

No to Trump's Iran war!

and No to the imperialist Democratic Party also

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Trump's war on Iran is being called "*Operation Epstein Fury*". It is also being called a war for Israel. The truth is more simple and profound. This is an **imperialist war**. Trump launched this war to seize control of Iran and dominate the entire Persian Gulf. This would help defend the *petrodollar* system (under which oil can only be purchased with dollars) and the status of the dollar as the world's *reserve currency*. Victory in this war would also give U.S. imperialism the ability to choke off the petroleum needed by its principle imperialist rival, China.

That is why **Democratic Party** politicians have restricted their criticism of the war to

Trump's lack of planning and clumsy lies while working, behind closed doors, to give Trump the money and political support he needs for the war.

This is a war to benefit billionaires -- but the workers and poor of the world will pay the price

Trump's war--which aims to protect the financial interests of billionaires and the largest corporations--has resulted in the closure of the vital *strait of Hormuz*, through which 20 percent of the world's petroleum and natural gas are shipped, along with key components for fertilizer and many other necessary products. The workers and poor of the entire world will pay the price for this war in the form of fuel and food shortages, higher prices on everything as freight costs increase, and job losses as businesses, squeezed by higher costs and lower demand, lay off workers. The billionaires who support this war are protected

from the worse impacts of it--but the rest of humanity will suffer from the chronic inflation and stagnant growth it will bring.

War will increase repression--not make us safe

Our ruling class and their media personalities are claiming that this war is aimed at keeping us safe. Don't believe it. The lying politicians of both imperialist parties are already planning further cuts in social services in order to offset the cost of the war. Furthermore, victory for the U.S. would strengthen Trump's ability to increase repression (such as the murder of activists by his ICE thugs in Minneapolis) here at home.

The link between this war and repression at home is illustrated by Trump claiming that the *Wall Street Journal* is guilty of treason for an accurate report that

an Iranian strike had damaged five U.S. Air Force refueling planes at an air base in Saudi Arabia. Brendan Carr, Trump's head of the Federal Communications Commission, threatened to block the renewal of TV broadcast licenses for stations that were "distorting the news". And Pete Hegseth, Trump's Secretary of Defense, attacked CNN's coverage of the straight of Hormuz crisis for being insufficiently patriotic.

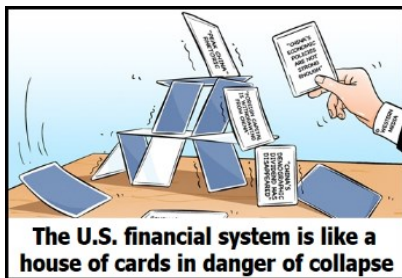
This is not a war to liberate anyone

Trump has also claimed that this war is aimed at the liberation of the Iranian people from their reactionary theocratic government--which shot down tens of thousands of protesters in the streets in January. But this war risks plunging Iran into civil war, or failed state status, similar to the catastrophes (hundreds of thousands of deaths and millions of refugees) that resulted from US interventions and wars in Iraq, Afghanistan, Libya and Syria. And Israel's invasion of Lebanon, which has become part of this war, has already created a million refugees.

Trump is afraid of looking weak

After the US and its junior imperialist partner Israel launched a surprise campaign of mass assassinations and bombings in the middle of negotiations with Iran, the survivors in the Iranian government responded by shutting down the straight of Hormuz in order to force a halt to the bombing. Iranian leaders have said they will not open the straight without guarantees against future attacks. Trump does not want to agree to this because he is afraid it will make him look weak and undermine the ambitions of US imperialism to control the entire oil-rich Persian Gulf region.

Limitations on the power of US imperialism threaten to **undermine confidence** in the **US financial system**--which is like a house of cards in danger of collapse.



Unfortunately for Trump, negotiations with Iran may be the only practical way to re-open the straight--which is vital for the entire world economy. The US military is the most powerful in the world--but even it does not have the ability to stop cheap Iranian drones from threatening shipping without a lengthy and unpopular war and soldiers coming home in coffins to a population fed up with costly and endless imperialist wars.

Causes of war go deeper than need for Epstein distraction or pressure from Israel's lobby

There has been a lot of speculation about the reasons for this war. People wonder if Trump launched this war because of his megalomania, or because he needs a distraction from the Epstein files, which include a report that he raped a 13 year old girl. And many people believe this war is due to the influence of Israel on U.S. foreign policy in the Middle East.

The idea that this is a war for Israel has received particular attention because of public statements by Trump's Secretary of State, Marco Rubio, and the speaker of the house, Mike Johnson, as well as the recent resignation of Trump's counterterrorism chief, Joe Kent. As well, many of Trump's staff, closest advisors and biggest campaign contributors are known to be close to Israel. And Trump's main political ally is Israel's Prime Minister, Netanyahu.

While there may be elements of truth in all of the above--these theories remain relatively superficial in comparison to the **deeper economic and material interests** that are driving events. The Wall Street Journal's editorial board, and other voices representing the interests of capital, have warned Trump not to stop the war too soon. So this is bigger than Trump's ego, bigger than Epstein, and bigger than Israel.

The Middle East is full of oil. U.S. imperialism is bound and determined to exercise control over the entire Middle East for this reason. Israel, itself, was created as a **colonial outpost** to help secure control of the Middle East by the U.S. The theories that the Israeli lobby exercises undue influence on U.S. policy in the Middle East overlook Israel's role as a necessary **junior imperialist partner** for the U.S.

Moreover--it is necessary to understand **why** such a megalomaniac as Trump was elevated to power in the first place. My conclusion is that the **U.S. ruling class**, as a whole, is becoming increasingly **desperate** as a result of the **unsustainability** of the position of the U.S. as the dominant power in the world, and the **increasing instability** of the U.S. financial system. Desperate ruling classes do desperate things.

We need an independent movement

The *"No Kings"* movement has mobilized millions in opposition to Trump's attacks on the ruling class. This is good news. But we need to keep our eyes open. "No Kings" is on a **leash** controlled by the imperialist Democratic Party. That is why its speakers will not mention the ongoing genocide in **Palestine**. We need a movement, and mass organization, which has no leash, and is **independent** of all forms of imperialist politics ■