institute for New Industrial Development (INID),
- Institute for Economic Research, UNAM, Mexico
- the Musashi Institute for Social Sciences (MISS), and
- the journals, *The Japanese Political Economy* (Japan), *Third World Quarterly* (United Kingdom), *Research in Political Economy* (United States), the *World Review of Political Economy* (United Kingdom) and *International Critical Thought*.



WHERE ARE GERG PARTNERS?



GERG & SOCIETY FOR SOCIALIST STUDIES



(Artwork by Susan Point)

GERG and the Society for Socialist Studies took part in two major events over the past two years. A conference in 2019 entitled, 'Circuits of Capital, Circles of Solidarity,' took place from June 4th to 6th in Vancouver, British Columbia. The panel led by GERG was entitled, 'Venezuela: A Case Study in Faulty Canadian Foreign Policy.'

Then in 2021, GERG and Society for Socialist Studies hosted a panel discussion entitled, 'Understanding and Engaging China from the Left' on June 3rd. The event was meant to equip the left with the tools it needs to understand and engage with China amidst the increasingly zealous United States-led Cold War that the West is waging.

The speakers included,

- **Professor Qi Bing**, School of Marxism, Beijing Sports University and Chinese Studies Research Centre, Institute of Political Sciences, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences
- **Professor Mick Dunford**, Emeritus at Sussex University, Department of Geography, Fellow of the Chinese Academy of Sciences, Beijing, Editor, *Area Development and Policy*
- **Dr Jenny Clegg**, Senior Lecturer in International Studies and long-time China specialist, at the University of Central Lancashire, author of *China's Global Strategy*
- **John Ross**, formerly Director of Economic and Business Policy for the Mayor of London, Senior Fellow, Chongyang Institute for Financial Studies, Renmin University of China.
- **Martin Jacques**, former editor, *Marxism Today* and author of *When China Rules the World*.



GERG & WAPE



July 19-21, 2019, GERG and WAPE co-organized the 14th Forum of the World Association for Political Economy, entitled, 'Class, State, and Nation in the 21st Century.' The forum took place at the University of Manitoba in Winnipeg, Canada. Previous WAPE annual forums have been held in Shanghai, Shimane (Japan), Beijing, Paris, Suzhou (China), Amherst (USA), Mexico City (Mexico), Florianopolis (Brazil) and Hanoi (Vietnam), Johannesburg (South Africa), Patiala (India), Moscow (Russia) and Berlin (Germany) between 2006 and 2018. Winnipeg was



chosen for the 2019 forum to commemorate the 100-year anniversary of Winnipeg's 1919 general strike.

The Keynote presentations included:

- **Professor Utsa Patnaik**, 'Austerity' and its Consequences in the Advanced and Developing Worlds: The Present in the Light of the Inter-War Depression
- **Professor Bryan Palmer**, The Whole World was Watching: The 1919 General Strike and its International Legacy of Class Struggle.
- **Dr Maria Paez Victor**, Redefining the State, Repositioning Class Struggle and Asserting Sovereignty.
- **Professor David Laibman**, China: In the Perspective of Historical Materialism
- **Professor Michael Hudson**, The US Threat to World Order: Obey or I'll Self-Destruct



WAPE's 14th Forum of the World Association for Political Economy was made possible by several UM funders including,

- Arts Endowment Fund
- Faculty of Arts
- Office of the VP Research
- Global Political Economy Research Fund
- Department of Political Studies
- Manitoba Chair of Global Governance Studies

GERG & NO COLD WAR

On July 25, 2020, GERG joined the organization, No Cold War, for the 2020 event, 'International Convening: No to the New Cold War' to discuss how anti-imperialist scholars, students, researchers, and activists might act to resist the New Cold War being led by Western imperial countries. Attendees heard from leading analysts from China, the US, Britain, India, Venezuela, Canada and Brazil.

The contributors included:

- **Medea Benjamin** (Co-founder, CODEPINK)
- **Wang Wen** (Executive Dean, Chongyang Institute for Financial Studies, Renmin University of China)



- **Qiao Collective**
- **Martin Jacques** (Author: 'When China Rules the World')
- **Vijay Prashad** (Executive Director, Tricontinental: Institute for Social Research)
- **Carlos Ron** (Vice-Minister for North America, Venezuela's Ministry for Foreign Relations)
- **Yury Tavrovsky** (Author: 'America Against China: A Cold War in Times of Coronavirus')
- **Yang Hanyi** (Senior editor, Guancha.cn)
- **Ajamu Baraka** (Black Agenda Report)
- **Margaret Kimberley** (Black Agenda Report)
- **Kate Hudson** (General Secretary, Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament)
- **Radhika Desai** (Professor, Department of Political Studies, University of Manitoba)
- **John Ross** (Senior Fellow, Chongyang Institute for Financial Studies, Renmin University of China)
- **Elias Jabbour** (Associate Professor, Rio de Janeiro State University)
- **Jenny Clegg** (Author: 'China's Global Strategy: Toward a Multipolar World')

The assertion of the conference was that there is a New Cold War on China, being led by the United States government, and it is against the interests of humanity. The aggressive statements and actions against China that have been coming out of Washington, both under the Trump administration and the Biden administration, are an impediment to peace, and an impediment to humanity successfully addressing the very serious issues that affect us, such as climate change, pandemics, racial discrimination, and economic development. As such, the conference made clear the mandate to recognize and condemn the aggression coming from the US government. GERG joined No Cold War in calling upon the US to step back from this threat of a Cold War and also from other dangerous threats to world peace it is engaged in including: withdrawal from the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces agreement; withdrawal from the Paris Climate Change Accords; and its increasing disengagement from UN bodies. The US should also stop pressuring other countries to adopt such dangerous positions. GERG joins No Cold War in their support of China and the US basing their relations on mutual dialogue and centring on the common issues which unite humanity.

GERG & KARL POLANYI CENTER

In 2021, GERG co-sponsored the 'Conference on Non-Capitalist Mixed Economies (Theory, History and Future)' organized by the Karl Polanyi Center, and supported by others such as the Corvinus University of Budapest and the Rosa Luxemburg Foundation. The conference brought



scholars together to hear twenty-nine presentations on the historical significance of non-capitalist mixed economies, and the lessons that can be gleaned for the present moment. Many countries were represented including, Canada, China, Russia, India, UK, Hungary, Poland, Cuba, USA, Germany, Brazil, Portugal, Ecuador, and Greece. Another ‘Conference on Non-Capitalist Mixed Economies’ will be held this coming fall, 2022.

GERG & THE VALDAI DISCUSSION CLUB

GERG has been an ongoing contributor to the Valdai Discussion Club since 2015. The Valdai Discussion Club has brought together over 1000 representatives from 85 countries to develop high quality assessments of global economic and political issues, as well as clarify the global path forward. Contributions by GERG and IMG members have included the following articles:

- Geopolitical Economy: The Discipline of Multipolarity (2015)
- War and Peace in Capitalism (2015)
- The Chastisement of Western Hubris (2015)
- Economic Crisis Tells Emerging Economies to Focus on Domestic Demand (2016)
- US-Promoted Trade Deals Signal the End of WTO Primacy (2016)
- BRICS Forge Ahead As World Order Tumbles Toward Chaos (2016)
- Report: Brexit, the City, and the Crisis of Conservatism (2016)
- G7 Summit: Six Against One (2018)
- Common Dreams or Vulgar Delusions? Elite Preoccupations in Discourses about the ‘Commons’ (2019)
- Twitter Diplomacy or Twitter Electioneering? (2019)
- Britain Faces a Long and Bumpy Road Ahead (2019)
- Why Monetary Policy is No Longer Enough (2020)
- Yet Another Cold War, This Time Against China (2020)
- Beyond the Dollar Creditocracy: A Geopolitical Economy (2021)
- Financial Sanctions vs the US Dollar (2022)
- High End Labour: The Foundation of 21st Century Industrial Strategy (2015)
- How Many People Need to Die? The Real Alternative to Herd Immunity (2020)
- Anti-Imperialism and the Ukrainian Conflict (2022)
- The Indo-Pacific in the Wake of the Ukraine Conflict: From China’s Continuing Rise to the Anglosphere’s Return (2022)



On July 1, 2021, GERG took part in ‘China’s Path to Zero Poverty,’ in commemoration of the Communist Party of China 100th anniversary of its founding. This webinar explored how China has been able to carry out the most extensive poverty alleviation program in history, and what lessons there are for humanity. The meeting was moderated by Radhika Desai, and the speakers



included Senator Mushahid Hussain, Li Jingjing, Utsa Patnaik, Ovigwe Eguegu, Camila Escalante, Roland Boer, Mick Dunford, John Ross, Qiao Collective, Tings Chak.

On October 9, 2021, GERG co-sponsored ‘The Propaganda War Against China,’ an international webinar to discuss the intensifying information warfare being waged by the US and

its allies against the People’s Republic of China hosted by Friends of Socialist China. Presenters

discussed the relationship between this propaganda onslaught and the New Cold War; the reality in Xinjiang and Hong Kong; the participation of sections of the Western left in the propaganda war; and more. Alongside GERG, the event was co-sponsored by the Morning Star, the Grayzone, Pivot to Peace, the International Manifesto Group, and Qiao Collective.



On March 19, 2022, GERG co-sponsored the webinar, “21st Century Socialism: China and Latin America on the Frontline,” with Friends of Socialist China. We had the privilege of hearing from former President of Brazil, Dilma Rousseff, as well as other notable speakers including,

- Carlos Martinez, Co-editor of the Friends of Socialist China
- Jiang Shixue, Director at the Center for Latin American Studies at Shanghai University
- Carlos Miguel Pereira, Cuban ambassador to China
- Ma Hui, China’s ambassador to Cuba
- Camila Escalante, reporter for Kawsachun News in Bolivia
- Carlos Ron, President of the Simón Bolívar Institute in Venezuela
- Ben Norton, journalist and founder of the platform Multipolarista, based in Nicaragua

- Francisco Domínguez,
Secretary of the Venezuela
Solidarity Campaign (UK)

The event was moderated by Radhika Desai, and was co-sponsored by Alborada, ANTICONQUISTA, CODEPINK, Geopolitical Economy Research Group, International Action Center, International Manifesto Group, Kawsachun News, Morning Star, Multipolarista, and Simón Bolívar Institute for Peace and Solidarity Among Peoples.



Further events, focussing on China's development path and the crisis brewing over Taiwan are planned.

GERG & INTERNATIONAL MANIFESTO GROUP



One of the most significant developments for GERG is its new partner, the International Manifesto Group, which officially launched on September 5, 2021. The group began as a discussion group which arose the beginning of the pandemic and evolved into an international formal repudiation of capitalism and the destruction it is wrecking at an accelerating rate. The core analysis of the Manifesto is

‘Through Pluripolarity to Socialism’ which situates the many currents of socialist thought on a common, solid theoretical ground. Central to the Manifesto is the consideration of the profound breakdown of capitalism amidst the pandemic, and the need for a unified international movement of the left which would stand ready to lead away from the current systemic. IMG seeks to organize and push towards more rational, solidaristic, and scientifically advanced ecological socialisms. The Manifesto is translated into English, French, Spanish, Turkish, Chinese, German, Italian, Portuguese, Marathi, Russian, Arabic, and Farsi, with many more translations currently in the works. As of 11 August 2022, the Manifesto has 800 signatories from around the world including North and South America, Europe and Africa, West Asia, Russia, China, East, South East and South Asia. The Group meets fortnightly and holds events on special issues.





The International Manifesto Group's events are as follows:

- Crisis in Belarus: Distinguishing Cause and Consequence in World Context (December 13, 2020)
- A Tale of Two Democracies: Venezuela After the Elections (January 9, 2021)
- Alexander Buzgalin on Protests in Russia (February 2, 2021)
- Óscar Ugarteche on Economic Crisis and Recovery in Latin America (February 2, 2021)
- 2020 as a Multipolar Moment: Jenny Clegg on China and the International System (February 2, 2021)
- Brazil in Crisis: Economic and Health Perspectives (February 16, 2021)
- Debt Problems in G7 Countries? (February 16, 2021)
- Unpacking China's New Trade Deals (March 28, 2021)
- Europe in the New Cold War (March 14, 2021)
- The Longer Telegram: First Time as Fluke, Second Time as Flop? (April 11, 2021)
- Debt Problems in the G7 Countries: An Update (April 30, 2021)
- State Capitalism or Market Socialism? The Social Character of the People's Republic of China (May 16, 2021)
- The Violence of Nonviolence: A Geopolitical Analysis of the Social and Health Effects of Sanctions (June 13, 2021)
- Presidential Elections in Peru: The Struggle Between Two Economic Models (May 30, 2021)
- Palestine, Unifier of Liberation Struggles (July 11, 2021)
- What is Happening in Cuba? (July 26, 2021)
- Ending US Aggression on Cuba is Key to World (August 29, 2021)
- Imperialism's Defeat in Afghanistan: A Tipping Point? (September 19, 2021)
- The Struggle for a Democratic State in Historic Palestine (November 14, 2021)
- Korea's Struggle for Independence, Peace, and Reunification (November 21, 2021)
- Summit for Socialist Democracy (December 11, 2021)
- China/Africa Relations: Challenges of Cooperation and Development (December 12, 2021)
- Farmers' Struggle: Successes, Lessons and Future (January 9, 2022)

- USA vs China: Whose Economy is Winning? (January 28, 2022)
- Indian Farmers and State Elections – An Update (January 30, 2022)
- Iran & Cuba Promoting Pluripolarity: International Book Launch of Farsi Translation of Cuba-US Relations (February 12, 2022)
- Clarifying the Struggle for Socialism: Uses and Misuses of Marx’s Capital (March 26, 2022)
- Fog of War Over Ukraine (March 6, 2022)
- ‘Freedom Convoy’ & Emergency: Canada’s Political Contradictions (March 13, 2022)
- Reconsidering the collapse of socialism in eastern Europe (March 27, 2022)

TALKS & EVENTS

Of course, the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic come March of 2020 brought all GERG talks online. On September 10, Radhika Desai gave a talk, ‘Is There a Magic Money Tree?’, hosted by Socialist Action Canada, and joined by discussants Yasin Kaya in Toronto and Gary Porter in Victoria, British Columbia. Then on September 30, GERG and the Marxist Education Project co-hosted Radhika Desai’s presentation on her paper, ‘21st Century Communists of the Commons and Contemporary Proudhonism.’ Although the event was presented in webinar format, Desai’s presentation gave way to a fruitful discussion among attendees.

In 2021, GERG hosted the Chris Freeman Centenary Lecture Series entitled ‘Innovation Systems 101’ from January 7 to April 1. The series provided researchers, grad students, and inter-disciplinarians with the ability to absorb a strong theoretical grounding that would enable them to apply the analytical frame of Innovation Systems to their work. The series is a tribute to Chris Freeman, the father of Innovation Studies, to commemorate his birth centenary years. The senior Innovation-scholars who chaired sessions over the course of the series included Bengt Åke Lundvall, Alan Freeman, Giovanni Dosi, Francisco Louça, Edward Lorenz, K.J. Joseph, Franco Malerba, Mammon’s Muchie, Manuel Mira Godinho, Rasigan Maharajh.

Chris Freeman Centenary Lecture Series
Innovation Systems-101
 07-January to 01-April 2021

Bengt Åke Lundvall | Alan Freeman | Giovanni Dosi | Francisco Louça | Edward Lorenz | K.J. Joseph | Rasigan Maharajh | Judith Sutz | Gabriela Dutrenit | Helena Lastres | Franco Malerba | Mammo Muchie | Manuel Mira Godinho | Lena Trojer | Gabriel Yoguel.

Jolão Marcos | Verónica Robert | Rajesh GK | Swati Mehta | Lourenço P | Nimita Pandey | Lillian K.J. Olga Mikheeva | Manuel Gonzalo | Hezron Makundi | Kenneth Fung | Gifty B. Appiah | Kehinde M | Elvis A | Leonardo Souza. | Abiodun E | Oluwayemisi | Carlos Gonzalo | Getachew Shambel

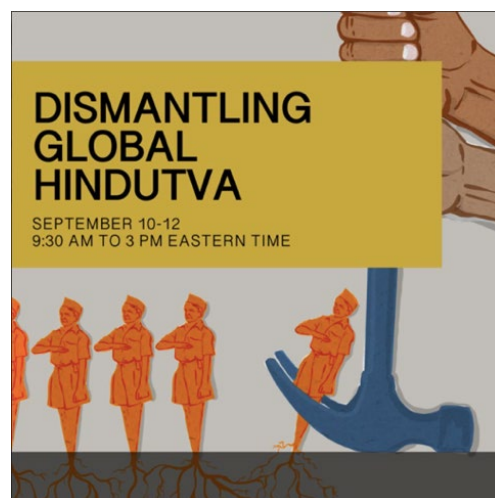
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On January 24, 2021, GERG joined organizations across Canada, including *Manitoba's Punjabi Literary and Cultural Association* and *Democracy Equality and Secularism in South Asia* in co-hosting an event featuring award-winning documentarian Anand Patwardhan on the state of cultural resistance in India.

GERG took part in the Third World Cultural Forum, with its Second Sub-Forum on Chinese Culture on May 29-30, 2021. The event was co-sponsored by the Division of Marxism of the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences (CASS), the Office of Theoretical Research and Construction Project for Marxism (CASS), the Center for Economic and Social Development (CASS), the School of Marxism at Shandong University (Weihai) and the Dongfang Yi Group held in Weihai, and over 100 scholars and experts from over 10 countries took part online or in-person.



From September 10th to 12th, GERG joined the University of Manitoba for the global conference, 'Dismantling Global Hindutva.' The conference was cosponsored by 45+ centers or departments at 40+ universities.



On September 18, GERG joined the People's Forum and Qiao Collective's event, 'China and the Left,' an international convening of organizers, scholars, and journalists whose work grapples with questions of Chinese socialism, Western imperialism, Global South internationalism, and the renewed Cold War consensus taking hold in the West. Speakers and events analyze current trends in U.S.-China

relations, Chinese development, and international relations through a socialist, anti-imperialist lens. The conference provided a space for those invested in challenging rise in the U.S.-led imperialist aggression on China to meet, strategize, and discuss. The convening is co-sponsored by Monthly Review and Codepink.

NEW COLD WAR

New Cold War, which started out as a project of GERG, has now taken on a life of its own as a platform for critical and alternative journalism within a news cycle rife with fake news and propaganda. NCW aims to provide factual and insightful analysis about the proliferating national and class conflicts that are radically changing our world, and which are inadequately covered by the established media. Focusing on the multiplying fronts of conflict in the shifting multipolar world, New Cold War aligns with the aims of GERG.

One public assessment of New Cold War is offered by a project examining ‘fake news’ hosted by Harvard University. The project is titled ‘False, misleading, clickbait and satirical ‘news’ sources’. The author name is not listed; he or she writes: “I am an assistant professor of communication & media, and this resource started as a tool for teaching my students about journalism/social media/media literacy.” The project has 1001 listings as of November 2017. It lists *NewColdWar.org* as “political” and defines that as: “Sources that provide generally verifiable information in support of certain points of view or political orientations.” *Consortium News* and *The Intercept* are listed as “reliable”



Jane Akatay, NCW’s editor, on the past three years reflection on the experience:

The original tagline for the NCW website—established in 2014—and of which I was an early follower, was “Ukraine and beyond.”

The website was in response to mainstream media’s response and “manufacturing consent” leading up to and following the US-led Maidan Coup of the same year. When I became the editor in October 2018, I thought it would be possible to ease my way into what was supposed to be a part time role “just a hour or so a day” with the invaluable advice and support of my dear friends Alan and Radhika. This turned out to be a huge underestimation...

Some events, people and authors appear to be perennial. Every year there are elections, attempted coups, economic crises, attempts to inflict western hegemony, the Covid-19 pandemic, war... all this has meant that virtually no part of the world has remained outside the scope of New Cold War, making our role as a curator and platform critical. In addition to re-posting important news and analyses, we also feature exclusive pieces such as Dmitriy Kovalevich. Some issues have proved to be perennial, while others can be contextualised in a limitless variety of different scenarios... as the world shifts from being unipolar to multipolar.



These are some of the events that NCW covered and that for me, at least, are particularly memorable.

In 2019 we saw the Trump, Lula's release in Brazil, Morales and the Bolivian coup... the Venezuela coup attempt, gaping holes in the official OPCW report on Douma... Western interference in Iran, Hong Kong, Georgia... France and the Yellow Vests, Huawei - Meng Whanzhou, election of Zelensky... Palestine, anti-semitic smears

on Jeremy Corbyn; Wikileaks, Chelsea Manning, Julian Assange; and China.

In 2020 saw more Trump, Bolton, Pompeo... more events happening in Venezuela: Guaido, Honduras, police murder of George Floyd, Russiagate, Iran, Qassem Soleimani, rise of Christian fascists in South America, the death of Andre Vltchek in Istanbul, the beginning of the Covid-19 pandemic, which continued unabated into... anti-China propaganda and Xinjiang /Uyghur claims.

In 2021 we saw Biden's inauguration, the January 6 insurrection leading up to it, the abortion ban by Texas lawmakers, WHO, Covid-19 vaccines, the first malaria vaccine, Huawei and the release of Meng Wangzhou, COP 26, and the US withdrawal from Afghanistan.'

New Cold War will continue its mission to provide readers with high quality, accurate journalism concerning ongoing geopolitical developments.

GEOPOLITICAL ECONOMY SOCIETY

We founded the Geopolitical Economy Society (GES) in 2017 to extend the reach of geopolitical economy scholarship. The Society brings together people interested in promoting, developing and engaging with geopolitical economy as a new approach to world affairs that rejects the economic cosmopolitanism of existing approaches and places the economic role of nation-states centrally in understanding the international dynamics of the world of capitalism.

The GES will enable members to network and collaborate among themselves and with other individuals and organizations to develop, share, promote and publish their research and scholarly activity. It will help them network, receive and disseminate news about scholarly and community events, and collaborate.

The GES has a formative link with GERG. It will share many resources but also will run activities of its own, such as its book pages. We anticipate it will develop a life of its own, as its members and undertake initiatives new initiatives. It will have separate accounts from GERG, but as appropriate, will pay GERG and other suppliers for resources that it uses, such as its web pages and administrative support.

Membership will also allow members to take part in selected GERG activities such as this conference and benefit from other activities, including

- Newsletters about member activities
- Inter-institutional collaboration on speaker tours
- An outlet for working papers, which could also be refereed if resources are forthcoming
- A news and views site
- A discussion list or blog pages for members
- Research projects as the (already-existing) project on Small Nations



Other activities may be added by members' initiatives as time goes on.

CREATIVITY AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT



GERG Director Alan Freeman's work on the Creative and Cultural Industries continues to bear fruit. Alan was the lead economist for this field of research at the Greater London Authority from 2000 to 2011, authoring a succession of landmark reports on London's Creative Industries. In conjunction with Radhika Desai, NESTA's Hasan Bakhshi and Peter Higgs of Queensland University of Technology, he evolved a system for classifying and measuring the Creative Industries which was subsequently adopted by

the UK's Department of Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS), setting a widely-recognised world standard. He has continued this research with the aim of allowing Canadian policy-makers with a reliable, timely and comparable system for measuring the economic impact and future course of the Creative Industries.

He collaborates with a growing network of scholars from all three North American countries, with a special focus on Canada and Manitoba. He has worked with Creative Manitoba, with Statscan's cultural economics team, with the Province's culture team, and with a number of arts organisations in Manitoba including Manitobans for the Arts and Onscreen Manitoba, to produce reliable and usable statistical information on employment and output in the creative and cultural industries. This has resulted in two papers written in conjunction with Tom



Sparling of Creative Manitoba and Greg Miles of Miles Consulting Services. The first, entitled '*Jobs and Wealth in Manitoba's Creative Economy*' was published in 2019 by Creative Manitoba; the second, 'Culture in a time of Covid: An Early Warning Reporting System for Canada's Cultural and Creative Economy' is being prepared for publication.

Freeman took part in two conferences in Mexico on the subject of the creative industries, and in November 2019 was an invited guest speaker to the conference organised by the National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM) entitled 'Capitalismo en el siglo XXI. Acumulación de capital, cambio tecnológico y repercusiones socioeconómicas' (Capitalism in the 21st Century> Capital accumulation, technical change and socioeconomic repercussions), which was part of a broader project entitled 'La constitución de la economía digital global. Oportunidades y retos de la inserción de México' (Constitution of the global digital economy: opportunities and challenges for its role in Mexico).

Freeman's work has a broad international reach and is contributing to new thinking in several parts of the world. He edited a translation into English of *The Creation of Value by Living Labour: A Normative and Empirical Study*, by Cheng Enfu, Wang Guijin and Zhu Kui, in two volumes, published by Canut Press, for which he also wrote the introduction. His article on 'Creative Labour, Mental Objects and the Modern Theory of production' was published by *Science and Society* in October 2020 and two articles are in the process of publication in Russia, where he has also contributed to national conferences organised by the Free Economic Society of Russia in conjunction with the Russian Academy of Sciences, including his paper entitled, 'What is the creative economy?'



Freeman's forthcoming papers include, 'When was modernization? technological change, creative labour and the state,' in Bodrunov et al. (eds) *Anthology of No-onomy*, and 'Mental objects as a force of production,' in Bodrunov (ed).

FELLOWSHIPS AND INTERNSHIPS

Our intern, Wenhui Li, who has worked with GERG's Associate Director, Ellen Judd of the University of Manitoba's Anthropology Department, has been working on a research project entitled, 'Farmland Protection Policy from The Perspective of Ecological Civilization.'

Her research deals with the problems and difficulties as follows:

(1) How to improve the dynamic balance policy of total cultivated land. The dynamic balance of the total amount of cultivated land needs to achieve a dual balance of quantity and quality. By studying the cultivated land protection policies implemented in foreign countries under the condition of taking into account the ecological environment, according to the different conditions of cultivated land in various regions, combined with Chinese conditions, discuss the development of economically developed



areas and underdeveloped areas. How to implement the adjustment mechanism of cultivated land protection indicators and realize the dynamic balance of the total cultivated land nationwide.

(2) How to establish an ecological environment compensation mechanism. Learn from foreign experience, especially the Canadian agricultural subsidy policy, study the direction of ecological protection policy, and distinguish the compensation mechanism for ecological environment damage by producers, developers, and operators.

(3) How to use all-media means to improve the awareness of cultivated land protection of the public. How to use effective publicity means, such as WeChat public account, video platform and other media network construction, to establish national ecological awareness and improve the enthusiasm of cultivated land protection.

GOVERNANCE

GERG was established as a Research Group by the University of Manitoba under its *Research Centres Institutes and Groups Policy* on 6 January 2015. GERG's director is Radhika Desai. GERG is advised by an International Advisory Committee (IAC) comprising seven scholars of international repute and is managed by an Executive Committee comprising the Director and Associate Directors, who are appointed by the director subject to the approval of the IAC.

The International Advisory Committee:

Abigail Bakan (Canada),
Jayati Ghosh (India),
Kees van der Pijl (the Netherlands),
SeongJing Jeong (Korea),
Boris Kagarlitsky (Russia),
Alicia Puyana (Mexico) and
Diana Tussie (Argentina).

The current Associate Directors are

Henry Heller (History)
Ellen Judd (Anthropolgy)
Colin Gillespie (physicist, lawyer, strategic analyst and writer)
Ralph Stern (Architecture)

and the Research Director is Alan Freeman (Faculty of Arts).

As of 2018, GERG has been lucky to have two excellent research assistants, Brendan Devlin and Ajit Singh. Although Ajit is no longer involved, we want to recognize the vital role he played in the successful administration of the 2019 WAPE conference. As of 2022, Aziz Hakim and Natalie Braun have joined GERG's research assistance team.

GERG's general practice is to establish ad-hoc bodies to manage its partnered projects such as its conference, academy, speaker visits, and research activities, in which the University, and partners, are represented in such a way as to ensure their interests are fully represented. It strives for these

bodies to be diverse and representative with respect to gender, ethnicity and, where relevant, country of origin. GERG consults its members in the University on strategic matters.

GERG is committed to high scholarly quality. To this end, its practice is to establish bodies charged with the scrutiny and, where appropriate, peer review, of all published outputs including conference papers and submissions to its website. It is also committed to providing a platform, and outlets, for new voices and for views that are under-represented or suppressed in mainstream narratives.