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Protesters challenge war profiteers' summit

Ukrainian generals meet the warbucks

By John Parker

Austin, Sept. 21 — We gathered last night, coming from Baltimore, Los Angeles and Denver, at the hotel in Austin, Texas — 12 minutes away from the Austin Convention Center where the National Defense Industrial Association (NDIA) was holding its "Future Forces" conference.

The NDIA gathered merchants of death like Lockheed, General Dynamics, Raytheon and other weapons manufacturers salivating over the prospect of billions more additional dollars to add to the \$70 billion already promised for war in Ukraine.

Ukrainian officials and military officers, including President Volodymyr Zelensky himself, were scheduled to attend this conference — some in person, some virtually — to push for more weapons to be manufactured to make up for those already being used to target the Russian, Lugansk and Donetsk militaries and to target civilians, especially in the Donbass region.

However, as could be seen on the faces of Ukrainian military officers entering and exiting the conference, the last thing they expected to see were activists chanting: "Hey hey, ho ho, war profiteers have got to go!" and "Biden, Biden, can't you see — we don't want a World War III."

The protest was initiated by the Socialist Unity Party. Many activists from SUP, Freedom Road Socialist Organization, Dallas Anti-War Committee, Austin Students for a Democratic Society and other unaffiliated activists were also surprised at the overwhelmingly positive reception from residents and those working near the Austin Convention Center.

Paul Tardie, who decided to come over after seeing the protest from across the street, said, "Thanks for doing this!" He said that he was frustrated by the one-sided reporting on what he knew was a U.S. proxy war against Russia.

Nicole Rogers and Jacob Rogers from Round Rock drove 20 miles in traffic to get to the demonstration. They had very unique signs reading "Draft beer, not people" and "War money, blood money," with its own comic strip within the sign explaining how the military-industrial complex profits off of war.

Nicole led chants highlighting the need for peace and not death from the bombs being sold during this convention. A veteran who was walking by and wanted to know more about our protest spoke to her and walked away saying he was with us.

Two members of the Dallas Anti-War Committee



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tee joined the protest with their banner, leading the picket line and chants. Members Dan and Cassandra drove three-and-a-half hours to get to the protest.

Baltimore community activists drove 24 hours to get to the protest. That East Coast city is another area victimized by infrastructure neglect, which recently manifested in the presence of E. coli in its drinking water.

Said Sharon Black of the Baltimore Peoples Power Assembly: "We need money for food, housing and infrastructure to rebuild our cities. We need to be fighting for abortion rights and trans rights, not for U.S./NATO proxy wars. Biden needs to stop the Starbucks and Amazon union busters, not spend billions on war."

What we found out today is that there are a lot of people who now remain quiet, due to the perceived backlash for challenging the lies from the Pentagon and the corporate media about the U.S. war on Russia. They remain quiet because they have a different view.

From the conversations we had with some of them today, we learned that many more than we realized do understand what is really going on — from the Nazi infiltration of the military and government of Ukraine, to the war's billions of dollars in profits for the military-industrial complex.

More importantly, we discovered that when we mobilize and make our rejection of these lies and this war visible through protest — people will find their voices and join us.

The Donbass referendum and blood on Biden's hands

By Melinda Butterfield

On Sept. 21, U.S. President Joe Biden stood before the 77th United Nations General Assembly and said with a straight face: "If nations can pursue their imperial ambitions without consequences, then we put at risk everything this very institution stands for... You cannot seize a nation's territory by force."

The Oxford English Dictionary defines projection as "the unconscious transfer of one's own desires or emotions to another." Or, in this case, one's own actions.

Biden's remarks were subject to widespread ridicule on social media.

But many people who recognize the hypocrisy of a U.S. president condemning others' alleged "imperial ambitions" may not fully understand how this slander was directed at the embattled people of the Donetsk and Lugansk People's Republics (DPR and LPR) of the Donbass region, who have been subject to eight and half years of unrelenting war since the 2014 U.S.-sponsored coup in Ukraine.

While Biden was in New York gracing world leaders with his comedy stylings and attempting to whip up a new wave of war frenzy against Russia and China, activists from around the U.S. gathered in Austin, Texas, to protest a conference of the biggest U.S. military-industrial corporations, including Raytheon Technologies, Lockheed Martin and General Dynamics.

Ukrainian president, U.S. tool, and war criminal Volodymyr Zelensky was the invited guest of honor of the National Defense Industrial Association (NDIA). He only appeared virtually, but Ukrainian Deputy Defense Minister Volodymyr Havrylov was in Austin. Havrylov joined the chorus of U.S. officials and billionaire war profiteers, encouraging an unprecedented speedup of weapons production (and profits).

The Biden administration and Congress have committed \$70 billion in war aid to Ukraine so far this year.

Thanks to these esteemed folks, on Monday, Sept. 19, another awful massacre occurred in Donetsk, the capital city of the Donetsk People's Republic. At least nine people were killed and five more wounded when a Ukrainian shell hit a bus stop and destroyed a nearby market. As usual, the target was an entirely civilian area.

At first, rescue workers thought more people had been killed, Donetsk News Agency reported, "due to the large number of body fragments."

On Tuesday, Sept. 20, a school and several residential buildings in Donetsk were damaged by Ukrainian fire. A civilian was wounded. The next day, a hospital was hit, wounding three.

Now it's Thursday, Sept. 22. Another mass

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