

The Ukraine War and the drive for Peace



Trident
40% increase
in warheads
depleted uranium
for Ukraine

Every pound on weaponry is a pound less on NHS

Refugees are fleeing from
Afghanistan
Iraq
Syria
Libya

Countries invaded by Britain
Afghanistan
Iraq
Syria
Libya

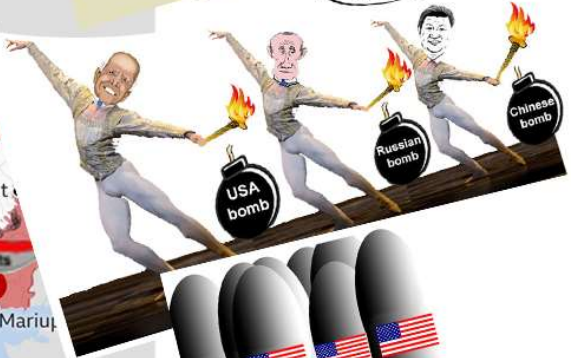
It cannot be a coincidence can it?



Is the water hose connected yet?

When will one of our leaders end this?

RUSSIA



What the world needs now is more nukes

Johnson announces increase in nuclear march

Fighting to the last Ukrainian?



Russian troops out No to Nato expansion

I got given a knighthood for mine



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The Ukraine war is incredibly costly in human lives, limbs, homes, buildings, infrastructure, livelihoods, food production and distribution. Further the natural end result of tit for tat retaliatory escalation is nuclear war.

Vast resources of money, mental energy and media space are being devoted to ways of winning an unwinnable war. The war drive in Europe is feeding war drives elsewhere especially over China.

This is at a time when we face the existential threat of climate change.

I hope that the time spent in Sheffield's twin city Donetsk, a scientific education, a lifelong commitment to peace, and a well-earned opposition to our war hungry leaders make this short pamphlet useful.

The Ice Test Every year little children try to test the strength of ice by taking one more step. Sometimes with tragic results.

NATO is carrying out a similar process. Let us hope that wiser heads prevail.



There is a saying that the first casualty of war is the truth. However the broad lines can be clearly seen. The Ukrainian much-trumpeted Spring Offensive has failed.

Standard infantry theory for attacking prepared defences demands numerical superiority, artillery superiority, and aerial superiority. Ukraine has none of them.

The result has been a huge cost in Ukrainian casualties. As three distinguished American commentators put it

Col. Macgregor: 'Ukraine Is Being Annihilated'

"All of them will die and it's Zelensky's fault" Scott Ritter fmr. U.S. Marine | Redacted News

Seymour Hersh: Zelensky's army no longer has any chance of a victory"

September 23, 2023 Modern diplomacy

Some American officials sit in the White House and complain that "Ukrainians are risk averse." FT August 20 2023



Andrei Martyanov "The only thing Ukraine has is cannon fodder".

Every day of fighting kills Ukrainians and destroys the country. Whatever NATO thinks it is doing in Ukraine it is not helping.

In 2021 and 2022 the problems of divisions within Ukraine and divisions between NATO and Russia seemed soluble.

Today the three sides have rephrased the conflict into existential threats.

Zelensky said “Ukrainians are not ready to give away their land, to accept that these territories belong to Russia. This is our land,” He is committed to NATO membership. After hundreds of thousands of Ukrainian deaths, he will find any deal that accepts loss of land unacceptable.

Putin is committed to preventing Ukraine being part of what he sees as a hostile military power, NATO. A deal that accepts NATO and the loss of Crimea would be a humiliating defeat that Putin could not survive. Russia would lose its great power status.

Russian fortifications in Ukraine



Biden has committed hundreds of billions of dollars to weaken Russia and build up military alliances in preparation for conflict with China.. A victory for Russia would show a lack of commitment and or ability in the US. It would show weakness to China and the US allies. It could break NATO from the US.

Background My interest in Ukraine started in 1991. A group of us from Sheffield were on a delegation to visit our twin city of steel and coal, Donetsk. At that time Ukraine was an economic basket case. I returned to spend ten months there. I remember my language teacher grumbling that the authorities were insisting that a conference that she was due to speak at was to be in Ukrainian, which she did not speak. I attended a reasonably sized meeting claiming to be Internationalist and roundly condemning those in the West of the country as narrow nationalists. In fact, the meeting was of Greater Russian chauvinists.

I visited the monument to the first tank of the Red Army that liberated Donetsk from the NAZIS. In the West monuments to Bandera were appearing. He was a Ukrainian nationalist leader of the anti-Semitic OUN B. This organisation sided with the NAZIS against the Russians.

The lack of national cohesion was indicated by a mathematician friend. He said "I am Russian, perhaps I am a Jew. I am not a Ukrainian." A path around the obvious divisions was possible, but not if external forces were pulling.



Missed opportunities The war on a big scale started when Russia illegally marched 150,000 soldiers into Ukraine. This event was not the start of the conflict. Here are a few key events.

1990 In 1989 and 1990 the countries of the Warsaw Pact were breaking away from Moscow's control. Even the USSR itself was breaking up. A key issue at the time was East Germany. Could it join with West Germany. US Secretary of State James Baker sent a letter to Gorbachev the then leader of the USSR "There would be no extension of NATO's forces one inch to the East,"ⁱ he promised. Had NATO stuck to that position this conflict would not have happened, certainly not in this form.

2008 NATO held a conference in Bucharest. Here, NATO Secretary-General Jaap de Hoop Scheffer said that Georgia and Ukraine would eventually become members. Previously Putin announced his hostility. Four months later Putin invaded Georgia. The result was Ukraine was left in no man's land. A neutral Ukraine is no threat to Russia. A NATO member Ukraine is defended. After the conference Ukraine was left in neither position.

2014 The lawfully elected president of Ukraine was Yanukovich. (Disgusting corrupt shit, but elected.) He refused to sign a European-Ukraine Association agreement. Instead, he chose closer ties to Russia. In response there were protests. These were violently suppressed by the police. This stimulated new waves to join the demonstrators. Eventually Yanukovich fled for his life.

US interfered massively in this uprising. There is a tape on which Assistant Secretary of State Victoria Nuland and the US Ambassador to Ukraine, Geoffrey Pyatt discussed which Ukrainian politician should head the new Government and which politician should be kept out.ⁱⁱ Some Ukrainians in Crimea and the Donbass objected to the new Government its leadership and the process. Aided by Russia they broke away.

2014 The Minsk Process was a series of talks involving Russia Ukraine and Germany and others. They involved cease fire and some local democracy in the Donbass. On December 7th 2022 Angela

Merkle said “*The 2014 Minsk Agreement* was an attempt to buy time for Ukraine. Ukraine used this time to become stronger, as you can see today. Ukraine in 2014-2015 and Ukraine today are not the same.”ⁱⁱⁱ

2022 “Former Israeli prime minister Naftali Bennett says that over the course of negotiations, he “was under the impression that both [Ukraine and Russia] sides very much want[ed] a ceasefire” and gave the odds of any deal holding at 50-50”^{iv} “But “they blocked it, and I thought [they were] wrong,” Bennett says, referring to the Western powers backing Ukraine.... “I have one claim,” Bennett told the interviewer. “*I claim there was a good chance of reaching a ceasefire.*” When the interviewer asks if he means “had they not curbed it,” he replies with a nod.”^v

A large number of individuals support this.^{viii}

Ukrainska Pravda, citing “sources close to [Ukrainian President Volodymyr] Zelensky,” reported UK prime minister Boris Johnson “appeared in the capital [Kyiv] almost without warning” on April 9, bringing “two simple messages.” “The first is that [Russian President Vladimir] Putin is a war criminal, he should be pressured, not negotiated with. And the second is that even if Ukraine is ready to sign some agreements on guarantees with Putin, they are not.”^{viii ix}

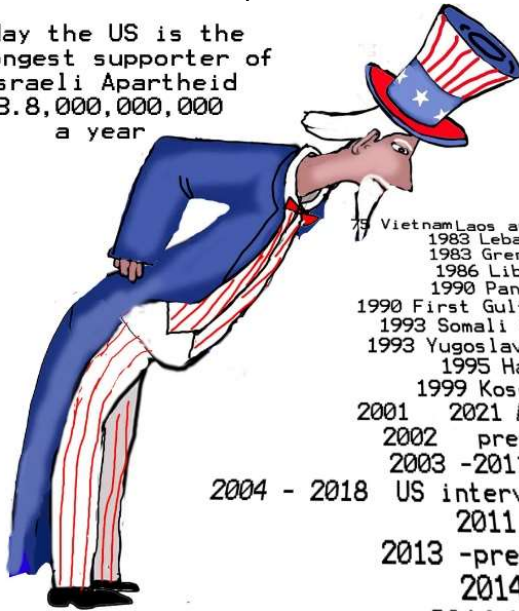


The Propaganda Lloyd George explained the UK WW1 war aims, “truth is that we have got our way. We have got most of the things we set out to get. If you had told the British people twelve months ago that they would have secured what they have, they would have laughed you to scorn. The German Navy has been handed over; the German mercantile shipping has been handed over, and the German colonies have been given up. One of our chief trade competitors has been most seriously crippled and our Allies are about to become her biggest creditors. That is no small achievement. In addition, we have destroyed the menace to our Indian possessions.” The media in the UK constantly deny the reality of the Empire and its wars. On the 100th anniversary of WW1 David Cameron told us that Britain, the biggest empire in the world fought the war for the rights of small nations.



The USA followed with talk of freedom and democracy and a practice of interference and invasion. 2023 is the 50-year anniversary of the US destruction of democracy in Chile.

Today the US is the strongest supporter of Israeli Apartheid \$3.8,000,000,000 a year



50 Years of military Interventions



- 75 Vietnam Laos and Cambodia
- 1983 Lebanon
- 1983 Grenada
- 1986 Libya
- 1990 Panama
- 1990 First Gulf war Iraq
- 1993 Somali Civil War
- 1993 Yugoslav Civil War
- 1995 Haiti
- 1999 Kosovo war
- 2001 2021 Afghanistan
- 2002 present Yemen
- 2003 -2011 Iraq war
- 2004 - 2018 US intervention in NW Pakistan
- 2011 Libya
- 2013 -present Niger
- 2014 Syria
- 2014 Ukraine

The USA UK and NATO are not benevolent democracies dedicated to the well being of countries they dominate. NATO sent 100,000 soldiers into Afghanistan. They did not send 100,000 doctors and engineers. NATO and the US have a strategic desire to weaken Russia^x and organise for a confrontation with China. I do not believe they care for whatever is best for the Ukrainians.

“I don't see why we need to stand by and watch a country go Communist due to the irresponsibility of its own people,” Kissinger on Chile democracy and the Pinochet coup.

An American Major has been quoted as saying about a village in Vietnam "It became necessary to destroy the town to save it"

It appears that NATO is willing to fight to the last Ukrainian.



Anyone who opposed NATO and its arming up of Ukraine gets automatically denounced as a Putin sympathiser. A brief look at human history reveals a depressing willingness of leaders to declare war on a neighbouring power. Power hungry Kings, dictators, Prime Ministers, Queens, Emperors and Tzars, go to war for, resources, plunder, land, whim, or destruction of a competitor.



For the record-Putin is an evil power-hungry war monger who deserves a place in the International Criminal Court, along with Blair.

Nuclear weapons were first used in anger in Hiroshima and



Nagasaki. In Hiroshima about 100,000 mostly civilians were killed in Nagasaki about 70,000 were killed. To deliberately kill civilians who are no threat to you is in my opinion a war crime. The USA could have dropped a bomb

in the sea or in an unpopulated area to demonstrate its power. It could have waited longer than the 3 days before dropping the second bomb on Nagasaki. I believe that Japan was on the point of surrender and that the USA leadership wanted to show its power to the USSR at the start of the cold war.

M.A.D. There was a theory called Mutually Assured Destruction. Nuclear weapons are so destructive that if they were ever used there would be a retaliation and counter retaliation that would mean that the countries using them would be destroyed. No one wants that so, the theory claims, no one will start using them. That seemed credible while there were only five powers with nuclear weapons, United States, Britain, France, Russia and China. However, two developments mean we should have less faith that they will never be used. The first is that human knowledge spreads. So, the list of nuclear armed countries today includes North Korea, Israel, India and Pakistan. Secondly scientists have developed battlefield nukes. This makes the threshold of use far lower, and encourages the idea that the user could survive the process. There are always war mongers ready to break the non proliferation treaties.



What the world needs now is more nukes

Johnson announces 40% increase in nuclear warheads march 2021

Spread of nuclear weapons

Russia has already stationed a first batch of tactical nuclear weapons in Belarus, by 17th June 2023. The United States stores nuclear weapons in Germany, Italy and Turkey. It plans to store some in the UK at Lakenheath. CND protesters point out that this is a bad idea in that it makes the UK a target.



War with China? After World War 11, a civil war broke out in China. The defeated Kuomintang took an army of a million to occupy Formosa/Taiwan. The United States interfered with the civil war on the side of the Kuomintang. Its 7th fleet prevented the Chinese Red Army from crossing the straits of Taiwan. The Kuomintang led the Republic of China (ROC) which controlled Taiwan but claimed to lead all of China. The Communists, which dominated all of China, claimed Taiwan as well. For about 20 years the USA recognised Taiwan based ROC as the sole Government of China. That changed. In 1972 in a joint Communique with China the US "acknowledges that all Chinese on either side of the Taiwan Strait maintain there is but one China and that Taiwan is a part of China" - the one China policy. For seventy years Taiwan has been seen as an independently run, part of China. In recent years the United States has been treating Taiwan as an independent country. For example "Joe Biden again says US forces would defend Taiwan from Chinese attack", 19th Sept 2022. "United States politician Nancy Pelosi, while serving as the speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives, visited Taiwan (officially the Republic of



China) on August 2, 2022.

A delegation of five Democratic Party members of the House accompanied Pelosi on the visit.”^{xi}

“The People’s Republic of China’s (PRC) stated ambitions and coercive policies challenge our interests, security and values”. NATO 11th July 2023^{xii}

The Chinese see the US as trying to encourage a hostile independent

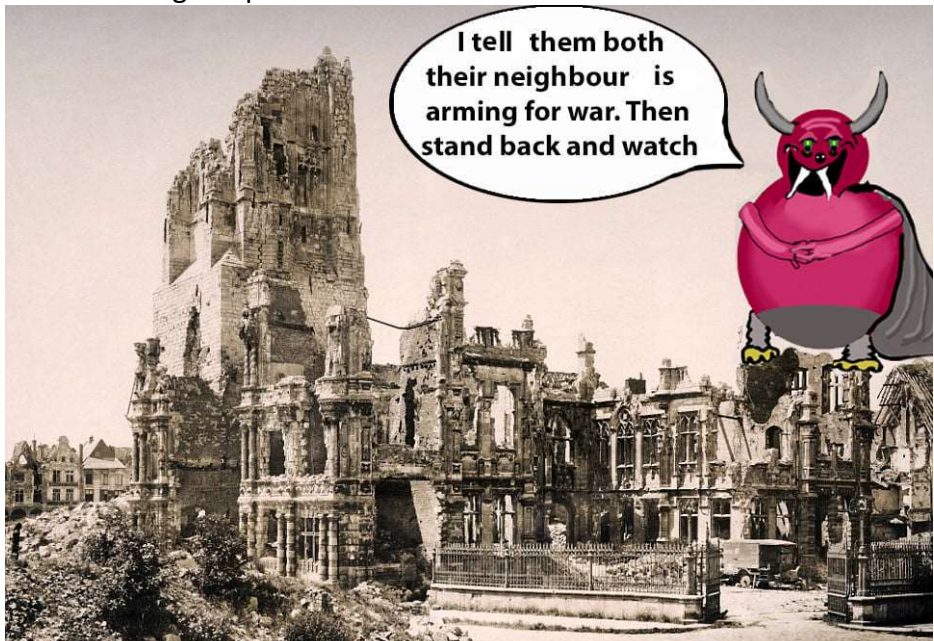
Taiwan. A US General predicts war in 2025, over the issue^{xiii}.

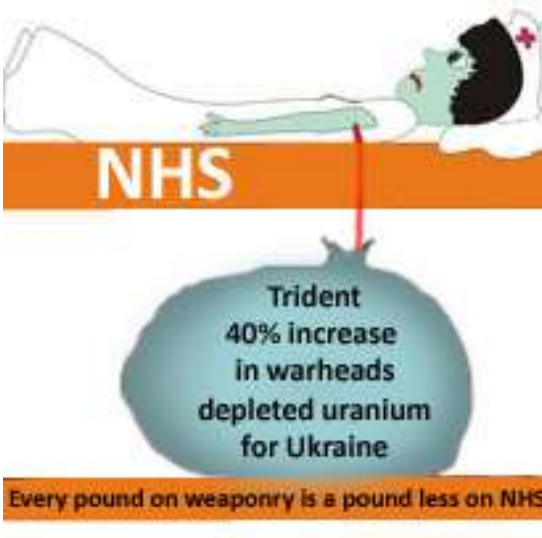
Climate Change is a massive threat to humanity. Drought, floods, warming, rising and more acidic seas threaten our food supplies. Wars over raw materials, resources, land, food water become more likely. There will be other threats like disease, economic crises and natural disasters.

The current nation states are hampering our ability as a species to face them. Each country fears attack, encirclement, theft of resources, decline in importance, and so on. The result is vast amounts of resources are squandered on ways of killing each other and ending human life on the planet. Worse, these war-hungry short-sighted nationalists are treated as great statesmen.

At present world military spending is at \$2,24 trillion^{xiv}. War in Ukraine and speculation of war against China encourages the war mongers. "In the last year, 37 nations have combined to announce defense spending increases of over \$1 trillion, to be spent during the next five years".^{xv}

A tiny slice of that would create an honest media. The rest can go to decarbonising the planet.





Britain pumps nearly \$5 billion into future AUKUS submarine pipeline^{xvi}

Britain spends \$65.8 billion in weaponry 2023, 3rd highest in NATO^{xvii}

Trident to cost £205 billion^{xviii}

The UK provided £2.3 billion of military aid to

Ukraine in 2022 ^{xix}

You cannot bomb your way out of Global warming.



Will the Labour Party be better?

Blair was not an aberration. The Labour Party supported virtually every war going. The first time the Labour Party joined a government was in 1915 when Arthur Henderson became President of the Board of Education. Lloyd George needed the Labour Party to convince workers to support the slaughter that was WW1.



The first Labour Government was in 1924.

"Labour's first colonial secretary, J. H. Thomas, would tolerate 'no mucking about with the British Empire' and sent the RAF to bomb Iraq"^{xx}

The Atlee Government maintained the French, Dutch and British Empires^{xxi} helped the establishment of NATO and made Britain a nuclear power.

Under Blair "the United Kingdom's once-pacifist Labor Party fought five wars in six years: in Iraq in 1998, in Kosovo, in Sierra Leone, in Afghanistan, and again in Iraq last year" [2003].^{xxii}

In response to Johnson's surge of £16.5 billion in 'defence' expenditure Kier Starmer said "We welcome this additional funding for our defence and security forces"^{xxiii}

There is a constant conflict between the war mongers and the peace makers. Most of the time the people want peace. "Why of course the people don't want war. Why should some poor slob on a farm want to risk his life in a war when the best he can get out of it is to come back to his farm in one piece?... it is the leaders of the country who determine the policy"^{xxiv}

As people get to understand the realities of war pressure builds up for peace. The war mongers are silenced for a time, before they start to agitate over a new perceived threat, or opportunity.

Our war monger leaders are on a dangerous path. The attack and counter attack escalation process has the potential to end human civilisation as we know it.

The first world war was about rivalry and plunder. An estimated 20million people died because of their power-mad leaders. Lloyd George said "If people really knew, the war would be stopped tomorrow. But of course, they don't know, and can't know."



On Christmas day 1914 soldiers stopped fighting and celebrated Christmas. Sadly the officers managed to

end the truce. Today, the choice before us is not peace or war, it is survival or not. We need everyone to build the antiwar, anti-nuclear movements.

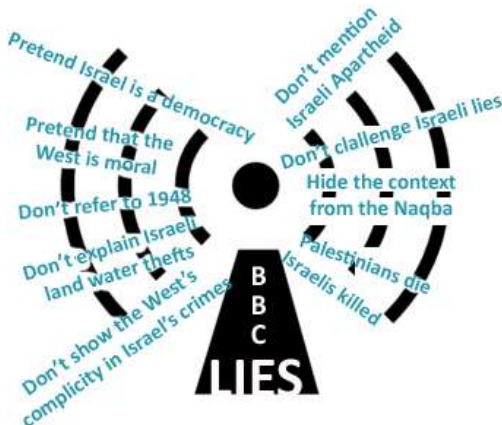
War crimes in Gaza

After completing work on the Ukraine war a further horror has been dumped on the Gaza people. I wanted to add a few comments.

UN Secretary General Guterres said the 7 October attacks by Hamas were “appalling” but did not happen in a vacuum. “The Palestinian people have been subjected to 56 years of suffocating occupation,” he said. “They have seen their land steadily devoured by settlements and plagued by violence; their economy stifled; their people displaced and their homes demolished. Their hopes for a political solution to their plight have been vanishing.” For a humanitarian comment Netanyahu wants him sacked.



The media has been a appalling.



ⁱ <https://readersupportednews.org/opinion2/277-75/23201-exposing-the-cold-war-roots-of-americas-coup-in-kiev>

ⁱⁱ <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-europe-26079957>

ⁱⁱⁱ <https://moderndiplomacy.eu/2022/12/13/merkels-confession-could-be-a-pretext-for-an-international-tribunal/>

^{iv} <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qK9tLDeWBzs>

^v <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qK9tLDeWBzs>

^{vi} <https://nationalinterest.org/feature/could-war-ukraine-have-been-stopped-204872>

^{vii} <https://www.foreignaffairs.com/russian-federation/world-putin-wants-fiona-hill-angela-stent>

^{viii} <https://www.stopwar.org.uk/article/did-the-uk-torpedo-peace-talks-on-ukraine/>

^{ix} <https://www.pravda.com.ua/eng/articles/2022/05/5/7344096/>

^x <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2022/apr/25/russia-weakened-lloyd-austin-ukraine>

^{xi} 2022 visit by Nancy Pelosi to Taiwan

^{xii} https://www.nato.int/cps/en/natohq/official_texts_217320.htm#:~:text=The%20People's%20Republic%20of%20China's%20stated%20ambitions%20and%20coercive%20policies,intention%20and%20military%20build%20Dup.

^{xiii} <https://time.com/6251419/us-china-general-war-2025/>

^{xiv} <https://www.sipri.org/publications/2023/sipri-fact-sheets/trends-world-military-expenditure-2022#:~:text=World%20military%20expenditure%20rose%20by,growth%20in%20spending%20in%202022.>

^{xv} <https://breakingdefense.com/2023/03/1t-in-new-defense-spending-pledged-by-key-us-partners-in-1-year-analysis/>

^{xvi} <https://www.defensenews.com/global/europe/2023/10/02/britain-pumps-nearly-5-billion-into-future-aukus-submarine-pipeline/>

^{xvii} <https://ukdefencejournal.org.uk/britain-slips-to-third-biggest-defence-spender-in-nato/>

^{xviii} <https://cnduk.org/resources/205-billion-cost-trident/>

^{xix} <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/ukraine-thanks-uk-for-continued-military-aid-during-defence-secretarys-visit-to-kyiv#:~:text=The%20UK%20Government%20provided%20%C2%A3,than%20a%20hundred%20anti%20Daircraft>

^{xx} <https://newint.org/features/2018/09/13/anti-imperialist-labour-party>

^{xxi} <https://www.marxists.org/history/etol/writers/haston/1945/09/protesttopm.htm>

^{xxii} <https://www.foreignaffairs.com/reviews/capsule-review/2004-03-01/blairs-wars>

^{xxiii} <https://labourlist.org/2020/11/spending-announcement-without-a-strategy-starmer-slams-pm-defence-statement/>

^{xxiv} <https://www.goodreads.com/quotes/33505-why-of-course-the-people-don-t-want-war-why-should>

If you keep telling
fibs, the only job open
to you will be as
a BBC reporter



The only way forward is mass resistance

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