

The Palestinian

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In millions, and billions, we are all Palestinians !

By Ben Seattle -- January 2, 2024 -- (102.253.am) -- posted at: <http://communism.org/Ben>

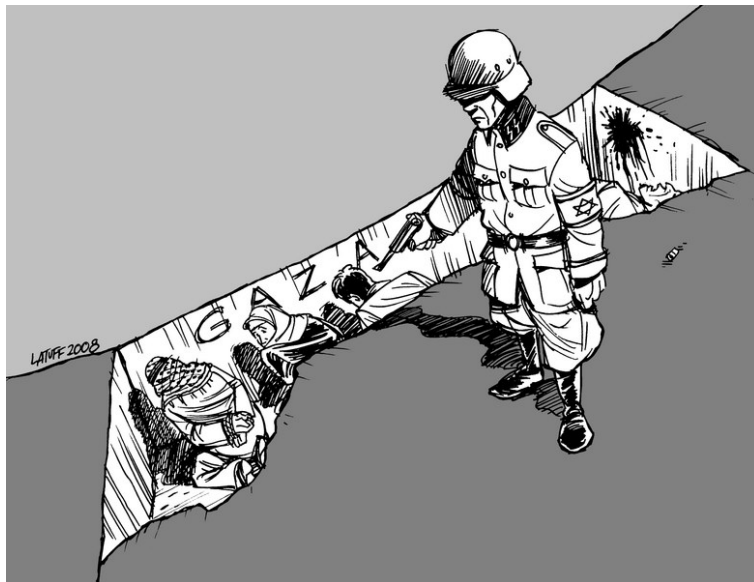
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war in Vietnam shows that it takes **years** for these movements to grow in size, and in the **depth** of their **political consciousness** and **organization**. Eventually, such powerful movements base themselves on the **working class**, and take up a perspective of **class struggle**. By the time the war in Vietnam was ending, millions of youth in the U.S. had become radicalized, and liberal Democrats in Congress were accusing pro-war Republicans of turning the youth into revolutionaries.

We can learn from the successful struggle against **Apartheid** in **South Africa**, as well as the national liberation struggles of **Ireland** against Britain, **Algeria** against France, and **Vietnam** against both France and the U.S., that a key role was played by the **war for public opinion** in the oppressing country--as it eventually became clear that the **anti-colonial struggle** could **never** be defeated. Since **Israel** is essentially a U.S. **colony**, what activists do here in the U.S. counts—a lot.

U.S. imperialism also faces a **key vulnerability** in this **century of information war**--as it seeks to mobilize **public opinion** in support of an eventual **war with China**--and this is undermined when people learn that the "freedom" and "democracy" that is heavily advertized here is a **fraud**. ■

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box401@WeaponOfTransparency.com

How does this end?

When will the bombing stop in Gaza? When will Palestinians get their national and democratic rights? When (and how) will we see an end to imperialist war?

The ongoing slaughter in Gaza and the suffocation of the Palestinians for the last 75 years is the result of US imperialism and its allies in Europe and the Middle East. People want to know when this killing will stop and the Palestinians will finally get their national and democratic rights. These are difficult questions to answer because so much depends on the development of the protest movements of activists here in the U.S. and elsewhere.

The experience of the movement against the U.S.

What is imperialism?

This will be another century of imperialism, fascism and war. Some people also talk of "socialism". What do these words actually mean?

Here are some key concepts we need to understand what will be happening in our current century:

Imperialism is not a policy, but is simply the final stage of capitalism

The first empire in recorded history was probably that of Sargon, who conquered the ancient Sumerian city-states, and ruled from the Persian Gulf to the Mediterranean Sea in 2300 BC. Since that time empires have taken various forms, from the Roman Empire to the British Empire. But all **past forms** are **distinct** from the **modern** form of imperialism that dominates the world today.

The modern form of **imperialism** emerged around 1900 as the economic and political system of **capitalism** ended its period of free market competition and consolidated into industrial and banking cartels and **monopolies**.

Lenin observed that imperialism was not a policy, but was simply the **final stage of capitalism**, and was characterized by: (1) the concentration and merger of industrial capital and banking capital into what became known as **finance capital**, (2) the creation of a **financial oligarchy**, which could bribe and own the political system, the legal system, the media and culture, the trade union leadership, and essentially all institutions of public life, and (3) the completion of the conquest and **partition of the rest of the world** by a few powerful countries in order to chase and maximize profits by **exporting capital**, expanding markets and seizing new sources of cheap labor and raw materials.

► **Capital** has become the ruler of all things. If the **expansion of capital** requires that millions die in war or famine--capital does not care.

This allows us to understand why Biden and **US imperialism** need to maintain **Israel** as a **fortress** and **guard dog** in the strategic and oil-rich Middle East. U.S. imperialism has, in this century alone, launched wars in the region that by some estimates have killed more than **4 million people** and created **50 million refugees**. The only problem US

imperialism has with the current slaughter in Gaza is that its open support for this undermines **illusions** in "freedom" and "democracy" that it has nurtured.

War is Inevitable under Imperialism

In the modern era of imperialism, Lenin noted, **war was inevitable** because of the uneven economic growth and development of the major imperialist powers. As some imperialist countries become more powerful, and others become relatively weaker--their **spheres of influence** must expand or contract--and wars must take place in order to **redivide** the world on the basis of strength.

We can see this today in the war taking place in **Ukraine**, as US and European imperialism test the strength of a weakened imperialist **Russia** (see also note below on "campism"). We will also likely see war in the future, as a rising imperialist **China** acts to push a declining **U.S. imperialism** out of **Taiwan** and East Asia.

► Imperialist war will finally end--later in this century--when the **working class** rises up everywhere and **overthrows** the rule of capital.

What is Fascism?

The term "fascism", strictly speaking, refers to a situation where the ruling class is (1) **afraid** that the working class will rise up and overthrow it, and (2) has become **desperate** and willing to turn the country into a smoking heap of rubble rather than see this happen, and (3) will use the most extreme measures (and extreme ideologies) to **repress political life** and **attack minorities** as part of the tactic of **divide-and-rule**. The ruling class in the U.S. is creating the **MAGA** movement as a **club** to use for this purpose when this becomes necessary.

What is Socialism and "Campism"?

The term "socialism" has historically been used to describe the economic and political system that workers will create after they **overthrow the rule of capital**. Unfortunately, this word has become corrupted in the wake of the failure of the 1917 revolution in Russia, and today is most often used to **promote illusions** and **describe mild reforms** that can easily be reversed by our ruling class.

The term "campism" is used to describe bankrupt trends on the left which believe that US imperialism can only be opposed by supporting a **camp of rival imperialist powers**, such as Russia or China--and support Putin's massacres in Syria and Ukraine. ■