

SELF-GOVERNANCE

July, 2026

Red Action / Red Initiative is a communist organisation formed in 2020 through the unification of Red Action from Croatia (formed 2008) and Red Initiative from Serbia (formed 2002). The decision to merge was based on the following conclusions:

1) The global capitalist system remains the key obstacle to the liberation of Humanity, threatening to cause irreparable environmental damage and consequently questioning the basic preconditions of human survival. The key factor of Capitalism's survival is the lack or insufficient strength of the movement which is supposed to enable the revolutionary change of the mode of production. Building and empowering this movement is the task of all the groups and individuals who seek liberation from exploitation and rescuing the planet from destruction.

2) Nationalism remains the main instrument of the ruling forces against the left and revolutionary democratic and socialist changes in the Balkans. Nationalism cannot be an instrument of liberation of the peninsula nor any country individually. It is always an instrument for maintaining the conflicts between the peoples of the Balkans and dependence of the entire region on the imperial Metropole. Progressive changes can only be common if the equality of each nation and people is respected. Therefore, we are establishing one joint organisation operating in several countries. This includes joint strategic and ideological leadership, while tactical decisions are to be made on the level of the organisation in each country.

3) A Communist organisation is not a purpose in itself but rather a mechanism for building cadres and strengthening struggles. Communists are not here to preach or quarrel with the left but to put themselves in the front lines of all progressive struggles in their local communities and work for their unification with other struggles into one revolutionary direction. That includes all the social struggles of a working-class and all the struggles against the nationalist, racist, gender, sexual and any other oppression. Therefore our organisation is primarily focused on strengthening those struggles in our base communities rather than being the purpose in itself.

4) Communism is opposed to every dogmatism and fetishism of individual tactics. All the methods of struggle can potentially be legitimate, whether they are legal or otherwise, if useful in the development of progressive struggles. Also, the communist organization cannot live in the past and fight the lost wars of socialist countries and movements from the previous century, but it must stand up to anti-communist propaganda – from the left or the right – whose main purpose is the demobilization of revolutionary movement.

The new organisation will act in the future under the name Red Action / Red Initiative, and its members will endeavour to be the key actors in their local progressive struggles while at the same time constructing common regional revolutionary movement with the goal of changing the social system. We hope that we will find new comrades and comrades-in-arms in the course of this struggle.

What is SELF-GOVERNANCE to us?

Several hundred workers marched to the beat of martial music through the streets of Kragujevac in February 1876, and at the head of the column was a large red banner with the words SELF- GOVERNANCE. It was one of the first major manifestations of the workers' movement in the Yugoslav countries. It occurred after the authorities tried to "steal" the victory of the socialists in the local elections, and the flag and the event became one of the symbols of the history of socialism in this region. One hundred and fifty years later, our collective, whose strongest roots are precisely in Kragujevac, carried the red flag with the words SELF- GOVERNANCE at numerous manifestations throughout Serbia, and also used the slogan in our activities in Croatia. For us, this is not just some historical memory. The slogan SELF- GOVERNANCE best reflects the essence of our line and strategy, in another words, what we think it is necessary to do today.

First, SELF- GOVERNANCE is resistance to the increasingly open dictatorship of capital and its local representatives. With the restoration of dependent capitalism as it prevails in our countries, the state systems tasked with maintaining it inevitably become more and more repressive. It is a political system that cannot offer the peoples of the Balkans any long-term progress, and can only be maintained by force that escalates when inevitable resistance appears. This is currently most visible in Serbia, where the protest movement in recent years has led to the largest mass movement in the last 30 years in the Yugoslav region. But also elsewhere, repression, state-imposed conservatism and nationalism are clearly growing stronger. SELF- GOVERNANCE in this sense is not only resistance to local bullies and their thugs, it is also the only possible method of struggle. Liberation does not and cannot be found in systemic actions through parliaments or legalistic associations. In contrast to them, the expression of SELF- GOVERNANCE is the plenums and assemblies that have sprung up now, as in all previous situations of struggle against the system.

Secondly, SELF- GOVERNANCE is resistance to imperialism, its wars and the destruction of people and nature. Although our first and most visible enemies are the local rulers, it is an undeniable fact that local authorities represent only the first comprador layer of a system that is global. The current American administration, which still governs the most powerful imperialism, has exposed the brutality of its rule to the broadest masses as never before, but along the way it has also exposed the role that small dependent countries like ours play in its rule. Contrary to the wishes of the vast majority of the inhabitants of our countries, imperialism has turned us into accomplices in the genocide in Gaza and the slaughterhouses in Ukraine and Iran, through the arms industry or the use of territory for the military needs of the imperialists. At the same time, imperialism is interested in our countries, as well as in the rest of the world, only to the extent that it can plunder them, leaving us with destruction and poverty, whether it is lithium in Serbia, data centers in Croatia, and so on. SELF- GOVERNANCE is in this sense a fight for the freedom of the peoples of the Balkans and the rest of the world.

Thirdly, SELF- GOVERNANCE is a fight for socialism. Although the "socialist self-government" of the second Yugoslavia period has been rightly criticized for its market elements and the

great power it gave to political and managerial elites, the very name contains the essential essence of socialism: work under the control of workers, for the benefit of the broadest strata of society. Contrary to the claims of regime propagandists, we do not live in any “democracy”, because the vast majority of the world’s population is a victim of the tyranny of wage labor. In order to survive, we are forced to submit to the control of the bosses every working day and invest our bodies and minds in the production of other people’s profits. As long as this is the case, none of us fully governs ourselves, that is, we are not free. Socialism, as a system of production for satisfying the needs of all, and not filling private pockets, and a system in which the means of production are socially owned, is a prerequisite for every other liberation.

Against the dictatorship of capital and imperialism, for socialism and liberation – that is our SELF- GOVERNANCE!

War drama of the Balkan servants of imperialism

Will Croatia, Albania and Kosovo first occupy Serbia, or will Serbia destroy the capital of Croatia with its "*Zagreb*" missiles before that? The ruling cliques in Croatia and Serbia, and beyond, frighten us with such imbecile fantasies every day. The most miserable servants of imperialism, the conceited "leaders" who do not manage either the state budgets or the resources of the countries they only seemingly lead, are now trying to convince us that they are great military leaders. Their tabloids and televisions want to force us into the embrace of increasingly repressive authorities in order to save ourselves from certain destruction in a new Yugoslav war.

And why are our comprador little dictators playing the role of village's Napoleons? Because their survival in power depends on the mercy of their bosses, and the mercy of their bosses on the purchase of expensive weapons and participation in imperialist wars, all at the expense of the working people in Croatia and Serbia. In addition to justifying new repression, with which they intend to remain in power, war is also good business. French planes, Israeli and Turkish drones and equipment, etc., are just part of the identical purchases made by the ruling cliques in both countries at enormous cost to the local population.

The fact that it is not officially in NATO allows Serbia to buy Chinese equipment in addition to Western equipment, while Croatia maintains relations only through economic cooperation. But in practice, all serious military cooperation of Serbia, just like Croatia, is with NATO, while that with competitors is symbolic. In everything that is currently important – the war in Ukraine, the genocide in Palestine and the attack on Iran – Croatia and Serbia are each doing their utmost in their own way to help their same masters. But that is not enough.

The crumbling Western empire is trying more and more frantically to start a world war in a desperate attempt to stop or at least slow down its inevitable descent from the world throne. Its logic of preventive war demands that it strike before it is too late. But in order to strike, it is necessary to mobilize not only its forces, but also all its serfs. Just as the French colonial empire kidnapped people from Senegal more than a hundred years ago to send them to the trenches of Verdun, so today our colonial masters demand our blood and our sweat for their wars.

Our compradors, the servants of the imperialists who were imposed on us as local chiefs, know that no one wants to part from their mouths or shed their blood so that pedophile billionaires like Trump and his entire class, regardless of their party, can build their hotels and towers in Tehran. That is why they want to convince us with this pitiful play that arming and "tightening belts" is important for some of our imagined Balkan wars. Spreading distrust and animosity among the Balkan peoples is the main tool with which imperialism has always ruled this region, as well as many others.

Death to imperialism – freedom for the people!

Down with fascism and war!

