

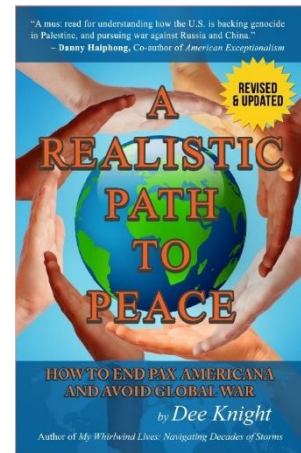
# ***A Realistic Path to Peace: From Genocide to Global War... And How We Can Stop It***

By Dee Knight

Chapter-by-chapter Summary:

## **Preface: Danger... & Opportunity**

The world is in a crisis now. As its empire declines toward collapse, the United States leadership is making a series of disastrous errors – in Ukraine against Russia, in West Asia backing genocide and going to the brink of regional or global war, in the Far East against China. There's great danger on all these fronts, and efforts for peace are essential. The last comment is: The Chinese word for "crisis" is composed of two characters, one meaning "danger," the other meaning "opportunity."



## **Introduction: The Long Fight Ahead**

The endless mess caused by decades of "endless war" helps to explain the problem facing Biden, Blinken, their NATO allies, and Netanyahu. They have bitten off more than they can chew. As they face defeat in their proxy war against Russia in Ukraine – a defeat they disguise as a "stalemate" – they are hoping for an easy solution of the Palestine/Israel conflict, one that would maintain the *status quo ante*. It's a false hope. Biden said in March 2022 "this battle will not be won in days or months, either. We need to steel ourselves for the long fight ahead." Learn how and why the U.S. and NATO won't settle for peace, and how people in countries across the globe are working to make peace happen.

## **I Palestine & The End of Apartheid and Colonialism**

### **1 Restore Historic Palestine/End Zionist Apartheid**

In the surge of outrage against genocide and for solidarity with Palestine, "True Talmud Jews" (and many others) are opposing Zionism and standing with Palestine and its supporters "for freedom, human rights, and peaceful coexistence." I trace the links between the fight to end Apartheid in both South Africa in the 1980s, and Palestine today. I also detail "Israel's One-State Reality" that "shatters even the illusion of a two-state solution."

### **2 Blinken Blames Hamas for Broken Truce**

The tight links between neocons in Washington and the Israeli Zionist leadership undergird 75 years of terror against Palestinians. Numerous Palestinian groups have participated in the current *Intifada*, like those in the 1980s and early 2000s. Hamas and its allies are a *national liberation movement* that has led Palestinians in resistance repeatedly over decades, with surging support from people in the U.S. and across the globe, as well as most governments.

### **3 What Does "Strategic Defeat" Look Like?**

U.S. Defense Secretary Austin warns Zionist leaders they may "replace a tactical victory with a strategic defeat." A prestigious DC think tank leader says "*the war in Gaza will be the first war in Israel's history that the army has fought and lost. That loss would be catastrophic for Israel and deeply damaging to the United States.*" There is a mutiny brewing in the U.S. government, as well as a storm of criticism globally of repeated U.S. vetoes of UN peace resolutions. Israel has tried desperately to control the narrative with fabrications that immediately unraveled. Sensational lies about rape and beheaded babies were quietly retracted despite being uncritically parroted by mainstream western media. The response to the genocidal Israeli assault could actually cause not only the defeat of Zionist Apartheid, but also the collapse of the Israeli state, and further crisis in the United States.

## **II Ukraine Conflict: U.S. Proxy War Against Russia**

### **4 Shock and Awe: Then and Now**

Describing official "shock and awe" narratives of U.S. adventures in Iraq and Ukraine, and the official U.S. hysterical condemnations of Russia, while covering up its own aggression, a

variety of authorities tell the true story. Realist international relations professor John Mearsheimer claims “the United States and its European allies share most of the responsibility for this crisis,” and that Russia sees NATO expansion “as an existential threat.” Much of the Global South, led by China, India, Pakistan, Middle Eastern and African countries, and a substantial number of Latin American ones, have rejected all U.S. and European efforts to isolate Russia. The sanctions have backfired, endangering the economies of most of the countries in the world. Economist Michael Hudson argues the U.S. war against Russia is actually a war on Europe, to keep the EU subordinated to U.S. capital, and prevent America’s allies from opening up more trade and investment with Russia and China – to keep them “firmly within America’s own economic orbit.” There is a potential role for China, and an urgent need to build a new American peace movement.

## 5 What America Will and Will Not Do in Ukraine

“We do not want to prolong the war just to inflict pain on Russia,” Biden insists. And “we do not seek a war between NATO and Russia.” He says the flood of new weapons, ammunition, and billions of dollars, is meant to help Ukraine “be in the strongest possible position at the negotiating table.” But Biden talks peace while making war, and has repeatedly rejected or prevented diplomatic solutions. Ellen Taylor, daughter of Nuremberg prosecutor Telford Taylor, says “the crime of conspiracy to commit a war of aggression... has to be laid at the feet of NATO and the U.S.” She adds that “the often-repeated claim that Russia’s aggression was unprovoked, is preposterous.”

## 6 Buildup to War: Threats and Counter-threats-Who’s To Blame?

Threats and counter-threats flew between Washington and Moscow over Ukraine in early 2022, causing a flurry of fear and confusion that escalated and expanded daily. Each side claimed the other was threatening a war reminiscent of the Cuban missile crisis of the early 1960s. Russia insisted that Ukraine “never, never, ever” become a NATO member. The U.S. declared “we will not allow anyone to slam closed NATO’s open door policy.” A January 2022 report said “The U.S. and Ukraine are secretly preparing for all-out war while advancing propaganda to make it appear that Russia is the aggressor.” In summer 2021, 30,000 U.S. troops led “Operation Defender Europe 2021,” a set of NATO exercises from the Baltic Sea to the Black Sea. In December 2022 the U.S. staged simulation bombing raids within 12 miles of Russian airspace. NATO warplanes confronted Russian aircraft 290 times during the previous year. A peace deal that could have resolved the conflict was scuttled by the U.S and U.K. Russia made a “last ditch” peace proposal in December 2022 that the U.S. ignored. A Russian official said “a characteristic feature of the current stage of relations between Russia and the collective West is a complete lack of trust.” The U.S. has rejected any and all talks with Russia.

## 7 “This Battle Will Not Be Won in Days or Months”

Joe Biden “sparked a global uproar” on March 26, 2022, declaring Russian President Vladimir Putin “cannot remain in power.” Biden’s statement “went further than even U.S. presidents during the Cold War,” a Washington Post report said: It “immediately reverberated around the world as world leaders, diplomats, and foreign policy experts sought to determine what Biden said, what it meant—and, if he didn’t mean it, why he said it.” It started a PR campaign that “has produced a steady stream of sophisticated propaganda aimed at stirring up public and official support.” U.S. message managers try to avoid comparison to recent U.S. regime change wars in Iraq, Afghanistan, Libya and Yugoslavia. Biden’s message includes intense demonization of the Russian President, calling him a war criminal and a “butcher...” — not likely to facilitate peace talks. But the need for peace talks remains urgent.

## 8 Showdown at “Credibility Gulch”

In the Vietnam war years, the “credibility gap” morphed into “Credibility Gulch” as the official story stretched ever-farther from reality. When Joe Biden says he is doing “everything within my power” to address “Putin price hikes,” he is really saying we need to endure higher prices for gas—and food, rent, clothes, and everything else—because of the reckless

draconian sanctions war on Russia. There is just one acceptable narrative for the war itself in the mainstream media: it is an unprovoked and illegal aggression by Russia. Any alternative views are “far-fetched claims from Russia” to “discredit international concerns about... war crimes.” An alternate view is presented by Scott Ritter, the former Marine intelligence officer who served as a UN inspector of “weapons of mass destruction” in Iraq. Jacques Baud, a former officer in the Swiss armed forces who was the Head of Policy and Doctrine for UN Peacekeeping Operations, backs up Scott Ritter’s analysis. He says, “Western countries have... clearly created and supported Ukrainian far-right militias.” He adds that “the American and European political leaders deliberately pushed the Ukraine into a conflict they knew was lost in advance—for the sole purpose of dealing a political blow to Russia...” Former National Security Adviser Zbigniew Brzezinski summed up the U.S. strategy in his 1997 book *The Grand Chessboard*: “Ukraine is a new and important space on the Eurasian chessboard... because its very existence as an independent country [means] Russia ceases to be a Eurasian empire.” Victoria Nuland, former Undersecretary of State, was the key U.S. point person for using Ukraine to attack Russia. She famously handpicked a new Ukrainian president, passing out cookies to the fascists and saying “Fuck the EU.”

## 9 Anti-Russian Hysteria Limits Peace Prospects

By mid-2022 there was little doubt of the outcome of the war. But Ukraine’s President Zelensky was reluctant to negotiate peace, hoping a flood of U.S. and NATO weapons and money might help reverse his heavy losses. He claimed Ukraine was suffering between 200 and 500 combat losses each day – a figure that has risen as the war continued. Meanwhile NATO “unity” has been overstated. Various members oppose sanctions against Russia due to a boomerang effect on their fragile economies. Major west European leaders were either forced to resign, lost elections, or faced political crisis. Across Europe and North America, broad peace forces mobilized, saying “Yes to Peace! No to NATO!” In the U.S., the Peace in Ukraine coalition bemoans the “confusion of the American people. They have tremendous sympathy for Ukrainians, but don’t understand that the way to save Ukrainian lives is to stop the war.” Outside the United States, the “blame Russia” big lie has little credibility. Much of Ukraine was part of the Russian Tsarist empire for centuries. Donbas is considered by many to be “the heart of Russia.” The people of Donbas played a decisive role in the defeat of Nazi Germany. Recent events have revealed that a key goal of U.S. foreign policy is to dismember Russia. The prospect of fracturing and weakening the Russian Federation is a key reason why the U.S. is demonizing Russia. Ukraine’s current leadership and its U.S./NATO backers would like to avoid a settlement that reflects the demographic and historical reality of the country. But this key issue should guide negotiations for a peace agreement, and establish a viable basis of cooperation by Russia with Ukraine and with Europe.

## III A Peace Movement Emerges

### 10 “A Real Path to Peace” – A Movement Is Launched

“You don’t have to be Ukrainian or Russian to demand the U.S. stop instigating, escalating, and funding the war in Ukraine,” declared a speaker at the November 2022 “Real Path to Peace” event. That was an answer to Biden’s trick of saying peace “is up to the Ukrainians.” That gives him a pretext to continue the flood of military aid and “trainers” that keep the war hot and endless. When NATO’s original “defensive” role against the USSR ended, it morphed from a dozen European and North American countries into an aggressive alliance of 30 countries, designed to surround Russia, and extend imperial power over the Middle East, central Asia, Africa and the Far East. “We need to remember *all* the imperialist interventions,” the speaker said. The event helped launch a major antiwar activity on Martin Luther King, Jr.’s birthday involving a large array of peace groups. One speaker highlighted confusion in Washington, where “the most cautious people in DC are the military, with top General Milley calling for negotiations while Biden and Blinken push the illusion that Ukraine can get back all of Donbas and Crimea.” Noam Chomsky said the war can end “in one of two ways — surrender or a negotiated settlement.” The U.S. wants to continue the war to weaken Russia, then impose conditions on a “defeated” Russia worse than those imposed on Germany at the

end the first world war, he said. The consequences of this “vast gamble” are the war must go on as long as it benefits the U.S. as the world’s dominant power. The *NY Times* editorialized that “A decisive military victory for Ukraine over Russia, in which Ukraine regains all the territory Russia has seized since 2014, is not a realistic goal... Unrealistic expectations could draw [the U.S. and NATO] ever deeper into a costly, drawn-out war.”

### 11 “We Won’t Be Silent Anymore!”

A massive and militant Poor People’s Moral March and rally brought thousands from across the country to Washington, DC on June 18, 2022. The crowd was “a diverse mix of Black and White, Latino and Asian, young families with babies, retirees, union members and college students,” a Washington Post report said. The antiwar group CodePink carried hand-made signs and placards saying “Cut the Pentagon,” and “Demilitarize Everything,” and “Weapons are really one of the roots of all this inequality.” The PPC’s Reconstruction Agenda demands the government “prioritize peace by reducing military spending, redirecting those resources” to people’s priorities. Over the past 20 years the U.S. government has spent more than \$21 trillion on war, militarizing the border, surveillance and a war economy that kills, incarcerates and criminalizes the poor at home and around the world.

### 12 Pivot To Peace!

“The U.S. is engulfing itself in a war in the Pacific, which neither China nor Taiwan want,” declared Pivot to Peace co-founder retired San Francisco Judge Julie Tang. “A war in the Pacific would have horrendous consequences and would not be easy for the U.S. to win,” Tang said. Wang Wulan, leader of the Taiwan Labor Party, said “In the name of ‘helping Taiwan’ the U.S. wants to make Taiwan a ‘major non-NATO ally’—to make it an arsenal at the front of the war theater... The U.S. government is trying to cause regional tension. China’s government has been constantly incited to take action.” Peace rallies are emerging everywhere. “Yankees, Go Home’: U.S.-China Rift Rattles South Korea” was the banner headline of the *NY Times* international section October 19. It reported a protest of thousands of South Koreans who fear that war between the U.S. and China will impact them. Pivot To Peace says “We reject the escalation towards global conflict and instead urge peace and cooperation with China.

## IV China Is Not Our Enemy

### 13 Biden’s Saber-Rattling Against China Could Lead to World War III

When Joe Biden was asked in Tokyo in May 2022 if he was “willing to get involved militarily to defend Taiwan,” he answered, “yes, that’s the commitment we made.” White House staff rushed to say “our policy has not changed,” while others found it part of escalating Cold War chatter. But “Defending Taiwan Would Be a Mistake,” wrote a China expert in a May 27 *New York Times* op-ed. “Simply put, the United States is outgunned,” the expert wrote.

### 14 Threats Against China Endanger the World

Immediately following U.S. withdrawal from Afghanistan, tensions began boiling over in the Taiwan straits. “Taiwan is now at the heart of the deepening discord between China and the United States,” a *NY Times* report said. “To us, it’s only a matter of time, not a matter of if,” said Rear Admiral Michael Studeman, director of intelligence with the U.S. Indo-Pacific Command. “Hong Kong today, Taiwan tomorrow” is a rallying cry in Taiwan, according to an August 2021 *NY Times Magazine* report. “First Tibet, then Xinjiang, then Hong Kong. The edges of empire had been dutifully absorbed. Taiwan was the only one remaining.” The words “Edges of empire” suggest these places are not really part of China. They reflect a concerted U.S. push to partition and shrink China—similar to U.S. efforts today in Xinjiang. Dismembering China has been a long-term goal of the U.S. government since 1949.

### 15 Does China’s Rise Really Threaten the U.S.?

President Biden and most of the U.S. Congress say China has become a serious threat that must be countered in every way and in every corner of the globe. This escalation is not new. Barack Obama launched the U.S. “pivot to Asia.” Biden wants *all* U.S. allies to join sides against China. But “Not all countries in NATO or the Group of 7 share Mr. Biden’s zeal to isolate China,” the *NY Times* reports. Kenya’s President said in 2018 that “We are very keen as

a country, and I believe also as a continent, to partner strongly with China.” Liberia’s Economy Minister said “China is a very, very important partner for our development strategy.”

#### 16 “Democracy and Human Rights”: China vs. USA

The leaders of the USA and China faced off at the United Nations General Assembly in September 2021, in a dramatic verbal conflict over peace, democracy, and human values. U.S. President Biden said the U.S. will “oppose attempts by stronger countries to dominate weaker ones, whether through changes to territory by force, economic coercion, technological exploitation or disinformation...” He offered no explanation for recent agreements with allies to develop and deploy nuclear submarines in the Indo-Pacific region, and threaten China with war ships and nuclear missiles. U.S. sanctions against targeted enemies across the globe were also not mentioned. Nor were the efforts of NED and USAID to try to control internal affairs in many countries, including China. Xi Jinping said “China has never and will never invade or bully others to seek hegemony... A world of peace and development should embrace civilizations of various forms and must accommodate diverse paths to modernization. One country’s success does not have to mean another country’s failure.” Former U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo admitted in 2019 that “We lied, we cheated, we stole... It’s part of the glory of the American experiment.” His claims that the Chinese Communist Party is “the greatest danger” to democracy in the world, and that China’s to blame for the COVID-19 pandemic have helped discredit the U.S. position. Biden and Blinken and Congress, are continuing Pompeo’s infamous campaign.

#### 17 “Yankees Go Home,” Asians Say

The *NY Times* reported an October 2022 protest of thousands of South Koreans who fear war between the U.S. and China will impact them. This is just the latest sign of escalating trouble for U.S. war plans in east Asia. In Okinawa, where over 70% of the U.S. military presence in Japan is stationed, protests are constant. Okinawans have voted overwhelmingly, year after year, against the U.S. bases. While the U.S. “pivot to Asia” is recent, dating from 2009, its roots can be traced back *at least* to the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The U.S. state of permanent war in Asia and the Pacific today is in fact the inevitable product of a centuries-long project of U.S. hegemony in the Pacific, with various tactics of empire: from settler colonialism in Hawai’i to colonial war in the Philippines to the formation of an ‘open-door’ empire in a fabled China market as the crown jewel of U.S. Pacific manifest destiny. The U.S. now has 375,000 Indo-Pacific Command personnel scattered across hundreds of military bases in the west Pacific. The official U.S. purpose for these bases is “protection of U.S. allies from Chinese hegemonic aspirations.” The reality is simpler: these are forward operations in a long-term U.S. policy of “containment,” and very concrete preparations for war. The pivot to Asia faces multiple, overlapping grassroots movements opposing the existential threat continued U.S. militarization poses.

#### 18 Biden Travels East in Clouds of Mistrust

During a meeting with Chinese leader Xi Jinping at the November 2022 G20 conference in Indonesia, Biden spoke of what China calls the “Five Noes,” which he committed to the year before: not to seek a new Cold War; not to try to change China’s system; not to forge alliances against China; not to support “Taiwan independence;” and not to look for conflict with China. Biden added that the U.S. does not seek to halt China’s economic development, or to contain China. “We hope the U.S. can implement President Biden’s commitment instead of always saying one thing and doing another,” commented the Chinese newspaper *Global Times*. The week before, there was a meeting of the Association of Southeast Asia Nations, where leaders reiterated their strong ties with Beijing and issued a joint statement with China supporting the One China Policy, opposing independence for Taiwan. Biden met there with Japanese and South Korean leaders, focusing on “security issues,” a week after the U.S. and South Korea launched their largest ever combined military drills, with hundreds of warplanes from both sides staging mock attacks 24 hours a day for most of a week, involving about 240 warplanes conducting about 1,600 sorties. The exercises included the nuclear-powered USS Ronald Reagan carrier group in the first U.S.-South Korea joint military

training involving a U.S. aircraft carrier since 2017. The U.S. has nearly 30,000 troops stationed in South Korea, with another 50,000 in Japan, mainly in Okinawa, with nuclear missiles ready to launch. Anti-base protests are constant.

## 19 “With Us or Against Us” Fails

“You can’t be neutral” in NATO’s proxy war with Russia, foreign ministers of the U.S., Germany and Ukraine told leaders of Global South countries at the Munich Security Conference February 18, 2023. “Neutrality is not an option,” said Germany’s Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock, “because then you are standing on the side of the aggressor.” In January Baerbock told the Council of Europe “We are fighting a war against Russia.” But “Nearly 90 percent of the World Isn’t Following Us on Ukraine,” blared a *Newsweek* opinion piece on September 15, 2022. “Economic sanctions have united our adversaries in shared resistance. Less predictably, the outbreak of Cold War II has also led countries that were once partners or non-aligned to become increasingly multi-aligned.” China’s foreign ministry issued a frank and forceful document which is a detailed indictment that “the United States has acted... to interfere in the internal affairs of other countries, pursue, maintain and abuse hegemony, advance subversion and infiltration, and willfully wage wars, bringing harm to the international community.”

## V What Makes the War Machine So Monstrous?

### 20 Dr. Strangelove Is No Longer Satire

World-renowned economist Jeffrey Sachs declared in January 2023 that “We are at the brink of a disaster... first and foremost because of the United States, which is a major provocateur of this war, and a major threat to peace.” He made an impassioned plea to “get us off this reckless war between Russia and NATO, which is escalating by the day. The Doomsday Clock was moved to 90 seconds to midnight at the same time as the U.S. and Germany agreed to send new highly advanced tanks to Ukraine, in a guaranteed reckless escalation that brings us closer to nuclear war.” A leader of Germany’s Left Party said “This is obviously about passing Germany the poisoned chalice. Berlin is to be sent into the line of fire, to conclusively destroy German-Russian relations and turn them into open war for others’ benefit.”

### 21 Why It’s So Hard to Stop the U.S. War Machine

The ideologies of American exceptionalism and innocence have inoculated the U.S. population from making the connection between the death imposed by modern day U.S. capitalism at home and the misery the U.S. military reigns on nations abroad. Working class soldiers who are pushed by the poverty draft to join the military are constantly thanked for their “service” while the victims of war are stripped of their humanity. Wars are sanitized as heroic operations that defend the “freedom and democracy” of all. Soldiers are celebrated for supposedly protecting the interests of Americans from the inferior nations and peoples seeking to harm them. Meanwhile *Exceptionism*—the institutionalized suspension of legal restraints—protects the “Guardian elite” from facing legal consequences stemming from their illicit clandestine activities. Following Kennedy’s famous “Strategy of Peace speech” at American University in June 1963, which caused alarm on the right and among hawks in the military and CIA, the CIA under President Johnson reversed Kennedy era policies in several third world countries, most notably Brazil, Congo and Indonesia. Governments were overthrown, leaders assassinated, and millions of innocent civilians were killed. The CIA also worked diligently to foster separatism and break up China—in Tibet, Xinjiang, Hong Kong and Taiwan—setting up long-term operations with NED, USAID, and numerous non-governmental organizations.

### 22 Empire’s Debt Trap: How to Resist Gluttonous Greed

Economist Michael Hudson explains how Washington’s aggressive neoliberalism, bolstered by military force, is backfiring. The U.S./NATO confrontation with Russia in Ukraine is achieving just the opposite of the U.S. aim of preventing China, Russia and their allies from acting independently of U.S. control over their trade and investment policy. The Biden

administration's plan was to split Russia away from China and then cripple China's own military and economic viability. But the effect of American diplomacy has been to drive Russia and China together, joining with Iran, India and other allies. A critical mass is able to be mutually self-sufficient to start the process of achieving independence from Dollar Diplomacy. The U.S. is fighting this trend. China is deemed autocratic for providing basic needs at subsidized prices instead of charging whatever the market can bear. U.S. and other Western officials define military coups as democratic if they are sponsored by the United States in the hope of promoting neoliberal policies. In the case of Venezuela, Hudson comments on Trump's pirate-like 2018 confiscation of Venezuela's gold reserves held in London, and placing them at the disposal of the puppet Juan Guaidó. "This was defined as being democratic," Hudson says, "because the regime change promised to introduce the neoliberal 'free market' that is deemed to be the essence of America's definition of democracy for today's world." The U.S. did the same in 1979, when it "paralyzed Iran's bank deposits in New York after the Shah was overthrown. That was viewed as an exceptional one-time action as far as all other financial markets were concerned. But now that the United States is the self-proclaimed 'exceptional nation,' such confiscations are becoming a new norm in U.S. diplomacy. When the Biden Administration and its NATO allies made a march larger asset grab of some \$300 billion of Russia's foreign bank reserves and currency holdings in March 2022, it made official a radical new epoch in Dollar Diplomacy." Now "the U.S. confiscations have accelerated the end of the U.S. Treasury-bill standard that has governed world finance since the United States went off gold in 1971."

### 23 Neoliberalism Has Been Far From "Liberal"

The term "neoliberal" can be confusing. In the United States, "liberalism" has meant less harsh social and economic policies than either "conservative" or "moderate" ones. *Neoliberalism* differs from these *political* labels. It's an economic policy dating back to the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries, the period of classical economic liberalism. Think Adam Smith and *laissez faire*, letting the "invisible hand" of the market prevail: "the government that governs least governs best." Ronald Reagan said things like that. He launched the Reagan Revolution—slashing taxes for the rich, deregulating basic industry and the banks, gutting environmental, consumer and workplace safety rules, cutting back social welfare programs, privatizing or contracting out public functions, and emphasizing globalization. Free trade agreements led to factory jobs disappearing overseas. Neoliberalism was introduced in Chile, after General Augusto Pinochet's 1973 coup, orchestrated by Nixon and Kissinger, which overthrew the socialist government of President Salvador Allende. Pinochet brought in a group of free-market economists called the Chicago Boys to hastily give U.S.-based multinational companies the best deal possible (particularly for Chilean copper). The deal slashed taxes and privatized most public services, including pensions, all backed by brute force. The Third World debt crisis in the 1980s and the demise of the USSR in 1991 fostered neoliberalism everywhere. The International Monetary Fund (IMF) pushed austerity regimes upon societies that had no capacity to tolerate public sector cuts as a condition to access financing. Leaders in these countries surrendered to IMF policies *en masse*. Venezuela's "21<sup>st</sup> Century Socialist" leader Hugo Chávez condemned neoliberalism as a policy of mass starvation. He sparked a continent-wide "pink tide" of countries in the region, winning anti-neoliberalism leaders in the years that followed. The empire has fought back, teaming up with local oligarchies to turn back the pink tide: an attempted coup against Chávez in 2002, and against his successor Maduro in 2020; successful coups in Haiti in 2004 and Honduras in 2009; "lawfare" (using the legal establishment as a weapon) leading to impeachments in Paraguay in 2012, then Argentina and Brazil in 2016; a "self-coup" in Ecuador in 2017; and a *temporarily* successful coup against Bolivia's President Evo Morales in 2019. "For Chavez, the art of politics was to make the impossible possible, not by sheer will power, but by taking the

existing reality as a starting point and working to build favorable conditions and a correlation of social forces capable of changing that reality.”

## 24 Sanctions: A Wrecking Ball in a World Economy

The Sanctions the U.S. government imposes on other countries are often called “a substitute for war,” or “just short of war.” That’s not true. They’re war—a key element in the “hybrid war” waged against most of Eurasia, much of Africa, and part of Latin America. Joe Biden says he doesn’t want World War III, but look again. Regime change war *through sanctions* is ongoing now, against Russia, China, Cuba, Venezuela, Nicaragua, Zimbabwe, and more than three dozen countries, who together make up about a third of the world population. U.S. sanctions on these countries are indeed a “wrecking ball,” but they’re also a *boomerang* that is devastating Europe, and rapidly surging into the lives of people at home. High prices for gasoline, food and other necessities are the tip of an iceberg, or the headwinds of a hurricane. Much worse is headed our way. Sanctions devastate economies by cutting off access to credit and trade, investment, and much more. That may sound like the sanctions are aimed mainly at governments and businesses in target countries. But they strangle people, too—crippling food production and distribution, cutting off medicine and medical supplies, energy and transportation. Economic sanctions can be more effective than bombs at destroying a country’s basic infrastructure—electrical grids, water treatment and distribution systems, transportation hubs, and communication networks—by blocking access to fuel, raw materials, and replacement parts. This causes droughts, famines, disease, and poverty, resulting in the death of millions. *Sanctions are illegal*: they violate the UN Charter, the Fourth Geneva Convention and the Genocide Convention, the Nuremberg Charter, the WHO Constitution, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights... and the Supremacy Clause of the U.S. Constitution, which says treaty law is the law of the land. The U.S. has approved all these charters and conventions as treaties.

## VI Looking Backward to See Ahead

### 25 Dissenting Soldiers Challenge the War Machine

People who have seen active duty in the U.S. “forever wars” are more and more speaking out. One of them said “War on Terror strip-mined my soul. My time in Afghanistan, from May 2009 to June 2010, was defined by the horror of watching good people getting mutilated and dying terrible deaths. It was filled with intense moral anguish... It strained my relationships, destroyed my notion of patriotism, eroded my support for American foreign policy... and made me deeply sad.” When asked what can be done to reduce the trauma, another GI answers “abolish the military. There’s no way to stop the trauma—we are all suffering because of this oligarchy we live under. Get out into the streets and...! Every time I go out to protest, the riot cops are out, and the soldiers are out. I see confused teenagers like me, attacking us—we’re all on each other’s side... We have to realize the system isn’t broken, that’s how it was designed to work. It’s always been control the many by the few. It’s basically a war on poor people—it’s always been that way. I would be more comforted if I heard more people talking about it.”

### 26 The Socialist Antiwar Tradition

Socialists in the U.S. have a proud—and sometimes tragic—tradition of anti-war and anti-imperialist action. The U.S. socialist movement was a mass force in the first decades of the twentieth century. Total circulation of the socialist press exceeded two million copies. About 1,200 socialists held public offices in 343 municipalities across the country, including 79 mayors in 24 states. In Oklahoma, the SP had 1,500 locals with 57,000 members, many of whom were also members of the Working Class Union, a secret society that often resorted to night riding, barn burning, and dynamite. They defied fierce repression by the Wilson administration, typified by the so-called Espionage Act, which is still in force and was used to convict and imprison anti-war whistleblower Chelsea Manning. The lesson from that time is



the importance of combining legal electoral work with mass organizing and resistance, fighting repression, and staying united. In the 1960s, opposition to the Vietnam war galvanized a new generation of socialists and radicals. Students for a Democratic Society (SDS) formed coalitions with a variety of socialist groups as well as civil rights organizations to build a massive anti-war crescendo that shook the foundations of the country. Of course, such opposition did not go unpunished. The federal government's counterintelligence program (COINTELPRO) intensified the repression of anti-war and civil rights activists. The Black Panthers and their allies were largely crushed, and the National Guard killed students at the Jackson State and Kent State campuses, delivering a clear message to all. Despite the repression, the transformative movement of the sixties had numerous currents, and the socialist currents played a historic role in a variety of ways. Combat veterans returning from the war also became lightning rods for intensified anti-war activity. These new working-class anti-war voices were natural allies of socialists trying to reach and mobilize civilian workers against the war. Veterans' demands for jobs, benefits, and improved care for their wounds and traumas tended to concretize the war's negative impact on working people, while dramatizing the war's criminal character. In 1984 the ILWU Local 10 shut down the port of San Francisco rather than unload cargo from apartheid South Africa. It won the support of thousands in the Bay Area who rallied in solidarity. This movement succeeded in crippling U.S. government and corporate support for the racist apartheid regime. This is an important example for today's antiwar movement.

## **VII From Genocide in Gaza, To Global War?**

### **27 From Genocide to Global War?**

Unsuccessful in eradicating the Palestinian resistance in Gaza, in spite of the awesome toll of its bombing campaign, Israel has resorted to provocative targeted assassinations in Lebanon, Syria and Iran. Netanyahu, whose political fortunes may depend on "many more months of war," seems to hope to drag the U.S. into a regional war. Will the U.S. take the bait? "Endless war" was the nightmare promise of Donald Rumsfeld and George Bush back in 2001. The world has lived that nightmare ever since, in Afghanistan, Iraq, Syria, Libya, the former Yugoslavia, Somalia, Yemen, Ukraine,... and at home. The nightmare threatens to morph into global catastrophe, as Israel's U.S.-backed genocidal slaughter against Gaza hits the brink of regional war in West Asia. It could easily become global, involving both Russia and China. Such a war, even if it did not blow up the world, would destroy the global economy the U.S. and its allies want to dominate. A deep fog of lies and false propaganda has been a major strategic weapon of war for the U.S. war makers and their allies. The lie machine and the war machine are linked: the military-industrial complex and AIPAC are among the largest political donors to politicians in Washington. The Big Lie is the weapon of choice for Biden and his *neo-cons* in waging the proxy war in Ukraine against Russia, in support for Israel's genocide in Palestine, in the hybrid war against China, and in a wider war in West Asia. In each case the path to peace must first break through the official big lies. The biggest lie is about terror and terrorism. Zionist Israel has waged permanent terror against the Palestinians since 1948, always with massive support from the U.S. and its allies. Just as Nelson Mandela and the African National Congress were called terrorists by the apartheid rulers of South Africa, with U.S. support, the Palestinians are considered terrorists because they reject the Israeli theft of their land, and have fought against terrible odds to get it back. Deceit is combined with a war against "disinformation," designed to suppress anything but the official narrative. Dissent is met with repression. Students for Justice in Palestine and similar groups have been banned at numerous universities. Presidents of Ivy League schools were forced to resign in an AIPAC-sponsored campaign to suppress anti-Zionist activists by smearing them as "antisemitic." At the start of 2024, after three months of war in Gaza, and nearly two years in Ukraine, "postwar plans" became news items. But U.S. leaders and their allies continue to live in a fantasy world where they are on top. They dream of establishing the *status quo ante* in both Ukraine and Palestine. The main obstacle is the

United States, which does not want peace based on mutual cooperation. But the U.S. may not have a choice, either in the Ukraine conflict, or in western Asia, or against China. The role of popular protest in all this is significant. Digging out the truth and spreading it is not enough. People are hitting the streets in protest and in serious efforts to stop the war machine. What if the neocons in DC *lose* in the big-time gambles of proxy war against Russia, support of Israeli genocide in Gaza, and escalating threats against China? That is the perspective of the burgeoning antiwar movement, which is morphing into a *united front against imperialism and fascism*. This movement is emerging as the more than century-long project of U.S. domination reaches a tipping point where U.S. actions are not merely failures, but are counter-productive, accelerating a shift away from “full spectrum domination” to a *multipolar* world. The U.S. will no longer be able to control the world. As its empire collapses new possibilities will emerge across the globe and here at home.

### **Afterword –2024 and Beyond**

The 2024 electoral season began with greater uncertainty than ever. Fear and loathing are normal reactions to disenfranchising “choices” between continued endless war and open appeals to fascism in the name of “peace.” The enormous profits made by military contractors, energy companies, AIPAC and big pharma now monopolize the electoral process, draining it of all but the illusion of democracy. People need to find ways to register a genuine vote for peace and social justice. The moment is ripe for a new political response that could lead to a united fight against war, racism and fascism. Major obstacles remain to be overcome. The grip of war propaganda continues to confuse and disorient the majority of people, especially in the United States. People in the United States and western Europe could have a better life if we can stop the U.S./NATO war machine. That would take the world back from the threat of nuclear war. And it could lead to true prosperity everywhere. But we have to fight for it. We need to stop business as usual and refocus the country on peace and justice—redirect the war economy to meet people’s needs; stop building weapons and invest in a liveable future, based on social equality and common prosperity. We can make it happen.