

Puerto Rico: Éxitos, en las calles

written by Struggle - La Lucha

March 15, 2022



Maestros protestan por aumentos salariales y contra recortes de pensiones en San Juan, Puerto Rico, 4 de febrero de 2022. Foto: Carlos Edill Berríos Polanco/Latino Rebels

Mientras logramos nuestra soberanía con independencia y sacar al invasor gringo, vamos caminando por la senda correcta, en las calles, enfrentando las injusticias del gobierno local cómplice del ocupante yanqui.

Los ojos del pueblo se van abriendo y comprobando que quienes nos gobiernan, no tienen los intereses nuestros como su hoja de ruta. Más bien es la corrupción, la mentira, los intereses particulares de compañías e individuos millonarios lo que prevalece y lo que defiende este gobierno.

Estos días se han ido revelando otra serie de escándalos como el de las escoltas. En un país en quiebra, donde nunca ha habido una amenaza real contra ningún oficial del gobierno, se está gastando más de mil millones del erario público para escoltar al ejecutivo, a ex gobernadores, miembros de gabinetes, etc.

Mientras tanto, dicen que no hay dinero para pagarles a los y las trabajadoras del servicio público.

Pero esta farsa está siendo expuesta y derrumbada por las magníficas manifestaciones que han estado llenando nuestras calles los últimos meses. Particularmente, las lideradas por el magisterio. Tanta fuerza han tenido, que el gobierno e incluso la Junta de Control Fiscal, tuvieron que acceder a las exigencias de una subida de salarios y compensaciones justas para maestras y maestros. Incluso, lo que corresponde a un retiro digno – ese presupuesto que tanto rehusaba aceptar la Junta, ha sido considerado.

Esto no es dádiva ni buena administración del gobierno, sino gracias a las lideresas del magisterio que han mantenido el fuego de la indignación en las calles.

Desde Puerto Rico, para Radio Clarín de Colombia, les habló Berta Joubert-Ceci



Ukraine: It was all written in the Rand Corp plan

written by Struggle - La Lucha
March 15, 2022



The strategic plan of the United States against Russia was elaborated three years ago by the Rand Corporation (The Manifesto, Rand Corp: how to bring down Russia, May 21, 2019).

The Rand Corporation, headquartered in Washington, D.C., is “a global research organization developing solutions to policy challenges”: it has an army of 1,800

researchers and other specialists recruited from 50 countries, speaking 75 languages, spread across offices and other locations in North America, Europe, Australia, and the Persian Gulf. Rand's U.S. personnel live and work in more than 25 countries.

The Rand Corporation, which describes itself as a “nonprofit, nonpartisan organization,” is officially funded by the Pentagon, the U.S. Army and Air Force, national security agencies (CIA and others), agencies in other countries, and powerful non-governmental organizations.

The Rand Corp. prides itself on having helped devise the strategy that enabled the United States to emerge victorious from the Cold War, forcing the Soviet Union to consume its resources in a grueling military confrontation. This model has inspired the new plan elaborated in 2019: “[Overextending and Unbalancing Russia](#)”, i.e. forcing the adversary to overextend itself in order to unbalance and knock it down.

These are the main lines of attack outlined in the Rand plan, on which the United States has actually moved in recent years.

First of all – the plan establishes – Russia must be attacked on the most vulnerable side, that of its economy strongly dependent on gas and oil exports: for this purpose commercial and financial sanctions must be used and, at the same time, Europe must be made to decrease the importation of Russian natural gas, replacing it with US liquefied natural gas.

In the ideological and informational field, it is necessary to encourage internal protests and at the same time undermine the image of Russia outside.

In the military field, it is necessary to operate so that European NATO countries increase their forces in an anti-Russian function. The US can have high probability of success and high benefits with moderate risks by investing more in strategic

bombers and long-range attack missiles directed against Russia. Deploying new intermediate-range nuclear missiles in Europe aimed at Russia assures them a high probability of success, but also carries high risks.

By calibrating each option to obtain the desired effect – Rand concludes – Russia will end up paying the highest price in the confrontation with the US, but the latter and their allies will have to invest large resources to divert them from other purposes.

As part of that strategy – the Rand Corporation’s 2019 plan predicted – “providing lethal aid to Ukraine would exploit Russia’s greatest point of external vulnerability, but any increase in U.S.-provided weapons and military advice to Ukraine would have to be carefully calibrated to increase costs to Russia without provoking a much larger conflict in which Russia, because of proximity, would have significant advantages.”

It is precisely here – at what the Rand Corporation called “Russia’s greatest external vulnerability point,” exploitable by arming Ukraine in a manner “calibrated to increase costs to Russia without provoking a much larger conflict” – that the rupture occurred. Caught in the political, economic and military stranglehold that the US and NATO increasingly tightened, ignoring Moscow’s repeated warnings and proposals for negotiation, Russia reacted with the military operation that destroyed more than 2,000 military facilities in Ukraine that were actually built and controlled not by Kiev’s rulers but by US-NATO commands.

The article that three years ago reported the Rand Corporation’s plan ended with these words: “The options in the plan are really only variants of the same war strategy, the price of which in terms of sacrifices and risks is paid by all of us”.

We European people are paying it now, and we will pay it more and more dearly, if we continue to be expendable pawns in the US-NATO strategy.

Manlio Dinucci, award winning author, geopolitical analyst and geographer, Pisa, Italy. He is a Research Associate of the Centre for Research on Globalization (CRG).

Source: [Internationalist 360°](#)

[pdf-embedder

url="https://struggle-la-lucha.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/Overextending-and-Unbalancing-Russia-RAND_RB10014.pdf"]



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U.S. imperialism unleashes global war on workers Time to declare war on capitalism

By Sharon Black

March 10 – One only has to look at who immediately benefits from the war.

As we write, oil and gas billionaires in Texas are clinking their champagne glasses. They are giddy over the price-gouging on gas and oil and the resulting avalanche of profits lining their pockets.

Ditto for the U.S. arms dealers, who drool over the destruction of weapons stockpiles and the rise in their stock prices.

The same is true on the political side.

Biden's State of the Union address before Congress turned into a frenzied war party, including the shameful chanting of "Fund, fund, fund the police" – their bipartisan answer to the Black Lives Matter movement's call for defunding murderous police departments across the country.

And while they weep in their media about the tragic deaths of workers and misery of refugees in Ukraine, not a word was said about the 14,000 people murdered by Ukraine in the Donbass region since the 2014 U.S.-sponsored coup, let alone the rest of the world.

But be assured that through their manufactured tears, they are finding time to celebrate, regardless of how many lives are lost.

Of course, this global war is not a brand new development. Ask the people of Yemen, Palestine, Iraq, Syria, Lebanon, Afghanistan, Ethiopia, Somalia, Western Sahara, the Philippines and others who have suffered bombings, sanctions, destruction and death at the hands of the U.S. and the Pentagon – either directly or through proxies.

Sanctions have choked and strangled workers and children in Cuba, Venezuela, Nicaragua, Zimbabwe, Iran, North Korea and dozens of other countries.

But the capitalist celebration may turn out to be short-lived.

This is not the same U.S. imperialism that emerged triumphant from the Second World War, but rather an imperialism with a contracting capitalist economy that faces a new world situation. The potential for this war to become broader should not be lost on anyone. And the onus must be placed at the feet of the U.S. rulers.

What is celebrated today, in an economy marked by runaway inflation, may usher in a more significant global capitalist recession. There is a tipping point where sanctions will become deleterious to Western capitalism, especially if they strengthen the relations between those struggling against the stranglehold of the U.S. dollar on the world market.

Today may become a turning point for imperialism and the world's working class.

Lessons of Iraq War forgotten

As for the mainstream anti-war movement, it has forgotten the lessons of the Iraq War.

When the first Gulf War started in 1990-1991, with its attendant lies and demonizations, the anti-war movement was split. Significant sections called for "sanctions, not bombs," wanting to distance themselves from the embattled Iraqi government.

It turned out that as murderous as U.S. missile strikes were, more people died from the decade of sanctions that followed, designed to bring the Iraqi people to their knees. It would take a more expansive and continuing war, fueled by the lies of "weapons of mass destruction," to ultimately accomplish that.

Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein was labeled a devil, as one lie after the other mounted to justify



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murderous U.S. bombings and the use of depleted uranium weapons.

This writer clearly remembers speaking at a debate against the Gulf War organized by Congressperson Kweisi Mfume, who at that time was a TV host. Mfume supported the war.

In the adjoining room sat a member of the royal family of Kuwait, who was being prepared to go on in a separate broadcast to build up the false narrative of herself as a nurse who witnessed Iraqi troops turning over baby incubators and throwing babies on the floor.

There are similarities but also important differences between that war and the current one.

The imperialists' goal is to plunder Russia's vast resources, just like in Iraq. They were happy,

even if briefly, when Boris Yeltsin was doing their bidding in the 1990s, selling off Soviet assets and restoring capitalism. But it soon became apparent that the capitalist West had no intention to allow another competitor into its ranks; rather they viewed Russia's oil, gas and mineral resources as loot and Russia as a vassal state.

President Vladimir Putin, who followed Yeltsin, represented a block to these plans in the same way that Saddam Hussein did in Iraq, regardless of the capitalist character of Russia.

The North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) was established as a military alliance to contain and threaten the Soviet Union. So why wasn't it

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Trump and Biden: Two war strategies, same goal

written by Struggle - La Lucha

March 15, 2022

White male supremacist Donald Trump described his foreign policy “dream” to a group of his admirers on March 5th, according to an [article](#) from the Guardian newspaper:

In a speech to Republican donors in New Orleans, Donald Trump said the US should put the Chinese flag on F-22 jets and “bomb the shit out of Russia” in retribution for its invasion of Ukraine.

The Washington Post reported the remarks, which were made on Saturday night.

To laughter, the paper said, the former president said: “And then we say, ‘China did it, we didn’t do it, China did it,’ and then they start fighting with each other and we sit back and watch.”

According to the Post, Trump also called NATO a “paper tiger”, said the US

military had won “skirmishes” against Russian troops while he was president, and claimed to have been tougher on Vladimir Putin than any other US leader.

Trump’s speech, however crude, reveals that there are two different U.S. imperialist strategies against capitalist Russia and socialist China being considered on Wall Street and in the Pentagon, both designed to retain U.S. imperialist world-wide hegemony: 1) the current Biden strategy to line up the U.S.’s junior NATO “partners” to make economic war (sanctions) and, if necessary, actual military war to effect regime change in Russia, a strategy dating back to post-World War II, and then to “copy” that same strategy to Asia to have its subordinates there attack China, and 2) the Trump strategy that guided his regime, to entice or coerce the Russian leadership to attack China, while waging economic war against China and its people.

Both gambits are catastrophic for the global working class and oppressed and are terrible threats to world peace.

Pre-war capitalist appeasement and post-war confrontation

Despite all the distortions currently promoted by the capitalist media, Russian President Putin is not Hitler. He is head of a capitalist regime whose ruling class seeks independence from the whims and wishes of Wall Street. That’s why he is a target of their machinations to remove him from power.

Before World War II, fascist military officers led by Franco sparked a deadly civil war in Spain against an elected republican government. The capitalist governments in Europe and the U.S. had no objections to that and declared their “neutrality”. The German bombers who destroyed the Spanish town of Guernica, famously depicted by Picasso, were illegally fueled with Texas Oil (now called Texaco) gasoline supplied to them on credit.

Hopes were high among the capitalist elite in the West that Hitler would turn his eyes and his tanks on the Soviet Union. But to prepare for that war, Stalin signed a pact with Hitler, who in turn attacked Poland, then Norway, Belgium, the Netherlands, and France. Only after that, realizing that “their backs were against the wall”, did they ally themselves with the Soviet Union, who in June 1941 was attacked by some 3.5 million German and nearly 700,000 German-allied troops (Romanians, Finns, Hungarians, Italians, Slovaks, and others).

At least 27 million Soviet lives, both military and civilian, were lost in the struggle, which finally ended in victory in May 1945.

In 1974, Richard Nixon knew that he lost his campaign to hold onto his office in the midst of the Watergate scandal when right-wing Senator Barry Goldwater told him he must go. Goldwater opposed Nixon’s rapprochement with the People’s Republic of China (PRC), which Nixon and Kissinger believed could lead to a Soviet-China conflict. Taking sides with the PRC was just too much to the radical right at the time, just as it was in 1979 when Carter agreed to the “One China” policy. And so it is today to the Trumpist wing of the ruling class and the “mad dog” generals in the Pentagon.

From the first days in office in 2017, Trump placed billions in tariffs on imports from the PRC, even as his crony Steve Bannon predicted war with China would occur within five or six years. First economic war, then military conflict: that was and is the Trumpist dream.

Trump repeatedly denounced NATO. Whether or not Trump used that in his negotiations with Putin to entice Russia to join the U.S. in a war with China is unknown, since Trump went to extraordinary lengths to keep the subject of those talks secret.

Right-wing and ultra-militarist author Tom Clancy, who had extremely close

Pentagon contacts, wrote a popular novel in 2000 called “The Bear and the Dragon”, precisely describing this war and how the U.S., after inviting Russia to join NATO, would come to aid Russia against a Chinese invasion, from which Russia would somehow reap huge wealth.

Fortunately, the Russian leadership has never fallen for this imperialist pipedream.

The Biden administration presents a different gambit, more in line with “standard” imperialist post World War II strategy to isolate economically and militarily first the Soviet Union, and now the Russian Federation into accepting U.S. domination and control over its vast natural resource and labor pool.

And it plans to continue to apply that same strategy to China, and has continued and amplified the Trump tariffs and sanctions, as well as continued naval fleet “parades” through the South China Sea. However, the Chinese leadership has so far seen right through this imperialist plan:

A March 7th AP [article](#) reports:

BEIJING (AP) — China’s top diplomat on Monday accused Washington of trying to create an Asian version of the U.S.-European NATO military alliance and said it is up to the Biden administration to improve relations with North Korea.

It [China] also has said Washington is to blame for the [Ukraine] conflict for failing to take Russia’s security concerns into consideration.

The United States is playing geopolitical games under the pretext of promoting regional cooperation,” Wang said. He said this “runs counter” to regional desires for cooperation and “is doomed to have no future.”

Wang complained Washington is organizing U.S. allies to “suppress China.”

Beijing is irritated by growing military ties among the Quad nations of the United States, Japan, Australia, and India. China criticized a U.S. decision last year to supply technology for Australia to field its first nuclear-powered submarines.

“The real purpose of the ‘Indo-Pacific strategy’ is to create an Indo-Pacific version of NATO,” he said. The Western alliance’s expansion was cited by Russian President Vladimir Putin as one reason behind his invasion of Ukraine.

Imperialist war drive: trillions for the billionaires, devastation for the workers and poor

The Russian intervention that the U.S. has forced the Russian Federation into has already caused immense suffering among both Ukrainians and Russians. And on March 8th, Biden [announced](#) that the U.S. would ban all oil purchases from Europe:

[Biden] warned Americans that the decision would inevitably mean painful, higher prices at the gas pump.

“I said I would level with the American people from the beginning,” Mr. Biden said. “And when I first spoke to this, I said defending freedom is going to cost. It’s going to cost us as well, in the United States.”

And he warned oil companies in the United States not to take advantage of the decision by arbitrarily raising prices.

“Russia’s aggression is costing us all,” he said. “And it’s no time for profiteering or price gouging.”

Yeah, right. Workers here and abroad are already facing a record spike in gasoline prices. In California, fuel prices have already hit \$7.00 a gallon. This comes in the midst of an unprecedented jump in the inflation rate, even while the parasite

collection of billionaires rakes in trillions more in profits, particularly Big Oil.

A March 10th article in the Guardian reported:

Oil and gas companies are facing a potential bonanza from the Ukraine war, though few in the industry want to admit it, and many are using soaring prices and the fear of fuel shortages to cement their position with governments in ways that could have disastrous impacts on the climate crisis.

So far, Biden has not persuaded his European “partners” to ban their Russian oil and natural gas purchases. Only Britain has announced a gradual reduction of its Russian oil purchases, taking full effect by the end of the year.

A March 8th [article](#) on the CNN Business website, titled “**Your toilet paper roll is slimming down**”, describes another technique corporations are using to squeeze out extra profits from the workers and oppressed besides simply raising prices:

Product downsizing, also known as “shrinkflation,” is happening with toilet paper, said Edgar Dworsky, a former assistant attorney general in Massachusetts who is a consumer advocate and editor of website ConsumerWorld.org.

For example, Procter &Gamble’s ([PG](#)) Charmin’s ultra soft toilet paper 18-count mega package now contains 244 two-ply sheets, down from a previous 264 double-ply sheets per roll. And super mega rolls of the brand now display 366 sheets versus a previous 396 sheets per roll.

“That amounts to losing the equivalent of about a roll and a half in the new 18-count package,” he said.

Proctor and Gamble executives have found a new way to put “lipstick on this pig” – calling it “innovation”.

In an email to CNNBusiness, Procter & Gamble pointed to various reasons for variations in sizes of its products and that store prices are determined solely by retailers.

“There is a cost element to innovation — adjusting the count per pack or the package size is one way of reinvesting in this innovation while maintaining a competitive price point,” the company said.

As U.S. imperialism fails to maintain a sufficient standard of living for us producers of all the wealth in our society; U.S. imperialist hegemony over Russia and China offers us nothing but inflation and more “belt tightening”, as well as the danger of war, perhaps even nuclear war. But our position in the “belly of the beast” does give our class the opportunity to unite with our sisters and brothers around the world and transform our society to end wars and to put people before profits.

Source: [Fighting Words](#)



Ukrainian authorities unleash witch hunt

written by Struggle - La Lucha
March 15, 2022



March 10 – The Ukrainian authorities, being in a state of shock and fearing for their fate, organized a widespread witch hunt. Every day in the territories controlled by Kiev, there are detentions, abductions and torture of political activists and civilians who disagree with the policies of the central government.

People simply disappear and only a few days later, after relatives or friends start sounding the alarm, it becomes clear that something has happened to them. Political activists and public figures who opposed the Ukrainian authorities are now recording uncharacteristic video messages to the Russian authorities and Russian

society.

This is how it became known that Kiev [political scientist Dmitry Dzhangirov was kidnapped](#) a few days ago. Thousands of Dmitry's subscribers noticed that an anti-Russian statement was broadcast on the air of his YouTube channel "Capital," which makes us all think that Dmitry Dzhangirov is alive, but held captive by nationalists or Security Service of Ukraine (SBU) officers.

The well-known Kiev [political activist Dmitry Skvortsov stated](#) on his Facebook page that SBU officers were breaking into his apartment. He wasn't heard from again.

A few days ago, the head of the Leninist Communist Youth League of Ukraine, [Mikhail Kononovich, and his twin brother](#), head of the anti-fascist union, Alexander Kononovich, were kidnapped in Kiev.

On March 3, Alexander Matyushenko, a left-wing activist from Dnipropetrovsk, was one of the first to be repressed. He is currently being held in a pre-trial detention center on charges of treason without a court decision. Alexander's partner is raising funds to pay for a lawyer. Most lawyers in Ukraine are afraid to take such cases or charge large amounts of money to do so. If you would like to contribute to his defense, contact SolidarityUkraineAntifa [at] gmail [dot] com.

On March 4, militants of the territorial defense of Kiev detained an [opposition politician and parliamentarian, Nestor Shufrich](#). [Shocking footage](#) of the illegal interrogation spread around the world, but this did not stop the punishers.

On March 7, in Odessa, armed Ukrainian militants burst into the apartment of the parents of [well-known journalist Alexander Voskoboinikov](#). They demanded that the door be opened for them or they would knock it down. When the parents opened it, the nationalists went in with weapons in their hands.

We have all witnessed horrific footage of the [torture of prisoners of war](#), including a

military pilot. When he was wounded and captured by the Ukrainian Nazis, they called his wife from his phone and told her to look for a new husband, hinting that they would kill him.

It is impossible to watch without tears the [video in which Ukrainian emergency doctors](#), instead of providing medical care, mock patients by exerting moral pressure on them and filming it on cameras.

All these egregious facts testify to the widespread and gross violation of basic human rights. All these facts testify to the violation of the Geneva Convention on the Treatment of Prisoners of War, adopted on August 12, 1949.

We believe that the people of the U.S. and Europe need to know who their governments support. They should know that their taxes are spent on torture and abuse, on the maintenance of neo-Nazi organizations, which in many countries, including Russia, are considered illegal.

We urge you to go to the consulates and embassies of Ukraine and demand the release of illegally detained politicians and activists. Demand an end to the witch hunt. Demand respect for human rights and the Geneva Conventions!

They can still be saved!

Alexey Albu is a coordinator of Borotba (Struggle) and a survivor of the Odessa massacre. He has lived in exile from Ukraine since 2014.

Translated by Greg Butterfield



GM and Intel aren't heroes

written by Struggle - La Lucha

March 15, 2022

President Biden wants to be seen as a dragon slayer of wealthy Russian oligarchs. But he praised immensely richer and more powerful U.S. oligarchs in his March 1 State of the Union speech.

While conducting the “Hate Russia” war rally before Congress, Biden called out Intel’s CEO Patrick Gelsinger and asked him to stand. Most of the assembled flock of representatives and senators applauded. They envy the boss with his [\\$116 million pay package](#).

The president hailed computer chip maker Intel, saying it was “the American company that helped build Silicon Valley.” [Biden claimed](#) the outfit was going to invest at least \$10 billion “20 miles east of Columbus, Ohio” and will employ 10,000 people there.

One thing is certain: none of them will be union jobs. Intel fights organizing drives as viciously as Amazon does.

Why isn't Intel building the facility inside Columbus itself or at least within Franklin County, where Columbus is located? The company with [revenues of \\$79 billion last year](#) is instead investing its money in adjoining Licking County.

Part of the reason could be that while [Franklin County](#) is 24% Black, African Americans in [Licking County](#) account for just 4% of its population.

High Tech in the United States is a racist and sexist cesspool. Back in 1998, Joel Dreyfuss described Silicon Valley's discrimination in Fortune magazine as the ["Valley of Denial."](#)

Intel's hiring practices [haven't improved much](#) since then. Even though many of the corporation's U.S. plants are located in areas with large Latinx populations, just 10% of its U.S employees in 2019 were Latinx.

Only 4.9% of its U.S. workers were Black. Women were a mere 27.4% of Intel's global workforce.

Despite this bias, Black scientists and inventors were pioneers in the computer field. Roy Clark set up Hewlett-Packard's first software development lab in 1965. Marc Hannah's Ph.D. thesis was the basis of starting Silicon Graphics.

Dr. Mark Dean - who became IBM's director of advanced technology development - holds three of the nine patents which made desktop computers available for personal use. Dean designed the ISA systems bus, which allows the linking of printers and modems with computers.

[Dr. Sandra Baylor](#) helped develop the prototype for "Deep Blue," IBM's chess machine.

More auto workers fired

President Biden also praised Ford and GM for investing billions in electric cars. The man in the White House didn't mention that electric vehicles will require fewer parts, which means fewer jobs.

GM is no hero in Flint, Michigan. When the Black-majority city was the center of GM's manufacturing empire, Flint had the highest median income in Michigan. But since GM shut down nine of its 10 local plants, Flint became desperately poor.

It's now the poorest of all U.S. cities with populations over 65,000. [Sixty percent of Flint's children](#) live in poverty.

GM is just as guilty of poisoning Flint's children with polluted water as is former Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder. It was the loss of Flint's tax base because of GM's cutbacks which was the excuse to pump filthy water from the Flint River.

GM's flight from Flint reflected the determination of U.S. heavy industry to get away from their dependence on Black labor. Back in 1968, Black workers accounted for a quarter of the employees in auto plants and steel mills. ("Organized Labor and the Black Worker 1619-1973," by Philip S. Foner.)

These workers were a vital part of the liberation movement. The League of Revolutionary Black Workers was formed in Detroit. The Black Panther party had a caucus in Fremont, California's GM plant, which is now a non-union Tesla factory.

Ford's Rouge plant was once the world's largest factory complex, with its own steel mill and glass works. By 1974 half of the workers there were Black, including 65% of those on its assembly lines. ("Black Workers' Struggles in Detroit's Auto Industry, 1935-1975," by Kuniko Fujita.)

Russian Federation President Vladimir Putin isn't responsible for any of the jobs that were stolen in Flint or elsewhere. When Russia and Ukraine were part of the socialist Soviet Union, everyone there had a job.

Socialist Ukraine, particularly its Donbass region, was a center of heavy industry in the Soviet Union. The World Bank and International Monetary Fund urged that it be shut down, just like what happened in the United States.

Since 2014, workers in Donbass have been fighting a Ukrainian regime that came to power with the use of fascist thugs. These criminals have killed over 14,000 people in the Donbass republics.

Our struggle isn't against the Russian Federation but against the hundreds of billionaire oligarchs and banksters here in the U.S.

Stop the war against the Donbass and Russia. Start more struggles against the rich.



In memoriam of Hyun Lee

written by Struggle - La Lucha

March 15, 2022

Sept. 20, 1970-March 7, 2022

Women Cross DMZ and Korea Peace Now! are deeply saddened to announce that

our beloved colleague, mentor, teacher, friend and sister, Hyun Lee, passed away on March 7 surrounded by her family and closest friends after a long battle with cancer.

Hyun was a tireless advocate for peace on the Korean Peninsula. Every generation has its leaders who build powerful movements; she was among the giants of our time.

Beginning in 2018, Hyun served as the U.S. National Organizer and then the Campaign Strategist for Women Cross DMZ and our Korea Peace Now! campaign. Her ability to move an organizing and advocacy agenda was instrumental to building the Korea Peace Now! Grassroots Network, which consists of more than a dozen chapters across the country. This multi-generational, grassroots, people-powered movement that Hyun helped create is what led to the first Congressional resolution calling for an end to the Korean War with a peace agreement.

In addition to her organizing skills, Hyun was an expert on Korea and a brilliant analyst and strategist. She was among the rare leaders who could speak cogently on a range of complex issues, from the necessity of stopping the joint US-South Korea military exercises to the need to lift the ban on US citizens traveling to North Korea. She was equally adept at addressing Members of Congress as she was speaking to grassroots activists, always delivering her thoughtful message of peace with poise, calm, and passion. Hyun served as a bridge between people, organizations, communities, and movements. She was completely bilingual in Korean and English, and used this skill to help strengthen relationships between social movements and policymakers in Korea and the United States.

All of us at Women Cross DMZ and Korea Peace Now! are absolutely devastated, but the seeds of peace and justice that Hyun sowed will continue to sprout for generations to come. Her guiding light will continue to shine brightly, helping our movements continue the path to achieve peace in Korea. We will miss her dearly and

will forever carry her in our hearts.

It was Hyun's wish that any memorial tributes be made in the form of contributions to [Tongil Peace Foundation](#). Expressions of sympathy for Hyun's parents (Mr. and Mrs. Lee) and family members can be sent c/o Women Cross DMZ, P.O. Box 61042, Honolulu, HI 96822, which will be forwarded to them. In the coming days we will share information on our plans to memorialize Hyun.

Music: “ ” (Southern Land, Northern Land) - / , ; written by Changwoo Baek; sung by Dohee Lee.

Lyrics:

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가 가

가 가

가 가

Who will reconnect

Who will reconnect

Southern land, northern land, our divided land

Who will be the one to find each other?

Who will be the one to find us

Southern land, northern land, our lost land

It's just us, It's just us

We are the only ones living on this land

Let's go together, let's go together, together in a big dance of liberation

Southern land, northern land, until the day we become one

Let's go together Let's go together, together in a big dance of unity

Until the day when the north and the south are reunified



U.S. imperialism unleashes global war on workers

written by Struggle - La Lucha
March 15, 2022

Time to declare war on capitalism

March 10 – One only has to look at who immediately benefits from the war.

As we write, oil and gas billionaires in Texas are clinking their champagne glasses. They are giddy over the price-gouging on gas and oil and the resulting avalanche of profits lining their pockets.

Ditto for the U.S. arms dealers, who drool over the destruction of weapons stockpiles and the rise in their stock prices.

The same is true on the political side.

Biden's State of the Union address before Congress turned into a frenzied war party,

including the shameful chanting of “Fund, fund, fund the police” – their bipartisan answer to the Black Lives Matter movement’s call for defunding murderous police departments across the country.

And while they weep in their media about the tragic deaths of workers and misery of refugees in Ukraine, not a word was said about the 14,000 people murdered by Ukraine in the Donbass region since the 2014 U.S.-sponsored coup, let alone the rest of the world.

But be assured that through their manufactured tears, they are finding time to celebrate, regardless of how many lives are lost.

Of course, this global war is not a brand new development. Ask the people of Yemen, Palestine, Iraq, Syria, Lebanon, Afghanistan, Ethiopia, Somalia, Western Sahara, the Philippines and others who have suffered bombings, sanctions, destruction and death at the hands of the U.S. and the Pentagon – either directly or through proxies.

Sanctions have choked and strangled workers and children in Cuba, Venezuela, Nicaragua, Zimbabwe, Iran, North Korea and dozens of other countries.

But the capitalist celebration may turn out to be short-lived.

This is not the same U.S. imperialism that emerged triumphant from the Second World War, but rather an imperialism with a contracting capitalist economy that faces a new world situation. The potential for this war to become broader should not be lost on anyone. And the onus must be placed at the feet of the U.S. rulers.

What is celebrated today, in an economy marked by runaway inflation, may usher in a more significant global capitalist recession. There is a tipping point where sanctions will become deleterious to Western capitalism, especially if they strengthen the relations between those struggling against the stranglehold of the

U.S. dollar on the world market.

Today may become a turning point for imperialism and the world's working class.

Lessons of Iraq War forgotten

As for the mainstream anti-war movement, it has forgotten the lessons of the Iraq War.

When the first Gulf War started in 1990-1991, with its attendant lies and demonizations, the anti-war movement was split. Significant sections called for "sanctions, not bombs," wanting to distance themselves from the embattled Iraqi government.

It turned out that as murderous as U.S. missile strikes were, more people died from the decade of sanctions that followed, designed to bring the Iraqi people to their knees. It would take a more expansive and continuing war, fueled by the lies of "weapons of mass destruction," to ultimately accomplish that.

Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein was labeled a devil, as one lie after the other mounted to justify murderous U.S. bombings and the use of depleted uranium weapons.

This writer clearly remembers speaking at a debate against the Gulf War organized by Congressperson Kweisi Mfume, who at that time was a TV host. Mfume supported the war.

In the adjoining room sat a member of the royal family of Kuwait, who was being prepared to go on in a separate broadcast to build up the false narrative of herself as a nurse who witnessed Iraqi troops turning over baby incubators and throwing babies on the floor.

There are similarities but also important differences between that war and the

current one.

The imperialists' goal is to plunder Russia's vast resources, just like in Iraq. They were happy, even if briefly, when Boris Yelstin was doing their bidding in the 1990s, selling off Soviet assets and restoring capitalism. But it soon became apparent that the capitalist West had no intention to allow another competitor into its ranks; rather they viewed Russia's oil, gas and mineral resources as loot and Russia as a vassal state.

President Vladimir Putin, who followed Yelstin, represented a block to these plans in the same way that Saddam Hussein did in Iraq, regardless of the capitalist character of Russia.

The North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) was established as a military alliance to contain and threaten the Soviet Union. So why wasn't it dismantled after the counterrevolution in the Soviet Union, German Democratic Republic and other Warsaw Pact countries? Instead, NATO has grown and grown.

But there are also significant differences between Iraq and Russia. Russia has a population of 144 million people. Its landmass is close to 40 times larger than Iraq. Most importantly, it inherited nuclear weapons from the Soviet Union and has developed formidable defenses.

Without these differences, the Russian Federation would likely have already shared the fate of Libya and Iraq.

(For more, see ["Is Russia imperialist?"](#) by Gary Wilson.)

War is continuation of politics by other means

Imperialism forces other countries to defend their borders. Russia not only shares a border in Eastern Europe with Ukraine, but it also shares an extensive 2,615-mile

border with China.

These facts are not lost on the People's Republic of China. To weaken Russia, potentially overthrow Putin, in the guise of putting in a more "democratic regime" (meaning friendly to the West), would place China in an untenable military situation.

This also cannot be divorced from the Sept. 15, 2021, trilateral security agreement between the U.S., Britain and Australia, referred to as AUKUS, which included the delivery of a nuclear-powered submarine fleet for Australia. It undercut a deal worth \$90 billion for France. So much for Washington's NATO allies!

At the same time, the United States Africa Command, AFRICOM, was busy involving itself in coups from Mali to Guinea and, more recently, Burkina Faso. Flooding the continent with billions of dollars in military hardware and training through AFRICOM is U.S. imperialism's answer to China's "Belt and Road Initiative," which has taken up building needed infrastructure in Africa.

All of this speaks to the global nature of U.S. imperialism's war in Ukraine. It is aimed not just at Russia and Donbass but at China, Venezuela, Cuba, Iran, Nicaragua and any people on any continent struggling to determine their destiny for themselves.

The unintended consequence is that this may strengthen the ties between China, Russia, Iran and others. This is of no concern in the myopic vision of the imperialist rulers, who are driven by the inner workings of their own capitalist system to expand or die.

Fascism, Russia and Ukraine

It is an error to forget the history of fascism and the Nazi advance into the Soviet Union.

Hitler's war – World War II – is etched into the psyche of the Russian people and all former Soviet peoples. The Soviet Union was left to bear the brunt of the German invasion. Hitler's forces were not only bent on exterminating Jews, Roma people and queer people, but also communists and leftists. It was aimed straight at the heart of the fledgling Soviet socialist revolution.

The heroic resistance and sacrifices of the Russian people and their partisan communist allies are undeniable. There is not a single person in Russia today who does not have members of their family tree who died in the fight to stop the Nazis.

The Soviet Union bore the brunt of casualties – over 15% of the population. Belarus lost over a quarter of its people. It's estimated that over 27 million Soviet people lost their lives.

The United States is at the very bottom in terms of World War II casualties. Seldom mentioned is that China lost over 20 million people, far exceeding U.S. losses.

The sympathy of the Russian people for the people of the Donbass republics, Odessa and others repressed inside Ukraine is not contrived but deeply felt. And the mass pressure on Putin on this issue should not be shoved aside.

It is a form of cynical, opportunist intellectualism for some who call themselves anti-imperialists or anti-war to dismiss the fascist threat inside Ukraine. One does not even have to go back to 2014, despite that being a mere eight years.

Days ago, on March 2, the U.S. puppet and created folk hero Zelensky named the fascist [Aidar Battalion's commander](#) governor of Odessa. Odessa is home to one of Ukraine's historic Jewish communities.

One month before Russia's intervention, the U.S. sent a specially-equipped satellite phone to allow Zelensky direct access to President Biden and, by extension, the Pentagon. He is receiving orders directly from Washington.

Why this is completely glossed over by so many is startling.

Even the shameful, racist sight of African and Indian medical students being blocked and abused by Ukrainians at the border did not stir the kind of protests it should have.

It should indeed serve as a lesson to those inside the U.S. who vehemently opposed the Jan. 6, 2021, white-supremacist coup attempt in Washington, D.C. The Democratic Party that has no problem quietly and not-so-quietly cozying up to neo-Nazi forces in Ukraine can hardly be depended on to dismantle them at home.

Imperialist-installed dictators and their murderous policies in oppressed countries, the growth of the repressive state apparatuses (the police and military, courts and prisons), including in the U.S., and the growth of neo-Nazi movements internationally, are all intertwined.

Ukrainian fascism, which is not only neo-Nazi but shares a lineage with the original Nazi movement through Stepan Bandera, is real and dangerous.

Lenin and Second International

In the early years of the 20th century leading up to World War I, the socialist and communist workers' movement, which was strong in Europe, was staunchly anti-war.

But when war was actually declared, it collapsed.

The political agreements and resolutions for comrades to oppose their imperialist governments dissolved under the war fever and patriotic jingoism. Those who did oppose it were jailed, killed or forced into exile.

But V.I. Lenin and his co-thinkers refused to capitulate. These political battles

prepared the Bolshevik communist party for the 1917 socialist revolution under the banner of “Land, bread and peace.”

Lenin’s slogan, “Turn the imperialist war into civil war,” originated during this period.

It was not an abstract slogan, but rather a pragmatic preparation for 1917. Without that preparation, the Bolshevik Revolution likely would not have succeeded.

On this International Working Women’s Day, it’s essential to recognize Clara Zetkin, its founder, and Rosa Luxemburg. They played critical roles along with Lenin in opposing the capitulation of the social democrats.

Both were theoretical leaders in their own right. Zetkin later became a fighter against the rise of Nazism, and Rosa Luxemburg and her comrade Karl Liebknecht were executed during an uprising of German workers. Their heroism is etched in history.

It is critical for today’s movement to go over this history. We refer readers to the article [“Lenin: How to Oppose an Unjust War,”](#) Lenin’s pamphlet [“Socialism and War,”](#) and Sam Marcy’s book [“The Bolsheviks and War: Lessons for today’s anti-war movement.”](#)

U.S. war on world’s people

This is not a Russian war on Ukraine – or even a war by the fascist-sympathizing oligarchs of Ukraine – but a war by U.S. imperialism on the world’s working class.

We dream of a world where people can lay down their swords and where borders separating humanity will dissolve. This can and will happen.

But it will take the dismantling of imperialism and capitalism and the building of

revolutionary socialism to make that dream a reality.

Today's first but essential step is to stand up to U.S. imperialism!



‘U.S. government instigated crisis between Russia and Ukraine’

written by Struggle - La Lucha

March 15, 2022

This interview with Struggle-La Lucha co-editor Greg Butterfield was originally published by Russian-language news service and Telegram channel Readovka on March 9.

Elena Nikolaeva: What was the impetus for the beginning of the crisis between Russia and Ukraine? What role did the United States play in the conflict?

Greg Butterfield: The government of the United States was the instigator of the current crisis between Russia and Ukraine.

The world watched the drama unfold over the last several months. While shouting from the highest rooftops that evil Russia was about to attack poor Ukraine, the Biden administration and NATO alliance pushed Ukraine's Zelensky regime to launch a big new attack on the Donbass republics. The point was to force the Russian government into a corner where it would have no choice but to respond, and in this way to justify NATO aggression.

Since Russian President Putin officially recognized the Donetsk and Lugansk People's Republics and the joint antifascist military operation began, the pounding war drums have reached truly incredible heights here. I have seen nothing like it since the weeks immediately following the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks in New York and Washington, D.C. - at which time the propaganda led to the monstrous U.S. wars and occupations of Afghanistan and Iraq.

In the mainstream media, no alternative views are permitted. On social media, anyone who questions the U.S. narrative is immediately labeled a Russian agent and subject to being banned or restricted.

Unfortunately, the immense pressure of the imperialist state and media has had its effect on the leaders of anti-war forces in the U.S. and other Western countries. Many of those who just weeks ago were warning that NATO was pushing Russia into a corner are now denouncing Russia's defensive actions in Ukraine, singing in perfect tune with the imperialists. They have forgotten, and some never understood, the plight of the people of Donbass and the power of the neo-Nazis in Ukraine.

Those of us who continue to stand up to the U.S. and NATO are determined to keep telling the truth. We know that the majority of humanity - from Cuba and Venezuela to China and North Korea to Syria and Yemen - are not fooled by the U.S. war propaganda. We're confident that the lies will soon begin to collapse under their own weight and we will be able to win many workers and progressive people to solidarity with the people of Donbass and Russia.

EN: Russian forces have discovered secret laboratories and documents confirming the development of bacteriological and nuclear weapons. Why does Ukraine need these when its government also declares that it is a peaceful country?

GB: For the past eight years, since the Euromaidan coup in 2014, Ukraine's government has been a thinly veiled disguise for U.S. and NATO control of the country. The real decisions are not made in Kiev, but in Washington.

Besides robbing the Ukrainian people of their industry and vast resources developed in Soviet times, the U.S. goal has been to turn Ukraine into a base for subversion and military attack on the Russian Federation. The biowarfare labs set up there are a perfect example of this.

In 2014, the U.S. and NATO hoped for a much more direct route to attack Russia. They wanted to seize the strategic naval base in Crimea. Thankfully, the Crimean population thwarted this plan with their popular referendum that led to Crimea's return to Russian sovereignty.

Since that time, the resistance of the heroic people of Donetsk and Lugansk has been very important, delaying the plans of the U.S. and NATO.

EN: The West has imposed sanctions on all Russian citizens. Do you think this could turn into a problem for those countries?

GB: First we should state that sanctions are merely another form of war – one that primarily targets the civilian population, no matter how much the media talk about “Russian oligarchs.”

There are two ways in which the intensification of sanctions will undermine and ultimately turn against the Western imperialists and their aims.

First, the sanctions will create hardship for workers and poor people in these

countries. In U.S. states like California, where cars are essential, gas prices have already shot up to \$7 a gallon or more because of the war crisis. This is great for the big oil companies, who are the main beneficiaries of the crisis, but poison for the people.

The dumping of more billions and trillions of dollars into the weapons industry will increase inflation and mean even less money available for programs that fund basic human needs like health care and housing. This will cause the class struggle to intensify and anti-war sentiments to grow in the U.S. and Europe.

Second, the attempts to cut off Russia from economic relations with the West will mean that Russia, China and other countries targeted by the U.S. will grow even closer and have greater cooperation – economic, military and political. This can only strengthen the global alternative to Western imperialism.

The most urgent task of anti-imperialists in the West today is to stand up and tell the truth in defiance of the tidal wave of U.S. war propaganda. For example, on March 8, a group of comrades from the Socialist Unity Party protested at the Ukrainian Embassy in Washington, D.C.

They delivered a letter demanding the Kiev regime release Aleksandr Kononovich and Mikhail Kononovich, leaders of the Leninist Communist Youth Union of Ukraine, who were arrested by the notorious Security Service of Ukraine on March 6.

We must seize every opportunity to expose the fascistic character of the Ukrainian regime and the danger NATO poses to Donbass, Russia and the people of the whole region.

Source: [Readovka](#)



Cuba announces seminar to abolish U.S. bases and NATO

written by Struggle - La Lucha
March 15, 2022

VII SEMINARIO

INTERNACIONAL
POR LA PAZ
Y LA ABOLICIÓN
DE LAS BASES
MILITARES EXTRANJERAS

The logo consists of a stylized green leaf with two smaller leaves branching off it, positioned to the right of a horizontal line of black barbed wire. The barbed wire has several sharp points extending upwards and downwards.

Friends in solidarity with Cuba are invited to come to Guantanamo for a two-day conference May 4 to 6 to abolish foreign U.S. military bases and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), says the call by the Cuban Institute of Friendship with the Peoples and World Peace Council.

This [VII International Seminar for Peace](#) will demand “the end of the arms race that imperialism is developing together with its NATO allies, who with their eagerness to expand, and their propaganda and communication hysteria, place the world on the brink of a new global conflagration.”

At a moment when the United States seeks to add Colombia to the ranks of NATO, this conference will “reiterate the importance and full validity of the [Proclamation of Latin America and the Caribbean as a Zone of Peace](#)” approved by all the heads of state and government of the region who met at the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States 2014 Summit in Havana, Cuba.

Held in Guantanamo City in Cuba's Guantanamo province, the conference program includes a visit to Caimanera, a small town on the edge of Guantanamo Bay in view of the U.S. military base illegally occupying Cuban territory. Delegates will meet with Caimanera residents in a social engagement hosted by the local Committee for Defense of the Revolution.

"For 119 years the U.S. government has illegally maintained, against the will of the Cuban people and government, a naval base that has become a center of torture to prisoners in total violation of their human rights," says the conference call. The demand to close the prison grows stronger each year, as prisoners who have been tortured so badly that no credible trial was possible after 20 years are finally released.

But Guantanamo is more than a prison. A short video made by Resumen



Latinoamericano exclaims: "All Guantanamo is Ours," showing why the demand must also be "U.S. Out of Guantanamo." Return that massive territory astride the mouth of an enormous, beautiful bay to the Cuban people!

More information about the seminar to abolish foreign bases and NATO can be found at ICAP's website, [SiempreConCuba.org](https://www.siempreconcuba.org), and will also be available in the near future through the [National Network On Cuba \(NNOC\)](https://www.nnoc.org), the umbrella organization for U.S. activity in solidarity with Cuba.

The NNOC is organizing U.S. participation in the [XV International Voluntary Work and Solidarity Brigade](https://www.nnoc.org) from April 24 to May 8.

