VÄXJÖS GNISTA

Växjö’s Gnista is a magazine that aims to build connections with and contribute to an antifascist, socialist, and LGBTQ+-inclusive democratic movement. The magazine, which is open to contributions from writers, workers, artists, and activists who defend revolutionary and democratic values, offers in-depth analyses and personal reflections through articles, interviews, reports, and literary and artistic works. that sheds light on the current political situation in Sweden and around the world. Växjö’s Gnista, which is published 3–4 times a year, is primarily in Swedish but welcomes contributions in other languages.

NR 3 2026: IMPERIALIST WARS ABROAD, CLASS WAR AT HOME

The division of the world among the major imperialist states is based on capital and power, both in times of peace and in times of war. The world is becoming increasingly divided between old imperialist powers and emerging imperialist powers, such as Israel and Iran, Turkey and the United Arab Emirates, whose growing ambitions are exacerbating global rivalries. Meanwhile, the rivalry between the US and China is intensifying various regional contradictions. The decline of the US empire is steadily met by advances of Chinese social-imperialism. The US imperialists are becoming increasingly aggressive in a desperate attempt to revive its gendarme role of the world order.

This aggression is not only played out in the battlefields or regions of conflict, but in our daily lives as well. Imperialist aggression’s divert attention from internal social conflicts and economic inequality - the focus is shifted from the struggle between social classes at home to an external power struggle. While imperialist aggressions are taking place abroad, our working conditions as well as our civil rights at home are deteriorating fast, in the name of national interest and security, and the competitiveness of the capitalists.

War and war economy are used as a pretext for the new wave of attacks against the working class. Lower salaries, increasingly precarious working conditions and butchered social benefit systems - while our democratic protests, strikes and movements are increasingly characterized as illegal.

Since the last decades, the European Union has lost initiative and sees its position weakened globally. This has triggered, among other things, a profound political crisis in most European countries. In this context, the Western capitalist world has embarked on a destructive race to war, and towards a war economy that is also presented as a solution to industrial decline and economic stagnation. Sweden is no exception.

Swedish imperialism is characterised by subordination to the US-led imperialist bloc. In recent years, Sweden has undergone extensive militarisation: NATO membership, ever-closer military and 'security' cooperation with the US – such as the DCA agreement and Pax Silica, a defence budget that has multiplied several times over, and an avalanche-like increase in arms exports. In 2025, military equipment worth 28 billion was exported, which is one of the highest figures ever recorded for Swedish arms exports.

Whilst Sweden exports weapons, we also import them - especially intelligence systems, which will prove very useful in the intensified repression brought about by the new laws granting the state extensive power to monitor and eavesdrop on private individuals. Together with the new counter-terrorism legislation, restrictions on the freedom to demonstrate and an unprecedented rapid shift to harsher criminal laws, the state has laid the foundations for an authoritarian regime capable of cracking down hard on social movements – that is to say, the working class.

The time for raising awareness and mobilizing efforts is urgent.

We look forward to receiving your reflections, experiences, analyses, examples and reports based on this theme.

Deadline for submissions: 5 October

Length: maximum 4,000 words

Växjö's Gnista is run by voluntary efforts, which means we are unable to pay for contributions.

If you agree to your contribution being published under your name, please send a short biography about yourself and a photograph (along with the name of the photographer, which must be credited). We are open to the use of pseudonyms.

In Solidarity,

The editorial board of Växjö's Gnista