

Newark, N.J., Jan. 5: No more blood for oil - No war with Iran

written by Struggle - La Lucha
January 4, 2020



JANUARY 5, 2020
MILITARY PARK, NEWARK, NJ
1-4 PM

**NO WAR
WITH IRAN**

Sunday, January 5, 2020 at 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM EST

Military Park

Broad St, Newark, New Jersey 07102

A United States war with Iran would be an unmitigated disaster, morally and religiously indefensible. The assassination of Iran's General Soleimani on Iraqi soil and the mobilization of thousands more US troops to the Middle East can only be viewed as an attempt to start yet another war for oil in the Middle East. At a time when the climate crisis is so dire that an entire continent is literally on fire we cannot permit this to be done in our name. Join us as we say No More Blood for Oil -

No War with Iran!

co-sponsors: [Sisters of Charity of Saint Elizabeth](#), [North NJ Democratic Socialists of America](#), [Green Party of New Jersey](#), [Extinction Rebellion New Jersey](#), [The Climate Mobilization](#) - Hoboken Chapter, [New Jersey Revolution Radio](#)

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¡Alto a la guerra contra Irán!
¡Regresen todas las tropas ya!

written by Struggle - La Lucha
January 4, 2020

¡No más sanciones! **Alto a la guerra** **de EUA** **contra Irán**

Estados Unidos fuera del Medio Oriente
Dinero para empleos, salud y educación.

Struggle-la-lucha.org  **StopWarOnIran.com**

Alto a la guerra de Estados Unidos contra Irán

Estados Unidos fuera del Medio Oriente

Dinero para empleos, salud y educación.

El régimen de Trump lanzó un ataque furtivo y cobarde contra dos países con los que Estados Unidos no está en guerra. Los asesinatos del general iraní Qassem Soleimani y el iraquí Abu Mahdi Mohandas están calculados para desatar más guerra y destrucción en toda la región. Siguen al asesinato de 25 soldados iraquíes por la Fuerza Aérea de los EUA cuatro días antes.

Estos asesinatos son crímenes contra la paz, el mayor crimen de guerra según el derecho internacional. Son una versión global de Cointelpro, el programa secreto del gobierno de EUA que asesinó a decenas de líderes negrxs, latinxs e indígenas en las décadas de 1960 y 1970.

Nuevos informes dicen que los marines estadounidenses están “arrestando” (traducción: secuestrando) legisladores iraquíes elegidos. El régimen colonizador racista de Israel está colaborando con la Casa Blanca y el Pentágono para intensificar esta guerra.

Soleimani lideró la lucha contra ISIS

“El acto estadounidense de terrorismo internacional, atacando y asesinando al general Soleimani, quien dirigió la fuerza más efectiva que lucha contra Daesh (ISIS), al-Nusrah, al-Qaida y otros, es una escalada extremadamente peligrosa e insensata”, dijo el canciller iraní Irán Javad Zarif en Twitter. “Estados Unidos será el responsable por todas las consecuencias de su aventura canallesca”.

En juego enormes ganancias e inversiones

¿Quién podría querer tal cosa? Los intereses energéticos que dominan la Casa Blanca de Trump, y los bancos que los financian. La carrera política del secretario de estado Mike Pompeo fue pagada por Koch Industries, un gran beneficiario del fracking. La industria energética ha llegado a depender de la guerra en el oeste de Asia y el norte de África, ricos en petróleo. Ahora están en crisis, como lo atestiguan los titulares en The Wall Street Journal (WSJ):

“Los productores de energía se enfrentan a una gran pérdida después de la bonanza del petróleo de esquisto”, escribió el WSJ el 1 de enero.

“La factura se debe a la guerra de precios de la industria del esquisto con la OPEP, y las compañías de petróleo y gas de América del Norte tendrán más de \$200 mil

millones de deuda con vencimiento en los próximos cuatro años”, comienza el siguiente artículo.

“Los precios del petróleo caerán a pesar de los recortes de la OPEP, predicen los bancos “, escribió el WSJ el 23 de diciembre.

“Los gigantes de la energía confrontan el exceso con oleadas de desvalorizaciones”, informó un titular del 20 de diciembre de WSJ.

En un artículo del 15 de diciembre titulado, “La desaceleración del esquisto tiene costo económico”, el WSJ citó al economista del Banco de la Reserva Federal Michael Plante: “El momento de auge terminó, a menos que los precios del petróleo suban significativamente”.

“Los fabricantes se enfrentan a una nueva amenaza por la caída del fracking”, decía un titular del 15 de diciembre.

Sin embargo, el WSJ del 26 de diciembre informaba “los grandes inversores muestran amor por los campos de gas que otros evitan”. Entre los que compran campos no rentables está el aliado de Trump y propietario de los Dallas Cowboys, Jerry Jones. Más importante aún, ExxonMobil y Chevron anunciaron importantes inversiones en la Cuenca Pérmica a principios de este año, a pesar de la caída de los precios. “La próxima era de perforación de esquisto es probable que sea liderada por las principales compañías petroleras”, comentó el WSJ.

El exceso de energía mundial también pone en peligro las ganancias que los bancos estadounidenses esperan obtener de la oferta pública de Saudi ARAMCO, la compañía petrolera más grande del mundo, y los planes estadounidense-israelíes para comercializar en Europa el gas robado de los palestinos. Miles de millones de dólares en ganancias e inversiones están en juego.

Las guerras de EUA contra Irak, Libia y Siria trajeron enormes ganancias a las

empresas estadounidenses, especialmente a las de energía. Hicieron posible el auge del fracking, en el que los principales bancos y corporaciones vertieron cientos de miles de millones de dólares. Pero era una burbuja, y esa burbuja ha colapsado. El régimen de Trump está apostando a que una guerra importante pueda traerlo de vuelta.

Guerra contra Irán es guerra contra la clase trabajadora aquí

La guerra con Irán puede enriquecer aún más a los banqueros y multimillonarios, pero solo traerá un desastre a las comunidades oprimidas y de clase trabajadora aquí. El Dr. Martin Luther King dijo: “Las bombas que caen en Vietnam explotan aquí”. Lo mismo se aplica a las bombas y misiles que Estados Unidos arroja sobre Asia occidental y el norte de África.

El presupuesto militar de \$758 mil millones viene a expensas de nuestros cupones de alimentos, nuestras escuelas, hospitales, viviendas, bibliotecas y sistemas de tránsito. ¿Por qué no podemos tener atención médica y universidad gratuitas como tantos otros países? ¿Dónde está el dinero para proporcionar agua potable a Flint, Newark y otras ciudades de EUA? ¿Dónde está el dinero para reparar los daños causados por huracanes en Puerto Rico?

También pagaremos el costo de esta guerra en el puesto de gasolina y en el costo del combustible para calefacción este invierno.

La guerra también está destinada a salvar y fortalecer la industria del fracking, que está envenenando a las comunidades nativas y rurales en los EUA además de causar cáncer. También es una fuente importante de metano que afecta el clima.

Medios monopolistas convergen en torno a la guerra

Los medios corporativos han criticado a Trump por perjudicar la intervención estadounidense en Ucrania. Pero se regodean con los asesinatos selectivos

completamente ilegales del régimen de Trump.

Algunos políticos demócratas han criticado insípidamente esta peligrosa escalada. A Nancy Pelosi le preocupa que Trump no lo haya pasado por el Congreso. ¿Pero actuarán ahora para detener esta guerra? ¿Acusarán a Trump por crímenes contra la paz y violar la Ley de Poderes de Guerra? ¿Sacarán ahora todas las tropas, barcos, aviones y activos militares estadounidenses de la región?

El pueblo debe intervenir

No podemos confiar en los políticos burgueses. ¡Necesitamos una acción de masas urgente en las calles y en los lugares de trabajo para detener esta guerra!

¡Manos fuera de Irán! ¡Estados Unidos fuera de Asia occidental y el norte de África!
¡No más guerras por ganancias del monopolio petrolero! ¡Todas las tropas, barcos y aviones estadounidenses a casa ahora! ¡Alto a las sanciones ya! ¡Alto a toda ayuda al estado racista de Israel! ¡Dinero para escuelas, salud y viviendas, no para el Pentágono y la CIA!

Norfolk, Va. Jan. 4: No war on Iran!

written by Struggle - La Lucha
January 4, 2020





Hosted by Tidewater Solidarity Collective

Saturday, January 4, 2020 at 6:00 PM EST

Town Point Park

Norfolk, Virginia 23510

Bring your voice, your signs, your banners, your instruments, your hopes, your fears, your passion, and all of your rage. NO WAR WITH IRAN. Come out and unequivocally oppose this warmongering attack that will cost millions their lives. The rich start wars the poor die for. Reject imperialism, reject intervention, reject war. We have to move on this NOW while the world is looking, and Saturday is a National Day of Action to say NO. NOT IN OUR NAME.

On [Facebook](#)



Stop the war against Iran! Bring all

the troops home now!

written by Struggle - La Lucha
January 4, 2020



The Trump regime has launched a cowardly sneak attack on two countries with which the U.S. is not at war. The murders of Iran's Gen. Qassem Soleimani and Iraq's Abu Mahdi Mohandas are calculated to unleash more war and destruction across the entire region. It follows the murder of 25 Iraqi soldiers by the U.S. Air Force four days earlier.

These murders are crimes against peace, the highest war crime under international

law. They are a global version of Cointelpro, the U.S. government secret program which murdered dozens of Black, Latinx and Indigenous leaders in the 1960s and 1970s.

New reports say U.S. Marines are “arresting” (translation: kidnapping) elected Iraqi legislators. The racist settler regime of Israel is collaborating with the White House and Pentagon in escalating this war.

Soleimani led fight against ISIS

“The U.S. act of international terrorism, targeting and assassinating Gen. Soleimani—who led the most effective force fighting Daesh (ISIS), al-Nusrah, al-Qaida, et al.—is extremely dangerous and a foolish escalation,” said Iran’s Foreign Minister Javad Zarif on [Twitter](#). “The U.S. bears responsibility for all consequences of its rogue adventurism.”

Huge profits and investments at stake

Who could want such a thing? The energy interests that dominate the Trump White House, and the banks that fund them want it most of all. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo’s political career was paid for by Koch Industries, a major fracking profiteer. Big Energy has come to depend on war in oil-rich West Asia and North Africa. Now they are in a crisis, as headlines in The Wall Street Journal (WSJ) attest:

[“Energy Producers Face Big Tab After Shale Oil Bonanza,”](#) the WSJ wrote on Jan. 1.

“The bill is coming due for the shale industry’s price war with OPEC, with North American oil-and-gas companies having more than \$200 billion of debt maturing over the next four years,” begins the article that follows.

“Oil Prices to Slide Despite OPEC Cuts, Banks Predict,” the WSJ wrote on Dec. 23.

“Energy Giants Confront Glut With Wave of Write-Downs,” reported a Dec. 20 WSJ headline.

In a Dec. 15 article headlined, “Shale Slowdown Takes Economic Toll,” the WSJ quoted Federal Reserve Bank economist Michael Plante: “The boom time is done at this point, unless oil prices go up significantly.”

“Manufacturers Face New Threat From Fracking Slump,” read a Dec. 15 headline.

Nonetheless, “Big Investors Showing Love to Gas Fields Others Shun,” the WSJ reported on Dec. 26. Among those buying up unprofitable fields is Trump ally and Dallas Cowboys owner Jerry Jones. More important, ExxonMobil and Chevron announced major investments in the Permian Basin earlier this year, despite falling prices. “The next era of shale drilling is likely to be led by the major oil companies,” the WSJ commented.

The global energy glut also imperils the profits that U.S. banks hope to make off the public offering of Saudi ARAMCO, the world’s biggest oil company, and U.S.-Israeli plans to market stolen Palestinian gas in Europe. Trillions of dollars in profits and investments are at stake.

The U.S. wars against Iraq, Libya and Syria brought huge profits to Corporate America, especially energy firms. They made possible the fracking boom, into which major banks and corporations poured hundreds of billions of dollars. But it was a bubble, and that bubble has collapsed. The Trump regime is betting that a major war can bring it back.

War on Iran is war on the working class here

War with Iran may further enrich bankers and billionaires, but it will only bring disaster to working-class and oppressed communities here. Dr. Martin Luther King said, “The bombs that fall in Vietnam explode here.” The same is true of the bombs

and missiles the U.S. drops on West Asia and North Africa.

The \$758 billion military budget comes at the expense of our food stamps, our schools, hospitals, housing, libraries and transit systems. Why can't we have free medical care and college like so many other countries? Where is the money to provide clean drinking water to Flint, Newark and other U.S. cities? Where is the money to repair hurricane damage in Puerto Rico?

We will also pay the cost of this war at the gas pump and in the cost of heating oil this winter.

The war is also meant to save and strengthen the fracking industry, which is poisoning Native and rural communities across the U.S. and is a major cause of cancer. It is also a major source of climate-changing methane.

Monopoly media rally around war

The corporate media have roasted Trump for impairing U.S. intervention in Ukraine. But they are gloating over the Trump regime's completely illegal targeted assassinations.

Some Democrat politicians have offered milquetoast criticism of this dangerous escalation. Nancy Pelosi is concerned that Trump went around Congress. But will they act now to stop this war? Will they impeach Trump for crimes against peace and violating the War Powers Act? Will they get all U.S. troops, ships, planes and military assets out of the region now?

The people must intervene

We cannot rely on bourgeois politicians. We need urgent mass action in the streets and in the workplace to stop this war!

Hands off Iran! U.S. out of West Asia and North Africa! No more wars for oil monopoly profits! Bring all U.S. troops, ships and planes home now! End sanctions now! End all aid to the racist state of Israel! Money for schools, health care and housing, not the Pentagon and the CIA!



Stop U.S. war on Iran

written by Struggle - La Lucha
January 4, 2020



U.S. out of Iraq and the Middle East!

NO to war! NO to sanctions on Iran!

Money for jobs, health care and education!

No Pentagon war for Big Oil profits!

[embeddoc

url="https://struggle-la-lucha.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/leafletJan3.pdf"

download="all" viewer="google"]

The assassination of Iranian Gen. Qassem Soleimani and Abu Mahdi al-Muhandis, deputy leader of the Iraqi Popular Mobilization Forces, ordered by U.S. President Donald Trump, was a declaration of war against the people of Iran, Iraq and all of the Middle East.

Trump and the Pentagon have ordered 750 more U.S. troops to be sent to the Middle East and possibly 3,000 more, on top of the 5,200 U.S. troops already stationed in Iraq. This followed major protests by the Iraqi people in response to the Pentagon's aerial assault that killed scores of innocent civilians.

The new air assaults have ignited nationwide resistance by the Iraqi people, who want to reclaim their full sovereignty and do not want Iraq to be used in a U.S. war on Iran.

Corporate media and congressional leaders have backed Trump's cowardly and illegal tactics. Democratic and Republican leaders alike have joined in promoting the Big Lie that Iran is a terrorist state, which aims to trick poor and working people into supporting yet another war for Wall Street and Big Oil profits.

Whose war? Big Oil and fracking companies

More than a million Iraqi people have died during the past 28 years as a result of the U.S. occupation, bombings and sanctions. Tens of thousands of GIs have also been killed or badly wounded.

Why? To control the flow of oil and guarantee profits for the trillion-dollar oil and fracking corporations!

Meanwhile, workers at home are facing major cuts to food stamps and disability benefits. In April of this year, 700,000 people will be dropped from SNAP benefits and millions will get fewer benefits.

As one example, in Baltimore city, 22.2 percent of people already go to bed hungry. In rural areas that have suffered from low wages and no wages, the loss of food stamps will mean that many small grocery stores will have to close their doors.

But not the Pentagon! This year the world's biggest polluter got a \$130 billion

increase.

Shut down the Pentagon and 800+ overseas military bases

We are just weeks away from celebrating the birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. It was Dr. King who proclaimed that the bombs dropped on Vietnam were like bombs dropped on cities at home.

If we are to declare war, then let it be a war on racism, police terror, anti-immigrant bigotry and violence, low wages and poverty. The best people's defense is to shut down the Pentagon.

Don't be silent this coming year. Join us in the fight to end U.S. wars and for a socialist future.



Minneapolis Jan. 4: Anti-war

protest: U.S. Troops Out of Iraq - No War on Iran

written by Struggle - La Lucha
January 4, 2020



Hosted by Minnesota Peace Action Coalition

Emergency protest:

U.S. Troops Out of Iraq – – No U.S. War on Iran

Saturday, January 4, 2020

1:00 pm

Mayday Plaza

3rd Street & Cedar Ave South

West Bank

Minneapolis

Local protests will be held in cities around the U.S. on Saturday, January 4 to speak out against U.S. military intervention in Iraq and the against the growing danger of U.S. war on Iran.

For more information 612 827-5364.

On [Facebook](#)



PFLP: The U.S. assassination of Major General Qassem Soleimani requires a comprehensive response

written by Struggle - La Lucha
January 4, 2020



The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine strongly condemns the U.S. assassination of General Qassem Soleimani, commander of the Quds Force in the Iranian Revolutionary Guard, and Abu Mahdi al-Muhandis, deputy leader of the Popular Mobilization Forces in Iraq. The Front views this assassination on Iraqi soil as a qualitative shift in the U.S. aggression and the war that it is fighting, together

with the Zionist entity, in various forms against the people of the region and the resistance forces in it.

The Front emphasized that the infiltration and occupation of more than one Arab country, the latest of which was this aggression and occupation that took place in Iraq, calls for a coordinated, comprehensive and continuous response from the resistance forces and all patriotic forces against U.S. imperialism and the Zionist entity.

The Front sends its sincere condolences to the Iranian people and leadership on the martyrdom of Major General Qassem Soleimani. The Palestinian people will not forget his proactive and prominent role in embodying the position of the Islamic Republic of Iran by supporting the Palestinian people's just struggle against the Zionist entity, supporting the resistance forces and developing their capabilities.

Source: [PFLP](#)



Baltimore Jan. 4: Emergency Protest U.S. Out of Iraq - No war on Iran

written by Struggle - La Lucha
January 4, 2020



Hosted by Youth Against War and Racism

Saturday, January 4, 2020 at 12:00 PM – 1:00 PM EST
Fayette and President Street, Baltimore (near I-83)

U.S. out of Iraq & the Middle East! No war/ No sanctions on Iran!
Money for jobs, health care & education!
No Pentagon war for big oil profits

National Coordinated Day of Protests
Baltimore, Saturday, Jan 4, 12 noon to 1 pm
@ Fayette and President Streets

Donald Trump and the Pentagon have ordered 750 more U.S. troops to be sent to the Middle East and possibly 3,000 more on top of the 5,200 U.S. troops already stationed in Iraq. This followed major protests by the Iraqi people in response to the Pentagon aerial assault that killed scores of innocent people.

The new air assaults ignited nationwide resistance by the Iraqi people who want to reclaim their full sovereignty and do not want Iraq to be used in a U.S. war on Iran.

Whose war? Big Oil & Fracking Companies

More than a million Iraqi people have died during the past 28 years as a result of the U.S. occupation, bombings and sanctions. Tens of thousands of GI's have also been killed or badly wounded. Why? To control the flow of oil and guarantee profits for the trillion dollar oil and fracking corporations!

Meanwhile, workers at home are facing major cuts to food stamps and disability benefits. In April of this year, 700,000 people will be dropped from SNAP benefits and millions will get fewer benefits. Cuts. In Baltimore city, 22.2% of people already go to bed hungry.

In rural areas, that have suffered from low wages and no wages — the loss of food stamps will mean that many small grocery stores will have to close their doors.

But not the Pentagon! This year they got a \$130 billion increase.

Shut down the Pentagon and the 800+ overseas military bases

We are weeks from celebrating the birthday of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. It was Dr. King who proclaimed that the bombs dropped on Vietnam, are like bombs dropped on cities at home.

If we are to declare war let it be on racism, police terror, anti-immigrant bigotry and violence or on low wages and poverty. The best people's defense is to shut down the Pentagon!

Statement issued by: [Peoples Power Assembly Youth Against War and Racism Struggle - La Lucha for Socialism](#)

Don't be silent this coming year. Join us in the struggle. Contact us: Call or text 410-218-4835

Or follow us on Facebook [Youth Against War and Racism Peoples Power Assembly Struggle - La Lucha for Socialism](#)



U.S tech giants back India's Hindu nationalist prime minister

written by Struggle - La Lucha

January 4, 2020

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) are weaponizing India's digital communications industry with the goal of turning India into a religious Hindu state.

The giant U.S. internet corporations have supported and even funded the Modi campaign with millions of dollars.

Facebook founder Mark Zuckerberg has been Modi's most ardent fan. "Facebook held India up as a model for how governments could use the social network," the New York Times reported on April 1, 2019.

Zuckerberg has been backing Modi since 2011. From the start, Modi's BJP used the internet to incite violence against the oppressed Muslim minority.

Modi's use of misinformation to manipulate Indian elections has been widely reported. In a sinister twist, the BJP is currently promoting legislation that would give the government access to personal information without consent.

Modi's control of India's social media is subverting potential resources needed to overcome underdevelopment caused by colonialism. The right-wing Hindu nationalist is also shredding India's hopes for economic sovereignty by throwing the economy wide open to plunder.

His "Digital India" and "Make in India" campaigns are open invitations to the U.S. tech giants to exploit one of the world's largest online markets, currently estimated

to be at from 700 to 800 million people with a potential to be well over a billion people.

Modi has traveled to California more than once to meet with top tech leaders, including Sundar Pichai, CEO of Google; Satya Nadella, CEO of Microsoft; Tim Cook, CEO of Apple; Shantanu Narayen, CEO of Adobe Systems; Mark Zuckerberg, CEO of Facebook; Intel's Brian Krzanich; and Elon Musk, CEO of Tesla Motor. Their aspirations for the opportunities this afforded them was displayed by open wallets and unquestioning support.

Facebook

Facebook founder Mark Zuckerberg even had his mom and dad in the front row as he hosted India's prime minister at the social network's new campus in Menlo Park, Calif., according to "India Today" Sept. 28, 2015.

Before and after he won the May 2014 election in India, Facebook helped Modi develop his online presence to ensure that he had more "followers" on the social media platform than any other political leader on the planet, according to a study titled "World Leaders on Facebook" released by publisher Burson Cohn & Wolfe, May 2018. The huge, well-organized, online following helped win the election.

On May 12, 2016, the Guardian reported that the person who ran Modi's social media operation said that Facebook was extraordinarily responsive to requests from the Modi campaign, and recalled that Ankhi Das, Facebook's head of public policy in India, "never said no" to any information the campaign wanted.

Ankhi Das' presence seemed to open any door, a Facebook executive said. "We used to joke that it was like she was Modi's granddaughter."

After Modi's first visit to Silicon Valley, Zuckerberg returned to Delhi, where he met with many of India's most prominent online entrepreneurs, who assembled for a

closed-door meeting.

They wanted to talk about who had access to Facebook. “Everybody started saying, ‘Well, why are you controlling who gets on this?’” recalled Vijay Shekhar Sharma, the proprietor of the mobile payments firm Paytm.

When it was Sharma’s turn to speak, he did not hide his feelings. “I said, ‘Zuck, what are you talking about?’ In my view, it’s like the British coming in and saying, ‘While everything’s OK, we’ll come in and help you with your tax collection – and this is the percentage we’ll take.’ It’s incredible.” (The Guardian, May 12, 2016)

An infamous history of anti-Muslim violence

Narendra Modi began his political career in the state of Gujarat as a member of India’s fascist paramilitary Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS).

An early leader of the RSS, M.S. Golwalkar, wrote a book in 1939 praising Hitler and saying Nazi Germany’s “purity” by “purging the country of Semitic races” was “a good lesson for us in Hindustan to learn and profit by.” (The Times of India, Sept. 30, 2004)

Modi became active in RSS’s political branch, the BJP, in 1987, when the party had only two seats in Parliament.

Looking for an inflammatory issue to build their ranks, the BJP/RSS initiated a campaign in 1990 against a mosque called Babri Masjid, built in 1528, in Ayodhya, Uttar Pradesh.

The BJP promoted a legend that the god Ram—an avatar of Vishnu, often depicted with blue skin—had been born there and that a Hindu temple had once been on the site.

They called for the mosque to be destroyed and for a Hindu temple to take its place. They conducted a two-month rampage, called the Ram Rath Yatra, across India, traveling aboard a jeep refitted to look like a chariot and giving speeches to incite Hindu nationalism. Hundreds of Muslims were killed.

On Dec. 6, 1992, RSS partisans swarmed Babri Masjid and razed the mosque with axes and hammers.

The destruction of the mosque incited communal attacks across the country, with the biggest and bloodiest of them in Mumbai. Thousands of Muslims were slaughtered.

Modi used Facebook for election victories

During the 2014 election, BJP's primary digital tool was Facebook. Since then, smartphone use in India has exploded and Facebook's WhatsApp became their preferred campaign platform. It was often used for distributing fake news that attacked political opponents and inflamed religious violence.

Right-wing Hindu groups have used WhatsApp to spread grisly faked videos of attacks on Hindu women by Muslim mobs.

Aria Thaker reported on Quartz India, "India's raging fake news menace has reportedly led to dozens of mob-lynchings over the past few years." This fake news can be spread unknowingly.

One WhatsApp message exhorted Hindus to vote for the BJP because "this is not just an election. This is a war of faiths." (New York Times, May 14, 2018)

Life for journalists critical of the BJP and Modi is dangerous. Several have been killed.

“On the night of Sept. 5, a Honda motorcycle pulled in front of the Bengaluru home of Gauri Lankesh, an outspoken critic of Modi who had been targeted by patriotic trolls on Facebook and other social media. As the Indian journalist was unlocking her gate, three bullets struck her in the head and chest, killing her. No arrests have been made.

“The final editorial that Lankesh had written for her newspaper was titled “In the Age of False News.” In it, she lamented how misinformation and propaganda on social media were poisoning the political environment.” (Bloomberg, Dec. 21, 2017)

Shutting off the internet to stifle protest

In August, Modi’s government announced that it was suspending Article 370 of the Constitution, which grants autonomy to Kashmir, India’s only Muslim-majority state.

As masses of people rose in protest, Modi flooded Kashmir with troops and detained hundreds of prominent Muslims. To crush all resistance, cell-phone and internet service was cut off.

Starting in November, the BJP’s National Register of Citizens (NRC) began to be enforced in the state of Assam.

On Dec. 11, supplementary legislation–the Citizenship Amendment Bill (CAB)–was passed in India’s Parliament. CAB changes the Constitution, altering the basic principles of universality of citizenship, which was obtained irrespective of race, sex, religion or place of birth. Religion will now be a key determinant for obtaining Indian citizenship.

CAB and NCR leave Muslims stateless

Millions of Muslims, especially poor families living in rural areas, are unable to provide the documents required by NRC and CAB. Hundreds have already been sent

to detention (concentration) camps or forced out of the country.

When massive protests erupted against CAB, the Indian government sent in troops and shut down the internet in the states of Assam, Meghalaya and Uttar Pradesh. They were not able to silence the students whose rebellion has sparked protests in all the Indian campuses and cities.

The Indian government, which controls the world's second largest internet market, with more than 700 million connected users, continues to shut down the internet as a way to prevent people from staying in touch with one another, and from access to news and information.

Access Now, a digital rights group, reported earlier this year that India alone had about 134 of 196 documented shutdowns throughout world in 2018.

Internet spying

An Indian reporter, Manish Singh@refsrc, said on Dec. 10 that the Indian government has proposed new rules that would require technology companies to get consent from people before collecting and processing their personal data.

The rules, dubbed "Personal Data Protection Bill 2019," imply that they will protect personal data.

According to Singh, leaked copies of the bill showed that it does not offer personal protection.

In fact, the bill would "exempt any agency of the BJP government from application of the act in the interest of ... the security of the state and public order." This means that they would have the power to collect anyone's data without consent.



The U.S. road to war on China

written by Struggle - La Lucha

January 4, 2020

The imperialist media reports all read the same, like they were written on the same computer. The [Dec. 4 CNN report](#) began: “The U.S. House of Representatives passed a bill Dec. 3 demanding a tougher response from the Trump administration over reports of mass detention centers run by the Chinese government in Xinjiang.”

CNN continues: “The Uyghur Human Rights Policy Act, which still needs to gain approval from the U.S. Senate, calls for concrete measures to be taken against Beijing over allegations that up to two million Muslim-majority Uyghurs have been detained in ‘re-education’ camps in the far western region.”

It’s the kind of report and action by Congress that’s done to whip up a war fervor.

There’s a long history of this kind of propaganda going back to the beginnings of imperialist warfare.

Lenin wrote about imperialist war in his popular outline, [“Imperialism: The Highest Stage of Capitalism,”](#) which was a polemic against those socialists who supported

“their own government’s” war efforts in World War I.

Lenin’s main point was that all the big monopoly capitalist governments were fighting for predatory, expansionist and colonial goals. He showed that capitalism had emerged as a world system that was doomed to be involved in war after war as the imperialists redivide the planet for exploitative purposes.

At the time of World War I, the English and French governments whipped up war propaganda claiming a German “Rape of Belgium” was taking place.

The English and French governments and their media accused German troops of the public mass rape of Belgian girls in Liege. The classic image of the Allied propaganda against Germany was a dead Belgian baby impaled on a bayonet. German troops, eight in number, were accused of bayoneting a 2-year-old Belgian baby. The descriptions of atrocities continued and became ever more gruesome. A Belgian commission of inquiry in 1922, however, failed to find any evidence whatsoever for any of these alleged atrocities.

Such false propaganda has been used for launching almost every war in the imperialist stage of capitalism — not just inter-imperialist wars, but also wars on the oppressed as well as the socialist countries, including the Gulf of Tonkin Incident in 1964, used to launch a massive war on Vietnam. In the 2003 documentary “The Fog of War,” former Defense Secretary Robert McNamara admitted that the so-called Gulf of Tonkin attack never happened.

And for the Iraq War there were the “weapons of mass destruction” that never existed, promoted for the purpose of launching the war by politicians from then-President George W. Bush to then-Sens. Joe Biden and Hillary Clinton. The biggest source for this war propaganda at the time was the New York Times and its top reporter in the region, Judith Miller.

The New York Times has not stopped being a source for war propaganda and has played a key role in promoting false information about China.

Congressional hypocrisy

The Uyghur Human Rights Policy Act passed by the House of Representatives is presented in the media as a concern for the plight of Muslims. The reports do not question that narrative, yet it is a Congress that has practically declared war on Muslims. And, of course, President Donald Trump has instituted a Muslim ban, branded Islam as extremism and a vicious cancer that has to be excised, and increased the use of drones by five-fold over the already prolific Obama administration. He also dropped the “mother of all bombs” — the most powerful non-nuclear weapon in the U.S. arsenal — on Afghanistan.

If Congress wanted to act against the repression of Muslim peoples, why have they not said anything about the fascist-like repression and military occupation of Kashmir by the Narendra Modi government of India?

Like the reports that alleged weapons of mass destruction in Iraq, the reports on the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region of China are based on propaganda with a political agenda.

“Media outlets falsely claimed the U.N. reported China is holding a million Uyghurs in camps. The claim is based on unsourced allegations by an American commission member, U.S.-funded outfits, and a shadowy government-funded opposition group,” [Ben Norton and Ajit Singh wrote on The Grayzone](#) in an Aug. 23 report titled “No, the U.N. did not report China has ‘massive internment camps’ for Uighur Muslims.”

[A follow-up report](#) by Ajit Singh and Max Blumenthal on Dec. 21 is titled “China detaining millions of Uyghurs? Serious problems with claims by U.S.-backed NGO and far-right researcher ‘led by God’ against Beijing.” The subheading says: “Claims

that China has detained millions of Uyghur Muslims are based largely on two studies. A closer look at these papers reveals U.S. government backing, absurdly shoddy methodologies, and a rapture-ready evangelical researcher named Adrian Zenz.”

The report continues: “The claim that China has detained millions of ethnic Uyghurs in its Xinjiang region is repeated with increasing frequency, but little scrutiny is ever applied. Yet a closer look at the figure and how it was obtained reveals a serious deficiency in data.

“While this extraordinary claim is treated as unassailable in the West, it is, in fact, based on two highly dubious ‘studies.’

“The first, by the U.S. government-backed Network of Chinese Human Rights Defenders, formed its estimate by interviewing a grand total of eight people.

“The second study relied on flimsy media reports and speculation. It was authored by Adrian Zenz, a far-right fundamentalist Christian who opposes homosexuality and gender equality, supports ‘scriptural spanking’ of children, and believes he is ‘led by God’ on a ‘mission’ against China.”

“As Washington ratchets up pressure on China, Zenz has been lifted out of obscurity and transformed almost overnight into a go-to pundit on Xinjiang. He has testified before Congress, providing commentary in outlets from the Wall Street Journal to Democracy Now!, and delivering expert quotes in the International Consortium of Investigative Journalists’ recent ‘China Cables’ report.”

Zenz, a German theologist, is a senior fellow for China studies at the Victims of Communism Memorial Foundation think tank, which is backed by the CIA.

All this comes at a time when the U.S. is openly and brazenly building up its military forces aimed at China. [A recent Reuters headline](#) declared: “Pentagon to cut troops

in Africa as focus shifts to China, Russia.”

The report, which, of course, is read in China and Russia as well as the U.S., says, “Earlier this year, the U.S. military put countering China and Russia at the center of a new national defense strategy. ... A congressionally mandated report by former U.S. officials released earlier this week said that the military did not have sufficient resources to fund the military’s needs and goals.”

An openly military war has not yet begun, but the war preparations have. Make sure you don’t get caught up in the tangle of war propaganda. There is nothing being done in or by China that can in any way justify any type of intervention. It’s just imperialist propaganda that says otherwise.

