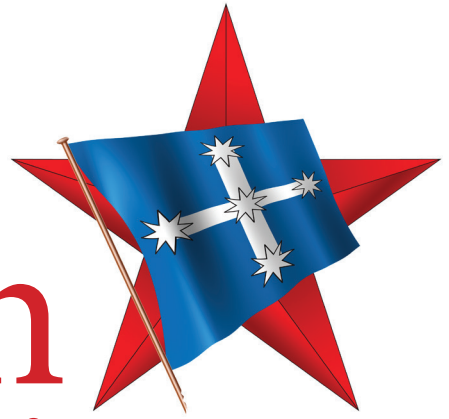


Australian Communist



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INTRODUCTION

This edition of Australian Communist comes after the re-election of a federal Labor government in a landslide victory and coincides with US and Israeli aggression that causes us all to remember the choice proposed by the great German communist Rosa Luxemburg, written during her WW1 imprisonment: either socialism or barbarism. Luxemburg's full statement read: "...either the triumph of imperialism and the collapse of all civilization as in ancient Rome, depopulation, desolation, degeneration – a great cemetery. Or the victory of socialism, that means the conscious active struggle of the international proletariat against imperialism and its method of war."

We begin our articles with Lindy Nolan's address to the first anti-Iran War rally in Sydney. It was originally published on our website, but was such a powerful statement explaining our responsibilities as Australian workers to oppose the US-Israeli threat to all civilisation with their genocidal wars, their expansionist aims, wars of aggression based on lies, and now, threats to bomb Iran back to the Stone Age "where they belong", and to ensure that "a whole civilisation will die tonight", that it is deserving of republication here.

Bill F. writes in the aftermath of Labor's resounding defeat of the Liberal-National opposition in 2025. His is a timely and necessary statement of the need for workers to build workplace leadership through correct mass work, and not to rely on union leaderships or the Labor Party.

Bruce Cornwall has two articles, the first of which looks at the rivalry between US imperialism and Chinese social-imperialism, their tactical and strategic differences and what to do about it.

His second article takes issue with some contemporary "left-wing" communism, notably the views that have surfaced amongst some young people of wanting to immediately advance the call for people's war in conditions that are not yet ready for it. He explains that their isolation from the working masses leads them into gathering like-minded people into small sects that can only practice factionalism.

Nick G. looks at US economist Jason Hickel who argues that China is still a socialist country that does not practice imperialism. Some who are influenced by Hickel wish to see China as an anti-hegemonic leader of global opposition to US imperialism, and we can understand that desire, for US imperialism is the common major enemy of the world's people, but inter-imperialist rivalry is not genuine opposition to hegemonism, and we must guard against both the declining, angry imperialism of the US, and the more nuanced and diplomatic expansion of the rising imperialism of China.

Finally, with US imperialism having pushed the world to the brink of war and with both the US and Zionist Israel having nuclear weapons at their disposal, we recommend reading Mao Zedong's conversation with the progressive US journalist Anna Louise Strong, in which he explained his view that imperialism and all reactionaries are paper tigers.



ON JASON HICKEL AND THE QUESTION OF CHINA

Nick G.

Within Left and progressive circles there are different views on whether China is socialist or capitalist, an anti-hegemonic force or a social-imperialist country in competition with US imperialism.

There are a number of commentators, ostensibly from the Left, who uphold China as socialist.

We will look at one of them, the US economist Jason Hickel.

The first thing to note is that Hickel does not claim to be a Marxist-Leninist and does not use the approach adopted by Lenin in his work *Imperialism: The Highest Stage of Capitalism*. Instead, he approaches the contemporary international scene from the writings of Emmanuel Wallerstein and his World Systems Theory (WST).

Lenin has five discerning characteristics of imperialism, and the two that set his approach apart from WST are the emergence of monopolies as a replacement for free market capitalism (and hence of finance capital when the monopolies combine with banks to create vast pools of merged capitals), and the export of finance capital from the richer to the poorer countries. The purpose of the export of capital is to secure raw materials and markets, but also, and more importantly, to exploit cheaper sources of labour power in the drive to expand the appropriation of surplus capital.

Wallerstein's WST is based on a single world market based on the unequal exchange between the richer "core" and the poorer "periphery". This is effected through a division of labour between the developed core and the underdeveloped periphery.

Both the Leninist view and that of WST condemn the global inequality of capitalism and share some concerns about the plight of those subjected to capitalist exploitation. But where Leninism advocates anti-imperialist struggle and the overthrow of capitalism in a socialist revolution, WST lends itself to a reformism whereby an unjust whole world system develops into an improved whole world system through changes to the nature of the trade relations between the core and periphery.

Wallerstein also acknowledged a semi-periphery as an intermediate zone between the two poles. Hickel claims that China, as a result of Deng's reforms, has lifted itself from the periphery to the semi-periphery, but has not and cannot enter the core because the core continues its unequal exchanges with China and keeps it in a position of subordination and dependency. He argues that Lenin's definition of imperialism (or, we would say, social-imperialism) cannot readily be applied to China because China is not a core state.

Military expenditures

Hickel compares Chinese and US military expenditures on a per capita basis (as he does with some other comparisons). Because of China's larger population, this obscures the aggregate amounts that place China as the world's second-largest military budget behind the United States. The per capita comparisons show that the US spends around US \$2,800–\$2,900 per person and China spends around US \$200–\$220 per person, but not only the sizes of their populations, but also their respective cost of living estimates need to be taken into

account.

Much of China's military spending is on new technologies and new areas of conflict ("domains"). China leads in cyber warfare and military space technologies, both domains that can largely destroy the communications of standing armies, air forces and navies meaning that traditional military hardware is likely to be less important in a conflict between the US and China. So, China does not need to replicate spending in the areas which the US military has previously prioritised. Even the seas are less likely to be controlled by the stealth and long range of nuclear submarines as quantum computing makes submarines of any type more easily detected, and underwater autonomous vehicles, or submerged drones, make naval vessels of all types more susceptible to attack. With the US and UK struggling to fulfill the AUKUS arrangement to supply Australia with nuclear-powered submarines, China has now surpassed the US nuclear-sub production rate. Between 2021 and 2025, it launched 10 nuclear-powered subs compared to the US's seven.

China and the World Bank

Hickel uses out-of-date figures to try and diminish China's influence within the World Bank, which it joined in 1980. China has both a cooperative and a competitive relationship with the World Bank. For several decades after 1980, it was a major source of loans to China, and China's administrative influence was minimal. However, as China made its own financial contributions to the Bank, so its voting share, based on how much money a country contributes, has grown.

China was able to achieve a 2.78% share of voting rights in 2010 (the 3% figure Hickel uses), but that grew after a few years to 4.42%, making it the third largest voting share after the US and Japan. In 2018, that grew again to 5.71% where it largely remains today. It has, nevertheless, a greater voting share than recognised developed and imperialist (or "core") states like Germany, France and the UK.

But it not only has influence within the World Bank, but its role in international finance as a competitor to the World Bank, has also grown.

In its own right as a source of loan capital, China does not impose even the basic formal requirement for bourgeois human rights and political freedoms as required by the World Bank. Of course, those rights and freedoms are the ones that imperialism seeks in order to interfere in the internal affairs of recipient countries, but in providing more-or-less conditions-free loans, China's emphasis is on stability within recipients so as to protect its investments, and places no demands on the local ruling classes to advance democratic rights or protect workers. This has caused a lot of anti-China sentiment in Burma where China does exercise influence over the armed forces of various ethnic groups to the benefit of the Burmese regime.

Hickel emphasises that the repayment terms of Chinese loans are usually about half of those issued by the "core". That has been the case up until now when the Chinese appear to be tightening up following lessons learned from defaults and repayment problems. The latter have been a consequence of Chinese making loans available (through the China Development Bank and the Chinese Export-Import Bank) to high-risk borrowers who cannot obtain loans from institutions in the "core". Private western capital markets either charge such borrowers very high interest rates or deny them access to loans altogether.

China has an apparently more benign loans regime than lenders in the core because it not only profits from the repayments, but as an expanding social-imperialist power, also secures access to raw materials (eg a loan to assist an infrastructure project requiring part of the repayment in particular minerals or other commodities); expands trade relations and new supply chains; assists "soft power" diplomacy; and increases its regional

geopolitical influence. I do not believe China purposefully follows a debt trap agenda, but renegotiation of loans where there have been problems with repayments creates that option, allowing China to swap equity in a country's assets for cancellation or renegotiation of loans.

China is also creating financial institutions in competition with the World Bank, such as the BRICS's New Development Bank (2016), and the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) of the same year.

Is China capitalist?

Hickel refers to several indicators, such as the alleged democratic control over Chinese commercial banking and the state's ability to steer capital towards social policy objectives such as poverty reduction, as evidence that China remains a socialist country.

In 2018 we published *Explaining China: How a socialist country took the capitalist road to social-imperialism*. In that document we explain why we believe China is capitalist. The argument covers several pages, so rather than reproduce them here, we refer readers to pages 6-11 here ([Explaining+China+Final+v2.pdf](#)).

But in addition to our own writing, the views of contemporary Chinese Marxist-Leninists should be taken into account. One document we have translated and reproduced is *China: Revolution and Restoration*. It is also rather lengthy, but the relevant section on China as a capitalist country is on pages 206-323 here: [China+Revolution+and+Restoration.pdf](#)

Other works we have translated from Chinese sources can be found on the [bannedthought.net](#) website and include case studies of how modern Chinese workplaces are run ([ChineseSocietySurveyResearch-Phase-1-2020-12-EnglishComplete-OCR.pdf](#)) and Xiang Guanqi's criticism of Xi Jinping's administration here: [Xiang-Guanqi-The-Voice-of-Slaves-1.docx](#) and here: [Xiang-Guanqi-The-Voice-of-Slaves-2.pdf](#).

China is an imperialist country, not a leader of anti-hegemonism

Hickel denies that China can be an imperialist country for the reasons stated by him above. To try and clarify his views, we refer to his blog where he has written *The real reason the West is warmongering against China*. In the final five paragraphs he summarises his case for denying that China poses any military threat to the West. He has also written an article earlier this year titled *Is China doing "colonialism" in Africa?* (here: [Is China doing "colonialism" in Africa? - Jason Hickel](#)). In the latter article he writes:

Nothing that China has done in Africa comes anywhere close to any of this (the plundering and control by core states including the US and France- Nick). The moral and material difference is vast. China does not maintain military occupations in Africa. It does not perform regime-change operations, assassinations and coups. It does not control African currencies. It does not impose sanctions or structural adjustment programmes on African economies. China has not perpetrated genocide in Africa. It has never invaded an African country.

This is true, but China is a major exporter of finance capital to Africa and it does so not out of proletarian internationalism, but to secure raw materials and markets and accumulate surplus value from the exploitation of African labour-power.

As an aside, not does it only operate under the signboard of Chinese companies. In 2021 we published *Oppose the exploitation of Africa's people and resources by Australian capitalists!* ([Australian+Mining+Africa.pdf](#))

during investigations for which we discovered that a number of the Australian mining companies engaged in various controversies in Africa were carrying large amounts of Chinese shareholder capital.

Is it so strange that the current means by which China is expanding as an imperialist power is somewhat different to the steps necessary for the protection of the US as the world's hegemon? The two different approaches were explained succinctly by Chinese general Qiao Long from whose talk in 2015 we excerpted several paragraphs in *Explaining China* (see pages 18-19). China knows it must compete with US imperialism (and its allies) to win the competition between itself and the US, secure its markets and raw materials and expand the opportunities for the accumulation of private and state capital, but knows that direct military conflict is best avoided at this time.

China is currently (March 2026) facing challenges to the spheres of interest it had begun to develop in the Western Hemisphere (Venezuela) and the Middle East (Iran). The nature of the competition and rivalry between the US and China over spheres of interest is inter-imperialist. However, China is unlikely at this time to respond militarily to these attacks on its friends in the international arena. It knows that the US is preparing for war in the South-West Pacific region and it is still committed to reunification of Taiwan province with the mainland. It is expanding its military for use in this region and will continue to rely on its economic and financial penetration of the US's spheres of influence.

Proponents of the view that China is socialist commonly praise China's "struggle against hegemony". These views are complementary; they are sides of the same coin.

There is no doubt that US imperialism is the main enemy of the people of the world, that it is the most militarily aggressive nation on earth and the main source of preparations for war. In so far as those preparations are in the main directed at China, it is correct to oppose those preparations and demand that there be no war on China.

However, recognition of US imperialism as the main enemy does not mean that those who contend with it from the perspective of rivalry for spheres of influence, control of raw materials, markets and labour-power are anti-hegemonists. The contention, and sometimes cooperation, between US imperialism and Chinese social-imperialism has the nature of inter-imperialist rivalry and struggle for hegemony, not anti-hegemony as such.

Hickel and other apologists for Chinese social-imperialism do not see the China-US relationship a contradiction and struggle between imperialist powers.

This means that they do not apply Lenin's teachings on imperialism, Mao's on social-imperialism, and the law of uneven development to the correct tactical and strategic approaches to the contemporary international situation.

We will continue to fight for anti-imperialist independence and socialism. Our main target is US imperialism. But China will not help us in this struggle. We must rely on our own efforts and oppose any imperialist power that seeks to turn us into its sphere of influence.



TALK WITH THE AMERICAN CORRESPONDENT ANNA LOUISE STRONG

Mao Zedong

August 1946

[This is a very important statement made by Comrade Mao Zedong on the international and domestic situation not long after the conclusion of World War II. Here, Comrade Mao Zedong put forward his famous thesis, “All reactionaries are paper tigers.” This thesis armed the people of our country ideologically, strengthened their confidence in victory and played an exceedingly great role in the People’s War of Liberation. Just as Lenin considered imperialism a “colossus with feet of clay”, so Comrade Mao Zedong regards imperialism and all reactionaries as paper tigers; both have dealt with the essence of the matter. This thesis is a fundamental strategic concept for the revolutionary people. Since the period of the Second Revolutionary Civil War, Comrade Mao Zedong has repeatedly pointed out: strategically, with regard to the whole, revolutionaries must despise the enemy, dare to struggle against him and dare to seize victory; at the same time, tactically, with regard to each part, each specific struggle, they must take the enemy seriously, be prudent, carefully study and perfect the art of struggle and adopt forms of struggle suited to different times, places and conditions in order to isolate and wipe out the enemy step by step. On December 1, 1958, at a meeting of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China held at Wuchang, Comrade Mao Zedong stated:

Just as there is not a single thing in the world without a dual nature (this is the law of the unity of opposites), so imperialism and all reactionaries have a dual nature -- they are real tigers and paper tigers at the same time. In past history, before they won state power and for some time afterwards, the slave-owning class, the feudal landlord class and the bourgeoisie were vigorous, revolutionary and progressive; they were real tigers. But with the lapse of time, because their opposites -- the slave class, the peasant class and the proletariat -- grew in strength step by step, struggled against them and became more and more formidable, these ruling classes changed step by step into the reverse, changed into reactionaries, changed into backward people, changed into paper tigers. And eventually they were overthrown, or will be overthrown, by the people. The reactionary, backward, decaying classes retained this dual nature even in their last life-and-death struggles against the people. On the one hand, they were real tigers; they ate people, ate people by the millions and tens of millions. The cause of the people’s struggle went through a period of difficulties and hardships, and along the path there were many twists and turns. To destroy the rule of imperialism, feudalism and bureaucrat-capitalism in China took the Chinese people more than a hundred years and cost them tens of millions of lives before the victory in 1949. Look! Were these not living tigers, iron tigers, real tigers? But in the end they changed into paper tigers, dead tigers, bean-curd tigers. These are historical facts. Have people not seen or heard about these facts? There have indeed been thousands and tens of thousands of them! Thousands and tens of thousands! Hence, imperialism and all reactionaries, looked at in essence, from a long-term point of view, from a strategic point of view, must be seen for what they are -- paper tigers. On this we should build our strategic thinking. On the other hand, they are also living tigers, iron tigers, real tigers which can eat people. On this we should build our tactical thinking.

For the necessity of despising the enemy strategically and taking full account of him tactically, see “Strategic Problems of China’s Revolutionary War”, Chapter 5, Section 6, Selected Works of Mao Tse-tung, Vol. I, and “On Some Important the Party’s Present Policy”, Section I, pp. 181-82 of this volume.]

Strong: Do you think there is hope for a political, a peaceful settlement of China's problems in the near future?

Mao: That depends on the attitude of the U.S. government. If the American people stay the hands of the American reactionaries who are helping Chiang Kai-shek fight the civil war, there is hope for peace.

Strong: Suppose the United States gives Chiang Kai-shek no help, besides that already given, [1] how long can Chiang Kai-shek keep on fighting?

Mao: More than a year.

Strong: Can Chiang Kai-shek keep on that long, economically?

Mao: He can.

Strong: What if the United States makes it clear that it will give Chiang Kai-shek no more help from now on?

Mao: There is no sign yet that the U.S. government and Chiang Kai-shek have any desire to stop the war within a short time.

Strong: How long can the Communist Party keep on?

Mao: As far as our own desire is concerned, we don't want to fight even for a single day. But if circumstances force us to fight, we can fight to the finish.

Strong: If the American people ask why the Communist Party is fighting, what should I reply?

Mao: Because Chiang Kai-shek is out to slaughter the Chinese people, and if the people want to survive they have to defend themselves. This the American people can understand.

Strong: What do you think of the possibility of the United States starting a war against the Soviet Union?

Mao: There are two aspects to the propaganda about an anti-Soviet war. On the one hand, U.S. imperialism is indeed preparing a war against the Soviet Union; the current propaganda about an anti-Soviet war, as well as other anti-Soviet propaganda, is political preparation for such a war. On the other hand, this propaganda is a smoke-screen put up by the U.S. reactionaries to cover many actual contradictions immediately confronting U.S. imperialism. These are the contradictions between the U.S. reactionaries and the American people and the contradictions of U.S. imperialism with other capitalist countries and with the colonial and semi-colonial countries. At present, the actual significance of the U.S. slogan of waging an anti-Soviet war is the oppression of the American people and the expansion of the U.S. forces of aggression in the rest of the capitalist world. As you know, both Hitler and his partners, the Japanese warlords, used anti-Soviet slogans for a long time as a pretext for enslavement of the people at home and aggression against other countries. Now the U.S. reactionaries are acting in exactly the same way.

To start a war, the U.S. reactionaries must first attack the American people. They are already attacking the American people - oppressing the workers and democratic circles in the United States politically and economically and preparing to impose fascism there. The people of the United States should stand up and resist the attacks of the U.S. reactionaries. I believe they will.

The United States and the Soviet Union are separated by a vast zone which includes many capitalist, colonial and semi-colonial countries in Europe, Asia and Africa. Before the U.S. reactionaries have subjugated these



countries, an attack on the Soviet Union is out of the question. In the Pacific the United States now controls areas larger than all the former British spheres of influence there put together; it controls Japan, that part of China under Kuomintang rule, half of Korea, and the South Pacific. It has long controlled Central and South America. It seeks also to control the whole of the British Empire and Western Europe. Using various pretexts, the United States is making large-scale military arrangements and setting up military bases in many countries. The U.S. reactionaries say that the military bases they have set up and are preparing to set up all over the world are aimed against the Soviet Union. True, these military bases are directed against the Soviet Union. At present, however, it is not the Soviet Union but the countries in which these military bases are located that are the first to suffer U.S. aggression. I believe it won't be long before these countries come to realize who is really oppressing them, the Soviet Union or the United States. The day will come when the U.S. reactionaries find themselves opposed by the people of the whole world.

Of course, I do not mean to say that the U.S. reactionaries have no intention of attacking the Soviet Union. The Soviet Union is a defender of world peace and a powerful factor preventing the domination of the world by the U.S. reactionaries. Because of the existence of the Soviet Union, it is absolutely impossible for the reactionaries in the United States and the world to realize their ambitions. That is why the U.S. reactionaries rabidly hate the Soviet Union and actually dream of destroying this socialist state. But the fact that the U.S. reactionaries are now trumpeting so loudly about a U.S.-Soviet war and creating a foul atmosphere, so soon after the end of World War II, compels us to take a look at their real aims. It turns out that under the cover of anti-Soviet slogans they are frantically attacking the workers and democratic circles in the United States and turning all the countries which are the targets of U.S. external expansion into U.S. dependencies. I think the American people and the peoples of all countries menaced by U.S. aggression should unite and struggle against the attacks of the U.S. reactionaries and their running dogs in these countries. Only by victory in this struggle can a third world war be avoided; otherwise it is unavoidable.

Strong: That is very clear. But suppose the United States uses the atom bomb? Suppose the United States bombs the Soviet Union from its bases in Iceland, Okinawa and China?

Mao: The atom bomb is a paper tiger which the U.S. reactionaries use to scare people. It looks terrible, but in fact it isn't. Of course, the atom bomb is a weapon of mass slaughter, but the outcome of a war is decided by the people, not by one or two new types of weapon.

All reactionaries are paper tigers. In appearance, the reactionaries are terrifying, but in reality they are not so powerful. From a long-term point of view, it is not the reactionaries but the people who are really powerful. In Russia, before the February Revolution in 1917, which side was really strong? On the surface the tsar was strong but he was swept away by a single gust of wind in the February Revolution. In the final analysis, the strength in Russia was on the side of the Soviets of Workers, Peasants and Soldiers. The tsar was just a paper tiger. Wasn't Hitler once considered very strong? But history proved that he was a paper tiger. So was Mussolini, so was Japanese imperialism. On the contrary, the strength of the Soviet Union and of the people in all countries who loved democracy and freedom proved much greater than had been foreseen.

Chiang Kai-shek and his supporters, the U.S. reactionaries, are all paper tigers too. Speaking of U.S. imperialism, people seem to feel that it is terrifically strong. Chinese reactionaries are using the "strength" of the United States to frighten the Chinese people. But it will be proved that the U.S. reactionaries, like all the reactionaries in history, do not have much strength. In the United States there are others who are really strong -- the American people.

Take the case of China. We have only millet plus rifles to rely on, but history will finally prove that our millet

plus rifles is more powerful than Chiang Kai-shek's aeroplanes plus tanks. Although the Chinese people still face many difficulties and will long suffer hardships from the joint attacks of U.S. imperialism and the Chinese reactionaries, the day will come when these reactionaries are defeated and we are victorious. The reason is simply this: the reactionaries represent reaction, we represent progress.

NOTES

1. To help Chiang Kai-shek start civil war against the people, U.S. imperialism gave his government a very great amount of aid. By the end of June 1946 the United States had equipped 45 Kuomintang divisions. It had trained 150,000 Kuomintang military personnel - army, naval and air forces, secret agents, communications police, staff officers, medical officers, supply personnel, etc. U.S. warships and aircraft transported to the front against the Liberated Areas 14 Kuomintang corps (41 divisions) and 8 regiments of the communications police corps, or over 540,000 men in all. The U.S. government landed 90,000 of its marines in China and stationed them at such important cities as Shanghai, Tsingtao, Tientsin, Peiping and Chinwangtao. They guarded the lines of communication for the Kuomintang in northern China. According to data disclosed in United States Relations with China (The White Paper), released by the State Department on August 5, 1949, the total value of various kinds of U.S. aid given to the Chiang Kai-shek government from the time of the War of Resistance Against Japan to 1948 was more than 4,500 million dollars (the overwhelming bulk of U.S. aid given during the War of Resistance had been hoarded by the Kuomintang for the ensuing civil war against the people). But the actual amount of U.S. aid to Chiang Kai-shek far exceeded this total. The U.S. White Paper admitted that U.S. aid was equivalent to "more than 50 percent of the monetary expenditures" of the Chiang Kai-shek government and was of "proportionately greater magnitude in relation to the budget of that Government than the United States has provided to any nation of Western Europe since the end of the war".



IRAN: THE ENEMY OF MY ENEMY IS NOT NECESSARILY MY FRIEND

Lindy Nolan

The day after Israel and the US began bombing Iran, a small protest in Sydney united under these slogans, 'No to War, Yes to Freedom and Self Determination – The liberation of the Iranian people will come through their own independent and conscious struggle.'

The rage of Iranians at the horrors unfolding and the ignorance of a larger group celebrating nearby with US and even Israeli flags and calling for a new Shah, was expressed by a woman, "The enemy of my enemy is not necessarily my friend."

The US and Israel, and Iranian regime are most bitter enemies. But neither are friends of the Iranian people. The speaker told of food and water being cut off to political prisoners.

Lindy Nolan spoke on behalf of the CPA(ML). Her speech is below.

Today we honour the heroic Iranian masses facing the armed might of Israel and of US imperialism. They will never accept another US puppet shah with their mass murders torture and mass jailings.

The masses make history. And all peoples have the right to resist, to overthrow oppression by their ruling class, to organise for women's freedom and build their own future. We cannot deny Iranians that right. We cannot put limits on it, especially with US imperialism on their doorstep.

War is the continuation of politics by other means. US imperialism's economic war with China is now a military war with China's allies. And Australia is involved.

In the 1970s Henry Kissinger called Australia a western "outpost on the edge of Asia". It's now a spear projecting US power, into Asia and the Middle East. The US Pine Gap spy base on Arrernte, land near Mparntwe Alice Springs, guided missiles and now drones, to Iraq, Gaza, Lebanon and Iran. It chooses the human targets – children, schools, hospitals. US imperialism demands billions, trillions of dollars needed for life, for our schools, hospitals, the homeless, our culture, environment. All for death and war.

US imperialism is at war with its own people and at war with the people of the world.

We oppose it with all our might.

We've been in every US war

We honour First Peoples. Since British invasion they fought for their lands, their waters, their cultures. Their right to live. We honour their 140 years of armed struggle. On this street in the 1790s, Pemulwuy led an armed attack. British colonialism became imperialism. First Peoples never surrendered.

Australian governments took us to every British war. In World War One, Labor's opposition leader pledged us to England to the last man and last shilling. In World War 2, PM Menzies said, "It is my melancholy duty" to announce Britain is at war and therefore "Australia is at war." Before the war Menzies met Hitler, praised him as a "good for Germany and the German people", that Australians should be "more like Germans". He starved

workers and broke a strike to send pig iron to Japan. It came back as bombs.

When he declared war for England, Australian troops were in North Africa. None here defending Australia. Menzies went to England. This is our history.

US imperialism long ago replaced British imperialist control of Australia. In World War Two, Labour PM John Curtin turned from Britain, which betrayed us, to the US. US general MacArthur called him a traitor in relation to operational differences. Said the US would never trust Australia again.

We've been in every US war since. Pine Gap now ensures it's automatic. Beyond our control.

There is no shortcut to victory

The core of imperialism is not military. It's economic. It's monopoly capitalism. US imperialism controls the commanding heights of our economy. That's what all the wars are about. Protecting obscene wealth and privilege.

When anyone tells you the US will support us, tell them this history. When they say, "Don't bring foreign wars here", tell them that we are already at war against Iran and that there's more to come. That subservience to US imperialism makes Australia a target in any war with China. That the US will assert its interests and demand we obey.

We fight US imperialism here. The March for Humanity shows how broad anti-imperialist feeling is. But resistance is not deep enough. The masses and the masses alone make history. We need to go deep among the people, to alert them about what we face, to educate them, to organise, to mobilise them.

We must meet them where they are. In their workplaces, neighbourhoods, community groups, cultural and sporting groups. In every area of life. We must be present and active and organised. There is no shortcut. The working class, from teachers to delivery riders, nurses to construction workers, has been systematically disorganised, disempowered. Empty slogans and one-size-fits-all tactics cannot replace deep listening to the people, learning from them, taking their ideas and concentrating them into theory, into strategy and tactics, to take back to struggle.

We must unite all the small struggles into a huge alliance against US imperialism, an end to economic political and military subservience: No to war. Close Pine Gap. Close all US military bases. Independence for Australia.

Today, above all, we salute and stand for the heroic people of Iran. There will be setbacks. But nothing can stop their struggle.

Victory to the people of Iran!



BUILDING WORKING CLASS POWER

Bill F.

The first unions arose as informal workplace organisations based around a core of class conscious and determined workplace leaders. In a relatively short period of time these isolated organisations connected and eventually merged as industry unions, greatly increasing their influence and capacity for struggle against the employers.

Initially the bosses and their governments used violent means to suppress the workers and their organisations. When these measures failed due to the determination and heroic sacrifices of the workers, the ruling class turned to concessions and bribery, to the deceptions of parliament and its laws to regulate and restrict unions.

Both parliament and regulated unions have disempowered the working class

With a parliament of “democratically elected” representatives, including those “representing” working class electorates, there was no longer any need for disruptive class struggle, as the Labor Party would fight for workers’ issues whether in opposition or in government. This would be ensured by close collaboration with the Australian Council of Trade Unions (ACTU), a body led by experienced hand-picked Labor Party members with their own aspirations for seats in parliament.

The introduction of enterprise bargaining agreements (EBAs) further isolated workers from their industrial allies and confined their struggles to the single workplace, while restricting the ability of union organisers to meet and consult with members who consequently had minimal input into the negotiated EBA.

With tamed and tightly regulated unions, there was no need for long disruptive strikes and sit-ins, as the elected officials would fight for the workers in negotiations and through expensive lawyers and the courts, to win “the best deal possible – take it or leave it!”. For workers on award wages and conditions, any industrial action became illegal and was heavily punished. No wonder then, that union membership numbers have plunged – workers would ask “What can they do for me?”

Workers have a little direct say in what wages, allowances, working conditions and rosters are presented in EBA negotiations. The bosses concede little without “trade-offs”, always trying to take back whatever gains the workers’ struggles have achieved in years past. A lesson in capitalism – workers may win a few battles, but bosses win the class war!

Even honest unions that want to fight back are restrained by the anti-union laws and huge penalties against their union and individual officials and members. Assets such as buildings, members’ dues, superannuation, investments and cars can all be seized, officials bankrupted and even jailed, if “illegal” strikes or industrial actions persist. A huge disincentive on unions to risk stepping out of line!

Mass work is the key

How can union activists, delegates and organisers educate and organise the workers under such difficult conditions? And even harder if discouraged or resisted by union officialdom.

The key is mass work. This means finding ways to keep in close contact with workers, individually and as a

group or sub-group, wherever possible. If not in the workplace, in the community, the shopping centre, the beach, the park, at sporting events, council meetings, the pub, etc.

Be a good listener. Take heed of their issues and priorities – they might be wages, workplace safety, amenities, rosters, cost of living, rent, healthcare and childcare costs, housing, education expenses, traffic, pollution, environmental concerns, international issues, the threat of war, etc. – capitalism squeezes workers from all sides! Ask questions to build understanding and show sympathy, but do not pander to any racist prejudices and other reactionary interpretations for their problems.

Then, before jumping in with revolutionary advice, give some reflection on what has been discussed, perhaps some study and research of the issues raised and consultation with other comrades to develop ways to best explain and handle the matters in ways that would advance the political and class consciousness.

In his excellent article *Some Questions Concerning Methods of Leadership*, Mao Zedong wrote, “In all the practical work of our Party, all correct leadership is necessarily “from the masses, to the masses”. This means: take the ideas of the masses (scattered and unsystematic ideas) and concentrate them (through study turn them into concentrated and systematic ideas), then go the masses and propagate and explain these ideas until the masses embrace them as their own, hold fast to them and translate them into action, and test the correctness of these ideas in such action.”

In the workplace situation we can also take account of Lenin’s writings in *What Is to Be Done*, specifically Chapter 4, Section C *Organisation of Workers and Organisation of Revolutionaries*, where he refers to “organisation without members” in describing “a small, compact core of the most reliable, experienced and hardened workers, with responsible representatives ... connected with the organisation of revolutionaries ...”

Careful mass work over an extended period can build such a core of reliable workplace leaders who are respected by their workmates, prepared to learn from practice and working to build unity among the workforce. They may even conduct small informal surveys on safety, amenities and so on, or promote sub-groups to suggest EBA items, develop tactics on workplace issues, draft a petition to the bosses or the union, etc. The key is to engage the workers to propose their own demands, and not merely accept whatever hand the boss deals them. It means empowering the workers in their struggles, and ultimately to the realisation that capitalism is a cruel and unjust system that exploits and abuses them and must be replaced by socialism where the working class leads and controls society to benefit all the people.

For comrades in union positions as officials, organisers or delegates, regular and constant contact with rank-and-file workers is critical, as is building a reliable core of allies and supporters to consult with and mobilise when needed. It means rejecting Labor Party or parliamentary careers, and “serving the people” wholeheartedly and with humility.



ADVENTURIST CLASS WAR REJECTING THE WORKING CLASS

Bruce Cornwall

There have been some activists putting forward adventurist strategies for direct action, for class war today. Such ultraleft developments are understandable when there has been such a long period of relatively uninterrupted capitalist development in Australia, while there have been extensive capitalist crises creating turmoil around the globe and spurring great increases in liberation struggles outside the imperialist homelands. It also arises in conditions where Communist organisations in Australia don't have the extent of connections and strength to be in a clear position to be the leading element in the struggles of the working class.

The Communist movement in Australia has faced various difficulties and made errors in dealing with them. Sectarianism has been a recurring error. Sects find their justification in what differences they have from the working-class movement. The sects' creation relies on subjective errors, basing thinking on hopes and wishes rather than the facts and material conditions. Ideologically it is founded on idealism rather than dialectical and historical materialism.

The calls for immediate Class War and for 'Peoples' War are current cases where the working-class movement is a long way from the point of difference these calls represent.

Calling the objective 'Class War' is actually a misnomer. These ultralefts actually have a justification which leads to them rejecting reliance on the Working Class. The call is actually for a war without the working class, for initiating petty bourgeois violence. The problem is not with Class War or Peoples War as a general maxim of Marxism-Leninism-Maoism or with power growing from the barrel of a gun, but with the call for it to be now, to be immediate, when it is so far beyond any sense in the hearts of the working class now.

Not only do the calls isolate them from the working-class movement, they set out systematically to reject the working class and its movement. Politically and ideologically, they arrogantly declare the great mass of the working class 'reactionary', 'aristocrats of labour' as a class, traitors to the revolutionary movement.

Some identify a tiny section of destitute First Peoples workers as forces 'ready for revolution'. So too they look at some students as ready. Some have identified some First Peoples as targets for their hollow rhetoric. Some have even put forward tactics of conning petty bourgeois elements and some workers to organise around petty bourgeois reformist politics.

They reject the revolutionary tactics of Marx, Engels and Lenin to "any real working class movement, accept its 'actual' starting points as such and work it gradually up to the theoretical level by pointing out how every mistake made, every reverse suffered, was a necessary consequence of mistaken theoretical views in the original programme; they ought in the words of the Communist Manifesto, to represent the movement of the future in the movement of the present." Engels Letter to Wischnewetsky, Marx-Engels Correspondence, Lawrence & Wishart, p. 453.

Immediate Class War and 'Peoples' War advocates also reject basic tenets of Marxism, particularly Marxist political economy. Their program denies the inevitable crunch in the contradiction between the capitalist class and the working class. The working class is the leading revolutionary force because of its place in production and the relations of production in capitalist society, which Marxism exposes as inevitably leading to the working

class taking up its role of leading the Australia revolution in a real class war.

This error exposes as well as failure to grasp core elements of political economy, failure to understand dialectical and historical materialism, things in their movement and change, errors in getting a grip on Mao's On Contradiction. These ideological and political failures represent a lack of commitment to serve the people, to work tirelessly for the mass of working people, and to protracted struggle to build the Party among the working class and other working masses step by step.

Efforts are made to gather militants into a sect, separate to the working class in Australia. The slogan is accompanied with a wave of sloganeering and attachment to Communist giants, particularly Mao and a few renegades like Lin Biao and Tan Malaka.

Some who take up such ideas want to stand out from the masses around them, to have their politics being their point of difference, making them important people, not just 'ordinary workers' or ordinary activists. There can be a wish to be special, to be leaders not followers, to be organisers not the organised.

The problem of standing out, of being above those around us, is not the same as being different in having communist political and ideological understanding and immersing yourself among the masses, bringing revolutionary politics to people as one of them. Communists must be fish in the sea of the people. Sure, communists strive to be of use, to provide insights into the troubles we face as workers and people, not to be outsiders offering pearls of wisdom as outsiders, however valued these might be at times.

And sure, communists are different to those who aren't communists. We have different ideas. The Party doesn't shove its views on people who we work with. We have been mocked for organising in ways that enable communists to be at one with the people they work with, with their communities. We strive to not stand out for anything but our ideas and suggestions. We don't bark orders. We don't tie people up in endless internal meetings and work so communists have little time for those around them. Communists must be engaged in their workplaces, unions, communities, in fighting organisations and organisations helping with difficulties people face. It is generally not glamorous, high-profile, though some is. It serves the people, brings people together, confronts their problems and their enemies. It draws lessons from success and failure.

We also organise to advance the ideas and strategy of national independence from imperialism, and for socialism. The Party circulates and applies these ideas, ideology and political program in mass work and people's struggles.

We walk on two legs, both integrated within the working class and other patriotic classes and elements, sharing their experiences and working with people to resolve their problems, reviewing what is wrong and right, exposing the path forward, and at the same time promoting in various forms our ideas, politics and program, and organising as a party for study, analysis, allocating tasks and developing our politics and ideology.

Further study on these questions:

OUR STUDY AND THE CURRENT SITUATION; Mao Tse-Tung 1944. Selected Works of Mao Tse-Tung: Vol. III https://www.marxists.org/reference/archive/mao/selected-works/volume-3/mswv3_18.htm

COMMUNISM AND AUSTRALIA REFLECTIONS AND REMINISCENCES; E.F. Hill; Chapter Fourteen: The ideological basis of Australian Communist errors <https://www.marxists.org/history/erol/australia/hill-last/two-fourteen.htm>

THE CONDITION OF THE WORKING CLASS IN ENGLAND, England 1845 and 1885; Frederick Engels <https://www.marxists.org/archive/marx/works/1885/03/england-1845-1855.htm>



BEHIND THE WAR DRUMS – NOT JUST THE MADMAN IN THE WHITE HOUSE

Bruce Cornwall

The drums of war are beating out a warning. The US and China are on a collision course, threatening the whole globe.

Australia is being dragged into it.

What is behind it? What can we do about it?

The US and China straddle the northern Pacific where the US and China both prepare for a major war. The imperialist US and its local deputies have been bullying and launching local aggression and wars particularly in the Middle East, Latin and Central America, Africa and parts of Asia.

Resistance has tended to be muted in the last 20 years but now new waves of people are rising in anger over increasing prices, corruption and luxury lifestyles of government officials, tax burdens on common people, low wages, and declining social security supports. They revolt against people being hit hard financially while governments look after themselves and their local bourgeois mates, spend billions preparing for war in the shadow of US threats and rulers collaborating in US aggression.

Governments try to suppress protests and people rising. Democracy is clipped, protests banned, communications shut down, people beaten, gaoled and killed by the authorities. A form of fascism is adopted to prop up local tyrants and imperial masters.

The US has used its military muscle to impose itself on Venezuela and threatens Greenland and Iran. Trump and US ministers openly bully and threaten. US military forces deploy to enforce US imperialist mastery.

The diplomatic silk glove has been dropped, revealing the imperialists iron fist.

Two elements coexist – the danger of a new world war – and people revolting against imperialism.

What is behind it? Is it the madman in the White House? Is it generals desperate to play with their latest toys? What is pushing the two biggest powers on the globe towards confronting each other? Does it have to lead to a new World War?

The trouble between the US and China has been building up for ages. We all need to get a clearer idea of how serious the tension between them is, and how fast its growing, understanding the threat and its urgency and do something about it. Donald Trump has sounded the alarm about its urgency over the holiday period.

Economic growth– China’s strength, US weakness

The first signs of conflict came as China trade started to compete with US goods, and took dominant positions in various fields of consumer goods internationally – household appliances, communications equipment, IT, as well as day to day consumer items this century. China’s economic strength bumped up against US dominance. Just how far has that economic rivalry gone over the years?



Why use these sources?

The World Bank accumulates data, from each country's Central Bank, on the size of economies (GDP, Gross Domestic Product). It has its shortcomings but over time gives pointers to the relative changes within each country and to a less reliable extent between countries.

Consumption of basic industrial and service inputs, steel and electricity from industry sources, over a reasonable period like this century, add insights.

From 2000 to 2024, US economic output (GDP) near doubled. That was nowhere near the 13 times Chinese GDP grew. China's GDP is not at the US level, yet, but it growing at around double US growth rates.

Steel consumption in the US went down over the 24 years. In China it increased to near 10 times steel consumption in the US. US energy consumption dropped marginally, while China's quadrupled plus. Its 60% higher than US energy consumption now. In the last 20 years, cement production in the US rose 6.7% while China's grew 153% and its now 17 times US levels.

Alongside that, huge profits over the last decades have seen massive investments in industrial and transport assets, outstripping the size of markets for the products the expanded industries could produce. Look at the car industry – China has 40% of world car manufacturing capacity. Europe and North America have 15% each. In 2024 more than 95.3 million cars sold worldwide while 92.5 million cars were produced. In China, electric car manufacturing capacity is currently about twice as high as its domestic production, they could produce double the number of EVs if they had the market. There's huge spare industrial capacity in the EU and US too, there tending to be idle internal combustion vehicle capacity.

The cement industry worldwide is operating clinker kilns at 57% of their capacity.¹ Overcapacity and overproduction applies to one sector after another.

Monopoly capitalists of all the major powers are compelled to scrambled to lock up markets, to push others out. The tariff war and sanctions are used to lock others out.

The table at the end of this article has some detail and references on some of the figures used above. Have a look at it. The figures give a good feel for the pace the US and China are racing to collision.

The old US powerhouse doesn't even look close to the Chinese pace of development. The US has been stagnating. Its European allied imperialist countries are in even worse shape.

All that Chinese economic action chews through massive amounts of raw materials. Those materials have to come from somewhere.

Look at iron ore, copper, aluminium/alumina and coal imports, key raw materials for construction, heavy and war industry, transport and energy. China is the world's largest importer of iron ore, importing 1180.3 million tonnes (Mt) of iron ore in 2024, 49% of world iron ore trade². China is the world's largest importer of

copper, with an import value of \$37.2 billion in 2022, according to Global Trade Magazine. The US is number 2, importing \$6.6 billion worth.³ In Aluminium, the US was the largest importer of Alumina at \$11.1bn value while China was second at \$7.81 bn in total world trade of \$78.9 bn⁴.

Coal trade volume worldwide in 2024 was estimated to be 1.55 Bt (Billion tonnes). Chinese coal imports reached 548 Mt, 35% of world trade, the next largest being India with 247 Mt.⁵

The US tries to hold on and grab the new stuff required to produce new tech, think lithium from Bolivia and cobalt and coltan rare earths from The Congo. Those two nations are wracked by internal civil strife and externally supported civil wars which Trump has poked his nose into. China and Russia are around too and snare some previous US sources as well as tying up new resources, required to produce for new tech developments.

In recent years, China, the latecomer, has been scouring the globe for the raw materials it needs, at a frantic and fast-growing pace. The same with markets for all the products of the economic expansion – think Chinese EVs and American conventional cars previously noted.

US Predominance is Challenged

Not so long ago, the US was on its own as an economic and diplomatic powerhouse. It had wrapped up iron ore from Brazil, coal and gas from the Middle East and central America, copper from Chile, aluminium from Australia, all sort of raw materials from all over the globe.

It dominated international economic and political institutions. The World Bank, the World Trade Organisation, the International Monetary Fund were its playthings, dictating loan, financing and trade terms to even powerful imperialist countries whenever its interests were at stake. The core of international relations was discussed as a unilateral world, in which the US was the decisive power.

No longer. An outstanding fact is that China is charging ahead as an economic powerhouse, while the US is trying to hang on. The US is past its prime as THE unrivalled top dog, the world's economic and industrial powerhouse.

There's a second tier of powers including Germany, France, Italy, Spain, allied in the EU, with Russia, the UK, Japan, Canada, and India. Their manoeuvres rely on one or both top dogs letting them. Others have squirmed a bit loose of the US stranglehold, like Brazil, South Africa, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates, Uzbekistan, South Korea, Turkey and others. Still the US and China are the top dogs, with Russia and India coming on strong.

The US has imposed various sanctions and aggressive tariffs, not just on China, but on most countries as it twists and turns to gain advantage.

In the 1980s and 1990s a fair few US companies invested in production in China. They were happy to see raw materials diverted to China from old rusting US industries. In China, new technologies were focussed on - mobile phones and systems, PCs, electronic and Hybrid vehicles, batteries, solar tech, alongside heavy industries. The US choked on its old rustbelt industries, particularly obsolete steel and car industrial assets.

US Relies on military strength and Aggression

In some regards Trump captures American capitalist desperation about its loss of unilateral status in his “Make America Great Again” slogan. They have lost the industrial lead. They hold some standing in sections of new IT/AI industries as well as arms production.

Now US capitalists that missed out on making fortunes from Chinese production have Trump trying to clamp down on China’s development. Other American monopoly capitalists, who don’t have Chinese leaders bowing to their wishes, like US governments of both parties, have joined in.

Within country after country, the US works to get compliant governments in place, sponsoring rebellions, civil wars, local borders wars, promoting favoured local political figures, threatening to cut funds and to support violence, imposing tariffs, interfering more openly in countries internal affairs. Local collaborators with the US carry on about the ‘threat of instability’, of ‘the most challenging international conditions’, dog whistling a China threat, while trying to make out they’re reluctant to submit completely to US demands. Alleged corruption is a favourite to cover US interference.

To hold its dominance, the US has been scrambling to build a ring of military and economic alliances around China and East Asia, with strings of US military bases through the western Pacific and down to northern and Western Australia and Diego Garcia in the mid-Indian Ocean.

China faces the need to flog the products of all its economic action. The consumer goods powerhouse selling to the world, makes huge surpluses from the US and Europe. Both debtors are trying to work out how to restrict or contain China’s development, by squeezing its markets. The US is putting up tariff walls to promote local production. US inflation and unemployment responded by going up. It’s hit China’s progress but hasn’t been decisive for the US yet.

China and the US strategies respond to each other’s situation. The US is defending its supremacy, China challenging that supremacy. The US defensive strategy compels it to be aggressive, to try to turn its decline around, to force China to submit to its supremacy previously imposed by other means.

China and US tactical positions are different

China relies on trade, finances, and diplomacy: but builds its military. The US relies on closing off its market and throwing its military weight around, basing its approach on force. It’s a case of the trapped animal, its options reduced to striking out violently.

It means China is generally inclined to rely on economic and financial measures. That’s not to say China doesn’t take other action, like interfering in countries internal affairs, bribery and corruption and building up its military strength and expanding its area of operations.

The US has financial and military clout, which it relies on. It is the world’s largest arms trading nation, the largest merchant of death. The US leads in military power and alliances as well as military industrial output with 47% of the world arms trade.

In military technology, there’s a race on. China has much modern tech applied to missiles and drones, etc., is ahead in some areas, and is rapidly growing in military strength, though a fair way short of overall US strength.

This clash of international titans threatens the whole globe. It is a classic outcome in this imperialist stage of capitalism as Lenin described it more than a century ago. No appeal to leaders can affect the pressures

ingrained in their economic and political structures for their monopoly capitalists to prevail in the hunt for profits through dominance over territories and people. No amount of pleading can stop sharks hunting fish. Ideas of preventing the conflict between the US and China by relying on dialogue and negotiation between them, confronts the reality of the inbuilt political economy of these states. But peace is possible.

What to do about it

The US-China rivalry casts a shadow over international relations worldwide, and particularly in Asia. People are threatened with war between two superpowers again. Nuclear powers confronting each other threatens nuclear war, mass destruction, genocide on an unthinkable scale.

Middle powers are scrambling. Recently Canada signed a huge trade deal with China. The EU signed a trade agreement with India and initialled one with Latin American Countries (Mercosur). The Canadian Prime Minister outlined a strategy for middle powers to cope with the US China brawl.

The economic facts point to how close things are to the US clashing with China.

The US has been getting its way here with the \$368bn AUKUS agreement, troop bases, a US Airforce combat command centre and bases in northern Australia, huge expansion of military industries integrated into the American War industry [missiles, artillery, aerial and undersea drones, quantum tech, hypersonic technology plus], warehousing US military equipment, a network of spy bases and larger joint exercises here and overseas and more.

People oppose war between the superpowers.

Local struggles break out against US expanding its military bases and deployment of US forces. People are rising against economic hardships and government corruption. Both increased in the shadow of confrontation between the superpowers. People are determined to not be the victims pointed to in the old African maxim – when elephants fight, ants get trampled. People are rising against war.

Firstly, people need understanding of what's behind the confrontation and conflict. Then they aren't flying blind. Discussions, meetings, articles, and social media alerting people about what is behind the rush towards war and what to do about it are the first thing to alert people.

Secondly, the American imperialists are making enemies all over the globe. People are rising in revolt. Nations struggle for liberation from imperialism's stranglehold. Middle powers are trying to unite to deal with US bullying and aggression.

Many forces can be united in struggle to isolate the US aggressors and the local bigwigs working with them and for them. The US and local collaborators with the US including many local monopoly capitalists, political leaders, top bureaucrats, military top brass, media commentators and think tank smarties, are behind promoting and making way for US military bases and integration into US military forces and war industries here. They are dragging us into US wars.

These are targets of local and national struggles. We can step up struggles against all involvement in US war preparation and aggression.

Getting organised and mobilised follows understanding how we're affected and what is driving it.

Thirdly, Federal and State governments have been responding to people's anti-war activism by legislating and using harsh measures. Protest marches (The Bridge march for Palestine and Humanity) and other protest like part of the Coal Blockade in Newcastle are declared outlawed. In December, NSW enacted a blanket ban on all protests, administered by the Commissioner of Police. It's a clear move to suppress civil society and suppress democracy. This follows a trend in the US and other countries for governments to destroy people's democratic rights. Its state fascism. We have to fight for democracy, to defeat state fascism by governments.

All these struggles follow a theme – People Unite and defeat the War preparations and abuses of US Imperialist aggressors and their local collaborators. Isolate the political and other collaborators with US war plans and aggression. Liberate Australia from the US stranglehold dragging us into war. Defend and extend Peoples rights. That requires concerted action to alert, organise and mobilise people across the board behind a clear program:-

- Build organisations in workplaces, communities and across society, building unity with the aim of defeating preparations for war and being dragged into US aggression, including for US China war – World War 3.
- Isolate local political and other collaborators who drag us into US war plans and aggression.
- Build clarity about the system behind Australia's submitting to the US and commit to liberate Australia from the US economic, political and diplomatic stranglehold dragging us into war and oppressing the people.
- Stand up for an Australian foreign policy independent of the US, based on building relations of development, peace and mutual advantage and respect.
- Battle to restore and defend hard-won rights and freedoms to stand up for the people and this country against US Imperialism.

This is the way things are moving all over the globe. Even in the US people are standing up against the warmongers and racists.

People's struggle can overtake their rush to war. It is up to us to win peace.

If world war does break out, and such a horror is likely if the anti-war movement doesn't break the imperialist hold, the devastation will inflame struggles for the liberation of great swathes of humanity from the imperialist empires. But that would be at great human and environmental cost.

Now, struggle for liberation is the course that holds the prospects of avoiding war.

It's a must for all who stand for peace.



Table 1: Select Economic indicators of Select Countris this century

\$s Current \$US Tn	US	China	Russia	Germany	UK	France	India	Australia
GDP 2000*	\$10,251	\$1,223	\$260	\$1,997	\$1,666	\$1,361	\$468	\$416
GDP 2024*	\$29,180	\$18,740	\$2,170	\$4,660	\$3,640	\$3,162	\$3,912	\$1,752
GDP Growth 2000-2024	285%	1,532%	835%	233%	218%	232%	836%	421%
2024 real GDP Growth Rate ^c	2.8%	5.0%	4.3%	-0.23%	1.1%	0.94%	6.5%	1.4%

Steel Consumption (million tonnes)	US	China	Russia	Germany	UK	France	India	Oceania
2000 [^]	114.7	141.2	22.1	37.9	13.1	18.0	26.3	5.9
2022 [^]	94.5	926.7	41.7	32.5	9.4	11.8	116.1	7.3
Change 2000-2022	-18%	556%	89%	-14%	-28%	-34%	341%	24%

Primary Energy Consumption (Quadrillion Btu)	US	China	Russia	Germany	UK	France	India	Australia
2000 [#]	96.69	36.95	7.40	14.18	9.77	10.36	2.67	4.84
2022 [#]	94.83	153.38	33.00	11.31	6.76	8.32	36.20	5.96
Change 2000 - 2022	-2%	315%	346%	-20%	-31%	-20%	1,256%	23%

Cement Production (million tonnes)	US	China	Russia	Germany	UK	France	India	Australia
2004 ^{&}	103	750	65	32.1 (2001)	11.9 (2001)	22 (2001)	110	6.8 (2001)
2024 ^{&}	110	1,900	80	28.2 (2023)	7.7 (2023)	15.4 (2023)	380	11.1 (2023)
Change 2004-2024	6.7%	153%	23%	-8.8%	-35%	-30%	245%	63%

Military Expenditure (Constant US\$ 2023)	US	China	Russia	Germany	UK	France	India	Australia
2000 [*]	\$566.4	\$42.5	\$23.8	\$47.6	\$56.5	\$49.0	\$15.7	\$31.0
2021 ⁺	\$906.6	\$266.7	\$68.7	\$58.5	\$67.8	\$59.2	\$77.0	\$32.5
2024 ⁺	\$968.4	\$317.6	\$150.5	\$86.3	\$77.4	\$63.1	\$83.6	\$33.0
Expenditure Change 2000 - 24	71%	647%	532%	81%	37%	29%	432%	6.5%

Gini Index	US	China	Russia	Germany	UK	France	India	Australia
2000 ^{<}	40.1	38.7 (1999)	37.1	28.9	38.8	32.6	27.7 (2004)	33.5 (2001)
2020 ^{<}	41.8 (2023)	36.0	33.0 (2023)	32.4	32.4 (2021)	31.8 (2023)	25.5	33.8

The Gini Index is a measure of inequality - the higher the value, the greater the wealth/income inequality.

* <https://databank.worldbank.org/source/world-development-indicators/Type/TABLE/preview/on>

^{^1} <https://worldsteel.org/wp-content/uploads/World-Steel-in-Figures-2024.pdf> and <https://worldsteel.org/wp-content/uploads/World-Steel-in-Figures-2002.pdf> Crude steel production 2023 World total: 1 892 million tonnes, Apparent steel use (finished steel products): World total: 1 763 million tonnes Excess production: 129 million tonnes, 7% of total production. World crude steel production has not increased since 2000.

^{^2} <https://worldsteel.org/data/world-steel-in-figures/world-steel-in-figures-2025/#major-importers-and-exporters-of-steel-2024>

Source US Energy Information Administration / Annual Energy Review 2002 <https://www.osti.gov/servlets/purl/1212307> and Annual Energy Review 2025 overview <https://www.eia.gov/international/data/world/total-energy/total-ener> [Primary energy consumption includes consumption of petroleum products (including natural gas plant liquids, and crude oil burned as fuel), dry natural gas, and coal (including net imports of coal coke); and the consumption of net electricity generated from nuclear electric power, hydroelectric power, wood, waste, geothermal, solar, and wind. It also includes, for the United States, the consumption of renewable energy by the end-use sectors.] Sources: United States: Table 1.3. All Other Data: Energy Information Administration, International the International Energy Database. <https://www.eia.gov/totalenergy/data/annual/index.php>

& U.S. Geological Survey, U.S. Department of the Interior, National Minerals Information Center, Cement Statistics and Information – Production figures as no reliable consumption other than in US were available.

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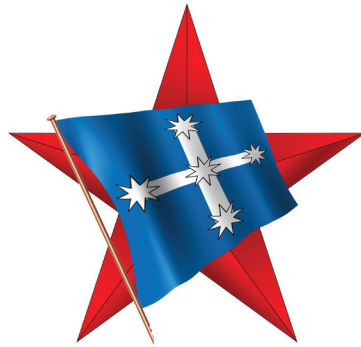
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