

# **Republicans want to kill all trans people — and many Democrats would let them**

written by Struggle - La Lucha

May 5, 2025

## **What Can History Teach Us About Resisting Queer Genocide?**

**“Never forget conservatives want to kill you and liberals want you to die quietly.”**

# Red Flag Alert



## UNITED STATES

### Anti-Trans Agenda of the Trump Administration

The Lemkin Institute for Genocide Prevention put the U.S. on a Red Flag Alert for anti-trans genocide earlier this year.

*Note from Mady Castigan: This article was written by writer and journalist David Forbes ([Bluesky](#)), but I fully endorse and embrace the use of the term “genocide” to describe the current situation in a journalistic context. We encourage other journalists and outlets to consider using the term as well in order to properly convey the gravity of our times both to your readers and to the historical record.*

On April 11, trans people, especially in Arizona, were hit with yet another shock in

the ongoing barrage of attacks on basic human rights. That morning, Planned Parenthood Arizona declared that they were “pausing Gender Affirming Care services” due to a [letter sent to Medicaid agencies](#) from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services.

The letter in question invoked no new law, regulation or court ruling. or court ruling. Indeed, while full of the combination of outright lies and propaganda we’ve come to expect from openly transphobic governments, it only referred to trans care for youth. It was the conscious choice of Planned Parenthood Arizona to go above and beyond, cutting off care across the board, to adults as well.

Grimly, as trans policy analyst Corinne Green [pointed out on Bluesky](#), the yellow notice denying care was posted over the regular website’s promise of “Care. No matter what.” Except, apparently, when it might make someone in power mad.

The existential threat of having one’s medical care suddenly denied is one that many trans people have faced for decades, pushed with particular aggression by Republican administrations but, far too often, enabled by Democrats in power as well.

Cis people often fail to appreciate the stakes of such bans, due to the sadly widespread (and bigoted) perception that our care is merely cosmetic or about “validation.” In fact, trans care is literally lifesaving, and its denial no less deadly than denying insulin to a person with diabetes.. The effects of denial range from massively increased suicide risk from the pain of watching our bodies detransition, to our bones literally crumbling due to abrupt menopause.

In short, ending trans healthcare on a large scale is a recipe for mass death, and the clear intention is to push society towards our genocide. That is the point of it.

Indeed it fits, on multiple fronts, the definitions of genocide used by the Lemkin

Institute, founded by Raphael Lemkin, the Polish Jewish lawyer who developed the term. One of their [ten patterns of genocide](#), “genocide by attrition,” specifically involves the following:

“Medical care is substandard or non-existent, life-saving medications are in short supply or absent, and medical facilities, as well as schools and other institutions important to collective health are closed or intentionally destroyed.”

Indeed on March 13 of this year, the Lemkin Institute issued a [Red Flag alert for anti-trans genocide in the US](#), due to increasingly genocidal rhetoric from president Donald Trump, and others in the government, directed against trans people.

“The Lemkin Institute for Genocide Prevention and Human Security condemns the anti-trans agenda of the second Trump Administration and warns Americans that the recent spate of executive orders, which are in line with a genocidal process against the transgender community that has been emerging in the United States for over a decade, are meant to pave the way for greater state repression against all individuals and other groups in the future.”

While genocide is often thought of as directed towards national, religious or racial groups, the institute pointedly notes that it is a broader threat than that, “genocide can be and has been committed against political, social, economic, sexual identity and gender groups.”

This should not be surprising, as trans genocide was a key component of the Nazi atrocities that played a major role in Lemkin developing the framework.

The intended impact of cutting off our healthcare is annihilation. While that hasn’t rolled out across the country yet, Planned Parenthood Arizona’s rush to comply demonstrates the threat certainly is looming closer and closer.

As we’ll get to later, the Planned Parenthood branch reversed itself within 48 hours

due to rapidly growing public pressure, but this is just one of many escalating attacks on this front. Banning federal support for trans healthcare may well end up what the next government shutdown fight (and Democratic capitulation) revolves around. This is what conservatives at the highest levels of power are trying to incite.

While the recent escalations are a threat to our very existence, we have also been here before. The attempted denial of essential healthcare with the intention of wiping out queer and trans people have a long history, especially in the U.S.

Properly, the AIDS crisis of the '80s and '90s is more accurately viewed as the AIDS genocides, something we're reminded of as USAID cuts to basic care once again murders people. Pointedly letting a deadly disease devastate an entire group those in power view as subhuman is exactly that.

The sheer toll on queer communities from those atrocities is so immense it's hard to fathom. We see it in photos of the [handful of survivors](#) from a gay chorus and the fact that psychologists had to develop [new terms and practices](#) to treat survivors because the scale of the loss was similar to wartime and ethnic cleansing.

The hysteria of that era also mirrors attacks on trans healthcare today. In an infamous 1986 *New York Times* column, respectable establishment conservative writer William F. Buckley called the disease "the special curse of the homosexual" and asserted people with HIV should be sterilized and forcibly tattooed "on the buttocks."

In 1981 the Reagan administration banned transgender healthcare coverage from Medicare and Medicaid, prompting many private insurers to follow suit. Notably, this was the product of conservative collaboration with a rabidly transphobic set of "feminists." Janice Raymond, whose 1979 hate screed *The Transsexual Empire* [directly called](#) for trans people to be "morally mandated out of existence," played a [key role](#), with her work extensively cited by the government as justification

for the denial.

The result was the shuttering of clinics and health programs that had supported trans people, especially poor and working class ones. We may never know the full scale of the death and devastation this caused, but it's telling that when cis people hyperventilate over the sudden rise in the number of out trans people it follows a time of far, far more of us dying in the shadows. That, too, is [part of genocide](#).

In both the AIDS genocides and the de facto barring of trans healthcare, even the liberals and Democrats that didn't directly collaborate in these efforts often remained silent. There is a reason ACT UP's most famous slogan was "Silence=Death." The federal prohibitions on trans healthcare were largely maintained throughout subsequent Democratic administrations. They weren't loosened until 2014 and didn't fully end until 2016.

Genocide does not just require death squads and demagogues so often in the spotlight, but the legions of collaborators behind them who, for apathy or cowardice or their own gain, are happy to let the atrocities advance.

Here too, history repeats itself. In the face of escalating attacks on trans people, many Democrats are staying quiet or even taking part in the genocidal fervor. Despite the evidence [overwhelmingly showing](#) that turning on trans rights is more likely to lose them elections, plenty are using the results of 2024 as a long-awaited excuse to throw trans people overboard as fast as possible.

The *New York Times* has pushed a [full-on moral panic](#) meant to destroy trans healthcare, [whitewashing](#) anti-trans bigots and publishing open hatred [against our communities](#) under the guise of "just asking questions." Republican legislators have [cited these articles](#) to excuse draconian anti-trans legislation, especially healthcare bans. The publication's attacks on trans people are so blatant *The Onion* even [satirized them](#).

California Gov. Gavin Newsom has [fully embraced transphobia](#), despite it leading to plummeting approval ratings and poll numbers, by bringing far-right figures on his new podcast and agreeing with them on the need for sports bans, the denial of healthcare, and the abuse of trans prisoners.

Other Democrats have been less blatant, but no less devastating, [grousing about](#) basic trans rights as being “far-left” and quipping anonymously that the attacks on our very existence are a “distraction” that isn’t worth expending effort to fight. Even the first transgender member of Congress, Delaware Rep. Sarah McBride, has embraced this rhetoric, offering only tepid defenses of the very lives of her community.

As a trans friend of mine who survived the AIDS genocides once warned, “*never forget conservatives want to kill you and liberals want you to die quietly.*”

If Planned Parenthood Arizona were alone among healthcare providers their haste to abandon the trans patients in their care would still be a worrying sign. But the days after Trump’s inauguration saw a wave of hospitals cut off trans youth care based on little more than the bluster of executive orders.

Keep in mind, there is no national ban on trans healthcare for any age group, and Trump’s executive order banning care for those under 19 remains blocked by a nationwide preliminary injunction. The statewide bans that do often target youth are bad enough, but are still being [fought in court](#). The [threat](#) of a new HHS rule ending ACA coverage still remains just that. But even in “blue” states with specific laws protecting trans care, hospital after hospital folded.

In February three sexual abuse non-profits — RAINN, NSVRC and NCMEC — [erased nearly all mentions](#) of trans and non-binary people on their websites, throwing our communities under the bus in a craven attempt to keep federal funding. It didn’t work—[RAINN lost a \\$700,000 grant this year despite their fascist collaboration.](#)<sup>1</sup>

Too often coverage of these betrayals — and that is what they are — will parrot their excuses that they were “forced” when no police showed up at their doors and no doctor spent the night in jail.

Even nonprofits who supposedly defend trans communities have repeated the lie of this false dilemma. Alex Sheldon, executive director at the GLMA (an association of LGBTQ+ health professionals), recently claimed to QueerNews “that the executive order forced providers to make an extremely hard choice” between trans patients and “keeping their doors open.”

But some organizations have shown there is a third path, and have [at least sued](#) instead of rushing to obey a transphobic regime. So the executive order did, in fact, do no such thing.

We must refuse to indulge these excuses, especially from the same “[Gay Inc](#)” gentry whose catastrophic incompetence in the face of our enemies got us here. Folding at the first hint of trouble isn’t being coerced, it’s just being a coward.

Fortunately, both history and current experience show that there are other alternatives.

ACT-UP responded to the AIDS genocides with radical direct action against the institutions furthering it, from media that spread bigotry (“[Fuck the New York Times](#)”) to the halls of government. Not shockingly, radical queer activists increasing the cost of institutional cowardice in the face of genocide reduced its appeal.

The mass demonstrations outside hospitals that denied trans care earlier this year led many to reverse course, from metropolises like New York, Los Angeles and Chicago, to smaller cities like Norfolk, Va and even “red state” cities like Phoenix, Ariz.

Trans survival has long demanded everything from mutual aid and DIY HRT to mass

protests and outright riots. We will need all of those old tactics, and new ones, to defend our communities through these times.

Queer and trans people must return to the tactics used, from the Stonewall era on, to take the fight to anti-queer and anti-trans media. Most of the pressure for the destruction of our healthcare comes not from the broader public, but from a rabidly bigoted section of the elite — including tech oligarchs, media barons, Christian nationalist gentry, TERFs, and the political establishment — who have collaborated across borders and oceans to push relentless lies and hysteria to the fevered pitch of a genocidal fervor.

As the [history of genocides has made clear](#), media are not exempt from their culpability in furthering it. Julius Streicher also swung at Nuremberg.

Fortunately, pressure and widespread outrage against Planned Parenthood Arizona led to the [quick resumption of lifesaving care](#). This victory should be taken as a reminder that when we fight back, we can win.

While the path of resistance has its risks, healthcare providers and other institutions have far more resources to fight back than the individual trans people who face risks far more grave than any nonprofit CEO. They just need to muster a fraction of the courage we do every time we walk down the street. We should make sure they have no other option.

*David Forbes (she/they) is a trans journalist and writer with over 20 years experience delving into history, politics and injustices at multiple levels of government. They are the editor of the [Asheville Blade](#). She lives in Asheville, where she drinks too much tea and schemes for anarchy.*

*-Edited by Mady Castigan*

Source: [MadyCast News](#)



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# I am in Malta with the Gaza flotilla ship ‘Conscience’ bombed by Israel

written by Struggle - La Lucha

May 5, 2025



I am in Malta with the group ready to board the Gaza flotilla ship “Conscience” which was bombed by Israel yesterday. As one of the organizers of the US Boats to Gaza and the Gaza Freedom Flotilla coalition, we have been working for months to bring activists from 22 countries to board the next ship to challenge the Israeli genocide of Gaza and break the illegal Israeli Siege of Gaza.



As an American citizen, and a retired US Army Colonel and a former US diplomat who resigned in opposition to the US war on Iraq in 2003, I have been horrified in the blatant complicity of the United States in providing bombs, weapons and targeting information to the Israeli military that has killed over 60,000 Palestinians and left hundreds of thousands wounded and homeless.



As best that we can piece together what happened,, our ship "Conscience" which was anchored in international waters 13 nautical miles off Malta, an Israeli C-130 aircraft flying from Israel at 5,000 feet dropped two drones from its cargo bay. The crew of the "Conscience" heard two drones before two explosions blew a hole in the bow of the ship and severely damaged the ship.



The participants from 22 countries were to board the "Conscience" the previous day, but Israeli instigated "lawfare" had resulted in the flag of the ship being taken after arriving in international waters off Malta. Therefore our participants including 8 US citizens were not onboard when the bomb,

probably a US bomb supplied to Israel, hit the “Conscience.”



Only hours after the bombing of the “Conscience” we mobilized two boats to go from Malta to the “Conscience” in solidarity but not allowed to board.



On the 15th anniversary of the Israeli attack on the 2010 Gaza flotilla causing the deaths of 10 Turkish citizens, including a 18 year old Turkish American citizen and the wounding of 50 others on the ship Mavi Marmara, we call on the U.S. to stop its complicity with Israel in the Israeli genocide of Gaza and to investigate the use of U.S. bombs in attempting to destroy the “Conscience” and kill those who challenge the horrific Israeli genocide of Palestinians in Gaza and ethnic cleansing of the West Bank.



<https://youtu.be/V3wgUbUOSCw>



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# Gaza aid ship bombed, echoing 2010 flotilla attack

written by Struggle - La Lucha

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May 2 — Early Friday morning, a ship carrying aid and humanitarian volunteers seeking to challenge Israel's genocidal siege on Gaza was attacked in international waters near Malta, organizers say.

"Armed drones attacked the front of an unarmed civilian vessel twice, causing a fire and a substantial breach in the hull," the Freedom Flotilla Coalition wrote in a statement early Friday morning. The group suspects the Israeli government was behind the attack.

Israeli officials have not commented on involvement. An Israeli Air Force plane reportedly [flew over](#) Malta at a low altitude hours before the boat was attacked. It returned to Israel hours later. The Israeli military did not respond to a request for comment.

The “Conscience,” the vessel the Freedom Flotilla Coalition (FFC) group was aboard, was carrying 18 people. It was set to take dozens more volunteers from at least 21 countries from Malta to Gaza, including Zeteo contributor Greta Thunberg and retired US Army Colonel Mary Ann Wright.

The group sought to bring desperately-needed aid to Gaza, as Israel maintains its two-month-long siege of Gaza, leaving 2 million people at risk of starvation.

A nearby tugboat responded to an SOS call from the ship and helped put the fire out. The stranded volunteers are appealing to enter Maltese territory because of the danger to the vessel and to avoid another attack upon nightfall, according to Tighe Barry, an organizer with the coalition, who added that the group had received no help from Turkey, Greece, or Tunisia.

The FFC had been operating in a media blackout to avoid exactly this type of incident from occurring, according to the coalition. Two months ago, Israeli Defense Minister Israel Katz issued a [directive](#) instructing the Israeli military “to allow the protest flotillas to reach the Gaza coast, disembark the protesters in Gaza, and seize the ships and transfer them to the port of Ashdod so that they can be used to evacuate Gaza residents who are interested in leaving Gaza,” his office [said](#) in a statement.

## 2010 Flotilla Attack

Volunteers have for years attempted to use flotillas to break Israel’s nearly two-decade-long blockade of Gaza and support Palestinians inside the occupied territory.

In 2010, Israeli forces attacked six ships of a flotilla headed to Gaza, killing nine passengers and wounding 30 (one of whom later died of his wounds). The flotilla was organized by the Free Gaza Movement and the Turkish Foundation for Human Rights and Freedoms and Humanitarian Relief.

The ships were carrying thousands of pounds of humanitarian aid and construction equipment. The Israeli Navy had warned the flotilla to steer away from the blockade, but the activists continued on course. Mounting their attack from speedboats and helicopters, soldiers [reportedly](#) fired on the ships and then raided the flagship vessel, the Mavi Marmara, and began attacking those on board.

Behesti Ismail Songur, one of the passengers of the ship attacked Friday, is the son of Cengiz Songur - who was killed on the 2010 Freedom Flotilla.

Human rights groups worldwide called for an investigation into the attack of the civilian boat on international waters, claiming it violated international law.

In the aftermath of the attack, the Obama administration blocked efforts at the UN Security Council for an international inquiry into the incident, instead [vying](#) for a "prompt, impartial, credible and transparent investigation" led by Israel. The US also blocked criticism of Israel for violating international law by attacking a ship on international waters. Instead, the US pushed a broader statement that condemned "those acts which resulted in the loss" of life.

Then-Vice President Joe Biden, meanwhile, sought to [actively defend the raid](#).

"Well, it's legitimate for Israel to say, 'I don't know what's on that ship. These guys are dropping eight - 3,000 rockets on my people,'" Biden said.

No weapons were on the ship.

Also at the time, Democratic Chuck Schumer [joined](#) 86 other senators to affirm Israel's right to defend itself, assert that Israel's blockade is legal, condemn the United Nations Human Rights Council "which, once again, singled out Israel," and claim that Israel "made every effort to ensure that the humanitarian aid reached Gaza without needlessly precipitating a confrontation," and only attacked the ship after being attacked (Israeli soldiers were only resisted because they raided the

ships *and* shot at them before doing so).

In 2014, the International Criminal Court found there was a “reasonable basis to believe that war crimes were committed” but [chose not to prosecute](#) because the crimes were not of “sufficient gravity” to justify further action by the ICC.”

## ‘Global Complicity’

Organizers of today’s flotilla say they’re focused on getting the ship and volunteers to safety. But they also don’t want people to lose sight of what prompted the mission in the first place.

“The only reason civilians like us are compelled to sail life-saving aid to Gaza is because governments around the world have utterly failed to stop Israel’s campaign of extermination. Today’s attack on our flotilla off the coast of Malta is not just an act of piracy—it’s a consequence of global complicity,” Huwaida Arraf, an organizer with the group and survivor of the 2010 flotilla attack, told Zeteo.

“As a survivor of the 2010 Gaza Freedom Flotilla, when Israel murdered 10 of our colleagues aboard the Mavi Marmara, I see the only thing that has changed is that Israel has become more brazen in its disregard for international law and for human life. The blood spilled then – and ever since – is on the hands of every state that has enabled Israel with silence, weapons, and impunity,” Arraf said.

Source: [Zeteo](#)



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# **New Orleans nurses and immigrant workers stand together**

written by Struggle - La Lucha

May 5, 2025

Nurses at New Orleans' University Medical Center went on strike on May 1. After voting to unionize in December 2023, they've been in contract negotiations since March 2024 and went on strike in October 2024 and again this February.

Here's an April 29 statement from nurse Terry Mogilles posted to *nolanursesunited* on Instagram:

"I'm a registered nurse at University Medical Center in New Orleans, Louisiana, and a proud member of National Nurses United. I am joined here today by some of my colleagues from UMC and a group of strong, fighting nurses from all over the country. On May 1, we will begin our third strike to win a strong contract for our nurses that protects our patients and our community. We want corporate health care to know: When you take on one of us, you take on all of us!"



The nurses were joined on the picket line by the immigrant worker organization *Unión Migrante*, which led the May Day march later in the evening. In their Facebook livestream at the picket line, *Unión Migrante* said:

“We are here in solidarity with the nurses and patients of LCMC, where most of our immigrant community turns to for health care.

“Let’s say it clear to the greedy men in charge of the hospital. Human lives matter more than money! Nurses’ working conditions are our healing conditions as patients. It is disgusting that LCMC treats its employees and patients as disposable - we deserve better!

“They deserve a collective agreement with a sustainable patient ratio for each nurse. They deserve decent salaries, as we all deserve. Bills and rent aren’t going down. They deserve union representation and a job with respect.

“This May 1, we remember to stand on the shoulders of people who fought and died for a weekend, an eight-hour workday, health insurance, and much more. So we say, together with the nurses, one more day, one more day stronger! Towards victory always!”



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# The blackout in Puerto Rico

written by Struggle - La Lucha

May 5, 2025

April 17 — This past Wednesday of Holy Week, Puerto Rico experienced — for the second time in just three months — a general blackout. The first was on New Year's Eve.

Since the privatization of the electricity service, we have lived with unstable electricity. The blackouts, which last for hours, and voltage fluctuations have caused not only unrest among the population, but many people have lost everything from appliances, electronic devices, and food to their homes, which have burned down either by a short circuit or by the explosion of an electric generator. And let's not

even mention the cost to their health. Some sick people, especially in mountainous areas, who live at the mercy of oxygen tanks or electrically powered medical instruments, have already lost their lives, or their condition has worsened. Small business owners who cannot afford a generator or a solar panel system have lost their businesses and their families' income. And let's also remember that in high-altitude areas, water service depends on pumps that, in turn, operate on electricity. So when there's no electricity, there's no water!

The local government of Jennifer González, obedient to the Fiscal Control Board imposed by the United States, continues to reward these companies that come not to provide a service, but to steal from the people. They've already raised the cost of electricity seven times since they started four years ago. Now that Board has requested that the rate be raised again! And unlike other countries that may experience difficulties with this service, there is no remedy or warning from the government. Quite the contrary! The governor only lies and makes false promises to the people.

But it seems the people's patience is running out, and both on social media and in the news, they are protesting against both the operation of these private companies and the governor. And here, six years ago, a similar movement began that forced Governor Roselló to resign.

We'll see if this will turn into Jennifer Resign! Zero Privatizations! And Down with the Junta!

From Puerto Rico, speaking to Radio Clarín of Colombia, Berta Joubert-Ceci



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# Tariffs are a step toward military mobilization

written by Struggle - La Lucha

May 5, 2025

The Trump administration's [April 2 "emergency" executive order](#) reveals that military readiness and defense industrial capability — not merely economic protectionism — are the primary objectives. The administration has explicitly positioned these policies as necessary to rebuild U.S. manufacturing capacity for war.

The April 2 executive order states:

"Large and persistent annual U.S. goods trade deficits have led to the hollowing out of our manufacturing base; inhibited our ability to scale advanced domestic manufacturing capacity; undermined critical supply chains; and rendered our defense-industrial base dependent on foreign adversaries."

Billionaire hedge fund (Bridgewater Associates) manager [Ray Dalio says](#) that tariffs

prepare the economy for war.

Tariffs “can reduce both current account and capital account imbalances,” Dalio writes. “Which in plain English means reducing the dependencies on foreign production and foreign capital which is especially valued in times of global geopolitical conflicts/wars.”

Dalio thinks: “The United States and China are now in a trade war, a technology war, a geopolitical influence war, and a capital/economic war, and they are now dangerously close to a military war.”

### **The ‘Arsenal of Democracy’**

Peter Navarro, White House Senior Counselor for Trade and Manufacturing and author of the Project 2025 chapter on trade, says that military expansion is the goal, to build an “Arsenal of Democracy,” the term Franklin D. Roosevelt used to describe the United States’ role as a major supplier of weaponry, supplies, and other military aid to Allied countries during World War II.

On Fox News, Navarro said:

“The bigger picture here is restoring the American manufacturing base. We don’t have that. We’re an assembly... you remember... something called the Arsenal of Democracy back in World War II? That was how we beat the Japanese and the Germans with our military might. When [U.S. General George] Patton [and the U.S. Army] went to Berlin [in 1945] it was with trucks, jeeps and tanks that were made in the auto plants of the Midwest [of the U.S.] and right now the only thing that looks like the Midwest [did] back then is Mexico. You go across the diaspora [sic] of cities in Mexico, there’s ... 50 football field size assembly plants that are down there [and that] make the engines for here. We can’t do that. The Germans and the Japanese, the South Koreans and the Mexicans have taken our manufacturing capabilities so

we've got to get that back. [...] If we don't have a solid auto industry, when we have problems in the world, we're going to be speaking some other language."

Strategically, U.S. military planners worry about inadequate civilian industrial capacity, which limits the country's ability to convert civilian industries for wartime production quickly. Immediately concerning is the widespread consensus that current military production levels are insufficient and slow to expand, hampered by skilled labor shortages and a weak industrial base.

In November 2024, Admiral Samuel Paparo, head of the U.S. Indo-Pacific Command, told Military.com that supplying significant military aid to Ukraine and Israel had compromised the U.S.'s readiness to respond to potential crises in the Indo-Pacific region, particularly regarding Taiwan. Paparo said that the Ukraine and Gaza interventions are depleting critical ammunition stockpiles and emphasized the urgent need to replenish supplies beyond current levels.

Upon confirmation in January 2025, Secretary of Defense Pete Hegseth vowed to rebuild military capabilities by revitalizing the defense industrial base, streamlining procurement, achieving fiscal accountability, and rapidly deploying emerging technologies.

### **Globalized manufacturing**

Trump's extreme tariff strategy, which targets all foreign nations, won't be able to bolster isolated military-related industries, given the realities of modern production. The production of complex goods now depends on a globalized division of labor, with scales of specialization and technological intricacy surpassing the capacity of any single country, including the largest economies. Such production demands immense societal resources, a requirement fundamentally incompatible with the profit-driven, market-centric framework of U.S. imperialism.

Globalized manufacturing is not merely about outsourcing to exploit low-wage markets in the Global South. It also relies on a division of labor among wealthy imperialist states, each leveraging distinct industrial and technological specialties. This system serves as a mechanism to contain China, which faces not isolated adversaries like the U.S., Japan, or Europe, but a coalition of imperialist powers united by their shared structural dominance in the global economy. These states collectively benefit from exploiting China and other countries in the Global South.

Should the global trade order fracture, the U.S. would still need to sustain alliances with key imperialist and subordinated states in the Global South to preserve an international (if no longer fully global) division of labor — a structure that defined the first Cold War. Before 1991, imperialist economies thrived without access to Chinese labor, Eastern European manufacturing, or Russian resources. Today, agreements like the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA) ensure U.S. imperialism retains control over regional pools of low-wage labor and natural resources.

No imperialist state, including the U.S., can sustain capitalism in isolation. Their wealth and capital accumulation depend critically on extracting value from the Global South through unequal trade relations, securing super-profits that far exceed average returns. Even non-market activities, such as war production, rely on efficiencies derived from globalized supply chains and labor hierarchies. Ultimately, imperialist dominance is meaningless without mechanisms to exploit that power — a reality inseparable from capitalism's drive for profit.



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# **May 1: Cuba's determination and resistance are on full display**

written by Struggle - La Lucha

May 5, 2025

Havana, May 1 — The massive outpouring filled the emblematic Plaza of the Revolution in Havana this morning to show their resolve that they will not go back or give in to the maximum pressure that U.S. policy imposes on the Cuban people.

For the first time since 2022, when the scaled-back May Day celebrations gathered in other venues for economic reasons, today the march returned to the Plaza in an unmistakable response to the unrelenting extra-territorial starvation measures imposed by Cuba's rapacious neighbor to its north.

At exactly seven o'clock, as the sun broke into the plaza, the first notes of the National Anthem were heard. And the 25th anniversary, the speech given by Cuba's historic leader Fidel Castro Ruz, echoed across the people and the hundreds of international union and solidarity delegations attentively gathered there, defined what Revolution Is, "Revolution is a sense of the historical moment; it is to change

everything that must be changed; it is full equality and freedom; it is to be treated and to treat others as human beings; it is to emancipate ourselves by ourselves and with our own efforts; it is to challenge powerful dominant forces within and outside the social and national sphere; is to defend values in which we believe at the price of any sacrifice; is modesty, selflessness, altruism, solidarity and heroism; is to fight with audacity, intelligence and realism; is to never lie or violate ethical principles; is a deep conviction that there is no force in the world capable of crushing the force of truth and ideas. Revolution is unity, it is independence, it is fighting for our dreams of justice for Cuba and for the world, which is the basis of our patriotism, our socialism and our internationalism.”

The celebrations were led by army general Raul Castro Ruz, and President of the Republic, Diaz-Canel Bermudez. In the major address by the Secretary-General of the Central de Trabajadores de Cuba (CTC), Ulises Guilarte said, “Cubans do not fear threats or blackmail.”

Guilarte went on to say, “We are celebrating the feast of the world proletariat in the midst of a complicated international scenario, the world suffers a renewed and dangerous imperialist offensive, with neo-fascist expressions that seeks to redesign the international system, ignore the principles of peaceful coexistence and sovereign equality between states as well as to overturn the conquests of justice and human dignity achieved by the peoples. ... Without hesitation, we will continue the battle we wage for the consolidation of our freedom, independence and social justice; this is strongly being confirmed by the sea of people that are flooding the squares of the whole country today, with the slogan ‘For Cuba together We Create.’ The Secretary-General went on to add, “We reaffirm our most absolute rejection of the genocidal war waged by the Israeli government against the children of Palestinian land.”

Officially, 5.3 million Cubans turned out across the island, according to the CTC publication Trabajadores, including an estimated 700,000 in Havana alone.,

according to the Cuban Institute for Friendship with the Peoples (ICAP), which is celebrating its 65th anniversary this year. A thousand friends from more than 30 countries, including members of the May Day brigade, shared the revolutionary energy, dreams and commitment of struggle of the Cuban people.

The first contingent in Havana this morning was the doctors, health professionals, hospitals, research and pharmaceutical facilities providing improved outcomes by prioritizing human health needs instead of piling up profits for Big Pharma, corporate hospitals, and insurance companies.

Recently, Secretary of State Marco Rubio has upped the attacks on Cuba's medical missions by threatening to sanction individual leaders of countries for engaging in legal bilateral agreements with Cuba for medical support, which was widely rejected by Caribbean leaders.

The U.S. has targeted the tens of thousands of Cuban doctors providing the health needs of under-served communities primarily in the Global South. The extraordinary example of Cuban doctors coming from this blockaded country is an embarrassment to the U.S., which is the richest country in the world that only identifies healthcare with profit. It is important to remember that we are approaching the twentieth anniversary of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, when President Bush ignored Cuba's offer to send 1,500 fully equipped disaster-trained medical professionals to save lives in New Orleans, as the majority Black population died in flood waters and on rooftops. That contingent was named the Henry Reeve Brigade for a U.S.-born hero who fought and died struggling for Cuba's independence from Spanish colonialism.

For those visiting Cuba for the first time, today's event provided a tremendous inspiration to fight along the lines of Fidel's words.

Source: [Resumen Latinoamericano - English](#)



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# **May Day message from Cuba's CENESEX**

written by Struggle - La Lucha

May 5, 2025

By CENESEX (Cuban National Center for Sex Education)

This May Day occurs at a difficult time for just causes around the world.

We see how rights are being rolled back in several countries, and revolutionary forces have had to mobilize to express their resistance to a retrograde, neoliberal, and far-right offensive advancing under the guise of modernity and media manipulation, fueled by the erosion of traditional politics and the exploitation of the exploited working class, which sees the satisfaction of its needs increasingly at a disadvantage.

New powers, allied with the established powers, are consolidating and building consensus against leftist ideas. There are attempts to dilute the class struggle, camouflage exploitation, exclusion, and inequality with “technological” capitalism.

Revolutionary ideas are stigmatized, and the identity of those who defend socialist and communist ideas is attacked. In this context, no just cause should be seen as an isolated struggle.

In the face of the advance of neo-fascism and capitalism, of genocide and the economic blockade, as a method of imposition of imperialist power, as has occurred against the Palestinian and Cuban people, and above all, for the class consciousness we must have in our struggle for all rights for all people, the workers and activists of CENESEX will once again be in the Plaza marching in support of the ideal of the Cuban Revolution and socialism, alongside our people on this International Workers' Day, aware that one cannot fight for a just cause if one is not capable of fighting for all just causes.

*Translated by Melinda Butterfield*



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## **The Billionaire-Military Complex**

written by Struggle - La Lucha  
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# **Military spending surges while domestic programs face the DOGE axe**

In case you didn't notice, the only thing on Trump's budget so far is military expansion.

On April 7, Trump announced plans for a \$1 trillion defense budget next year, a massive increase.

"We're going to be approving a budget, and I'm proud to say, actually, the biggest one we've ever done for the military," he said. "\$1 trillion. Nobody has seen anything like it."

At the same time, severe cuts (DOGE) ravage domestic government programs.

The timing of this announcement speaks volumes. As working people grapple with reduced public services and slashed social programs, with tens of thousands of civil service jobs cut and other job losses, as well as cuts in health care and education, the Pentagon secures yet another windfall. This is not just a budget reallocation but a declaration of who truly holds the reins of power — the billionaires like Elon Musk and the military-industrial complex. Maybe we should call it the billionaire-military complex.

And Trump thinks that his tariff war on the world will pay for the military expansion. Trump's top economic adviser, Stephen Miran, said that the administration is using tariffs to pressure foreign nations to finance U.S. military and financial dominance.



Miran laid out the Trump administration's strategy in a speech on April 7 at the Hudson Institute. The White House later published an [official transcript](#) of his remarks.

Miran said that the Trump administration seeks to strengthen U.S. global power, demanding that allies and rivals alike pay for the "benefit" of global U.S. military and financial dominance.

He suggested several ways other countries could pay, including:

- Accepting U.S. tariffs on their exports without retaliating, allowing tariff revenue to help finance the U.S. military.
- Buying more U.S.-made goods, specifically including military equipment (while cutting back on trade with China).
- Investing in and building factories in the U.S.
- Making direct financial contributions ("simply write checks") to the U.S. Treasury (bonds).

Miran said: "Our military and financial dominance cannot be taken for granted; and the Trump Administration is determined to preserve them." He also affirmed the goal of ensuring "dollar dominance can continue for decades, in perpetuity."

## **Military-industrial complex in Silicon Valley**

The U.S. military-industrial complex is centered in Silicon Valley.

A report by Roberto González published in April 2024 by the [Costs of War Project](#), has the details:

“Although much of the Pentagon’s \$886 billion budget is spent on conventional weapon systems and goes to well-established defense giants such as Lockheed Martin, RTX, Northrop Grumman, General Dynamics, Boeing, and BAE Systems, a new political economy is emerging, driven by the imperatives of big tech companies, venture capital, and private equity firms. As Defense Department officials have sought to adopt AI-enabled systems and secure cloud computing services, they have awarded large, multi-billion-dollar contracts to Microsoft, Amazon, Google, and Oracle. ...

“Booming demand for AI-enabled military technologies and cloud computing services is being driven by several developments. Perhaps most importantly, the easy availability of massive amounts of digital data collected from satellites, drones, surveillance cameras, smartphones, social media posts, email messages, and other sources has motivated Pentagon planners to find new ways of analyzing the information.”

The United States military has shifted toward AI and “data-driven” warfare. A new revolving door is placing senior Pentagon officials in executive positions or as advisers to big tech companies.

González of the Costs of War Project says:

“Over the past two years, global events have further fueled the Pentagon’s demand for Silicon Valley technologies, including the deployment of drones and AI-enabled weapon systems in Ukraine and Gaza, and fears of a global AI arms race against China.”

The Costs of War Project report “refutes the popular misperception that China is poised to surpass the U.S. in a global ‘AI arms race’ that will determine the future of geopolitics and global economic dominance. It does this by showing how the arms race narrative has been propagated by Pentagon officials and tech leaders who stand to benefit from increased sales of high-tech weapons, surveillance, and logistics systems enabled by AI. These myths and misperceptions risk diverting taxpayer funds towards research and development (R&D) projects that meet military needs, rather than civilian needs.”



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## **Fifty years after reunification, Vietnam's struggle still inspires**

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On April 30, 1975, the People's Army of Vietnam broke down the gate of the U.S. Embassy in what is now Ho Chi Minh City. Formerly Saigon, this city was the last stronghold of the U.S.-backed puppet government in the South.

April 30 marks not only the official defeat of U.S. imperialism in the country. It marks the defeat of *all* Western imperialism that occupied and terrorized the Vietnamese people for generations.

## **A long history of resistance**

The liberation struggle in Vietnam dates back to the 1800s when French colonists sought to claim the country for themselves. The people of Vietnam wasted no time in organizing resistance to this foreign invader who not only disrespected and destroyed the land of the native population, but actively enslaved or erased the natives themselves.

This struggle was not won by weapons, or technology, or by having individual great leaders; it was won through a unified commitment by every man, woman, and child, and an unyielding dedication to see liberation through by any means necessary, for however long it took. Imperial Japan occupied Vietnam from 1940 to 1945. Immediately afterwards, the French attempted to regain control of their former colony, and this kicked off the First Indochina War, which ended after the glorious Vietnamese victory at Dien Bien Phu and subsequent French withdrawal.

Following this withdrawal, the Vietnamese people were betrayed by the Western imperialist powers yet again. This time it was the U.S. who split the country in half and occupied the southern portion below the 17th parallel, installing a puppet government and immediately began attacking and burning the North. However, this brutality was nothing new to the people of Vietnam, who have survived decades upon decades of bombing and massacres.

As Washington attempted to bomb the North off of the map, these very same bombs were then turned around and used as booby traps and ordinance that would claim the lives and limbs of plenty of U.S. ground forces. As more and more U.S. weapons and ammo were sent into the country to squash the resistance, the U.S. and ARVN

(Army of the Republic of Vietnam) forces found themselves on the receiving end of the hot lead and weapons, which found their way into the hands of the Vietnamese guerrilla fighters.

### **'We won't fight another rich man's war'**

That was a popular slogan of the anti-war movement because it was mostly the children of the working class who were thrown into the meat grinder to protect imperialist profits in Vietnam. Young men with rich parents, like Donald Trump, could often dodge the draft.

The working-class soldiers resisted, however, joining up with the Black power and other movements of the day. The war in Vietnam reflected race oppression back home. Some 300,000 Black people served in the war. In 1965, they comprised 31% of ground forces but only 12% of the U.S. population. Eighty thousand Latinx people served, along with 42,000 Native Peoples. None of these groups had full rights in the U.S., and yet Washington lied and said that they were being sent to fight for the rights of the Vietnamese people.

Inspired by the labor struggle, troops also organized on the basis of class, for example with the American Servicemen's Union (ASU), which brought together rank-and-file soldiers to resist their officers. In addition, countless soldiers deserted or went AWOL. And from 1969-1972, there were 900 documented incidents of U.S. troops killing their officers or sergeants, sometimes by throwing grenades into their tents. This was called "fragging." All this resistance shook Washington, and the capitalists profiting from the destruction to their cores.

### **The Vietnamese people overcame every obstacle**

Washington not only sought to destroy the will of resistance but also the land that the people were fighting so hard to protect. But Agent Orange, Napalm, and Rolling

Thunder bombing runs all failed to subdue the people or destroy their subterranean tunnels and defenses. Every claim of nearing victory against communism was shattered. The Tet Offensive, Easter Offensive, and Ho Chi Minh Offensives all washed away the idea of a weak or faltering North Vietnam.

The victory over the U.S. occupation was inevitable because the Vietnamese people kicked out everyone before them. And whether the imperialists like it or not, there is no such thing as "American exceptionalism," especially when the will to fight is involved. The Vietnamese people overcame every obstacle blocking them from achieving reunification and self-determination. They dismantled the dividing line of the 17th Parallel and kicked out the exploiters.

After reunification, they had to overcome massive destruction just like their counterparts in Cambodia and Laos. Just like what the U.S. and Zionist forces are doing to Gaza today, towns and villages were flattened. Homes and infrastructure were destroyed. Agricultural lands were poisoned. Over 20 years, the U.S. had carried out more than a million bombing raids, dropping about 5 million tons of bombs. Tens of thousands of unexploded bombs are still found each year, with some exploding to maim and kill.

### **Socialism raises 40 million out of poverty**

The U.S. put a crushing embargo on the country in an attempt to make the revolutionary government collapse. These sanctions were not lifted until 1994. Isolated and struggling economically, the revolutionary government nevertheless persevered in building socialism, but had to make accommodations to the capitalist world market, especially after counterrevolution swept through the USSR and Eastern Europe, depriving Vietnam of trade and socialist aid. In the early 1990s, the majority of Vietnamese people lived in extreme poverty.

Despite implementing market reforms, the Communist Party of Vietnam has held on, maintaining state ownership of heavy industry and resources like oil, while continuing to expand the cooperative agricultural economy. Even with an increase in especially small and medium-sized private enterprises, Vietnam's socialist-oriented development continues. A 2018 IMF report estimates that Vietnam lifted 40 million people out of poverty, and of course attributed this success wholly to capitalist reforms. But this remarkable poverty reduction is not a capitalist goal; it is a socialist one. Because of that orientation, they continue to advance equity for women and ethnic minorities, while expanding access to housing, health care, and education. Vietnam's achievements are the result of its revolution.

### **Vietnamese struggle an inspiration to oppressed everywhere**

Here in Baltimore, the oppressed population is not divided North/South, but instead East/West. This division of communities has allowed for the ruling class in the city to attack each side differently. Over East, Johns Hopkins buys up and gentrifies city blocks with the aim of clearing out longstanding Black communities to make way for an exploiting class to move in and reinforce the racist exploitation. Over West, communities left without aid or investment are terrorized by police occupation, corralling the people into smaller neighborhoods, all while limiting the movement and growth of the communities in the area.

Finally, the dividing line in Baltimore is not a DMZ lined with barbed wire between these two areas, but instead it is the center of the city where a majority of the wealth and capital reside. Just like the Vietnamese who committed to struggle for generations, the oppressed people of Baltimore have committed to remain in this city against the wishes of the ruling capitalist class that would rather see them gone.

The story of the Vietnamese struggle for true freedom culminating in Reunification Day is a lesson to all oppressed people here in the U.S. and abroad that no matter

how daunting things may seem or how long it takes, the unshakable drive of a people to achieve their goals can never be beaten.

Happy Reunification Day to our blood brothers in Vietnam and around the world, and long live international solidarity!

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