### Western imperialism against the rest of the world

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At the outbreak of the war in Ukraine, none of us could have imagined the enormous changes it would bring to the balance of power in the world and how it would accelerate the processes of change that were already underway.

Nor did we have the imagination to visualise how Denmark would change in the name of this war. We have joined the military arm of the EU, signed base agreements with the US and transformed Denmark's economy into a war economy. The latest news is that Denmark's Prime Minister is now openly declaring war on Russia by authorising the use of Danish weapons and F16 aircraft on Russian territory. We have gone from emergency aid and defence weapons for Ukraine to 'rockets and planes' against Russia. And we are in a situation where we have a united Danish Parliament defending war over peace.

Denmark is truly part of the inner circle of the imperialist core. This is also reflected in the fact that we are part of the intelligence/spy organisation The Nine Eyes, which is a collaboration between the intelligence organisations of nine countries consisting of the USA, Canada, Great Britain, New Zealand and Australia, Denmark, Norway, France and the Netherlands.

At the outbreak of the war, the Danish Communist Party denounced Russia's invasion of Ukraine as a violation of the UN Charter, which demands respect for the borders of nations. But we also said that it was not an unprovoked act. We drew attention to NATO's march eastwards and that Russia, like other nations, was entitled to security guarantees on its western border. We have also seen Ukraine as a proxy for NATO.

These statements alone caused unprecedented hysteria, and we were labelled Putin lovers and Putin apologists. The soft-power of Western imperialism - the brainwashing of the media - had been successful, as it does before any war it wants to wage.

### From proxy to direct war

Military neoconservative think tanks have long openly declared the direction of the USA's - and thus NATO's - strategic war adventure. Whoever rules Eurasia rules the world. Therefore, the goal has been to weaken Russia militarily and economically, to divide it into seven or eight regions and thus reach China, which is the ultimate goal.

The top war hawks in the US White House administration have always envisioned a role for Ukraine in this adventure. Victoria Nuland, Under Secretary of State for European and Eurasian Affairs, was openly seen on the streets of Ukraine during the Maidan coup. Civil war broke out in Ukraine with the war in the Donbass region in 2014. For the next eight years, Ukraine bombed and killed its own people in Donbass.

NATO, an expression of the core power of Western-dominated imperialism, continued its provocations against Russia, which had expressed where its red lines were. NATO crossed the red lines and its proxy war against Russia started when Russia entered Ukraine.

It turns out that Russia was not a 'petrol tank disguised as a country' as some Western media claimed. Despite billions of dollars of funding from NATO, the EU and the US, and despite a multitude of sanctions packages - some 15 - Ukraine's military is now near collapse on the frontline and the Russian economy is stronger than before the war started. Russia now has the world's fifth largest economy in terms of PPP (purchasing power per capita).

# Vi må støtte ethvert oprør, der kræver afkolonisering og retten til national selvbestemmelse. Det er ikke socialistiske oprør. Men det er et skridt på vejen.

The war has pushed Russia away from its orientation towards the West to an orientation towards the East/Eurasia. And this has greatly strengthened the Russian economy.

This is the context in which we must view the aggression of the Western world. No thought is given to the Ukrainian people, who must fight to the last man for Western imperialism and its arms manufacturers. No mentioning of peace talks, only escalation. Now there is talk of NATO troops on Ukrainian soil and weapons to be fired deep into Russia. An escalation that has no bearing on the frontline in Ukraine. But it brings the world to the brink of Armageddon.

We see rockets being fired from Ukraine at Russia's strategic radars to warn of a nuclear attack. Two out of ten are hit. These radars do not monitor Ukraine, but are directed to the south. In other words: No impact on Ukraine, but on nuclear missiles fired at Russia and Iran from the south.

It is being discussed whether NATO countries should send troops to Ukraine. There are already many foreign troops in Ukraine. They are called experts. They are the ones who are able to adjust the weapons. The level of escalation is now showing more and more openly that this is a war between NATO and Russia.

## The Global South and the Ukraine War

The term 'Global South' is loose and imprecise. In the publication 'Hyper Imperialism: A Dangerous Decadent Phase', written by a number of socialist researchers from the Global South, the term is defined. It describes the 145 countries as a very diverse group of countries with different political systems, different objectives and different economic situations. What they have in common is that they are all located outside the 49 countries of the imperialist camp of the 'global north' that has colonised and humiliated them for centuries.

Both China and Russia are part of the Global South. The Ukraine war has strengthened ties between China and Russia. Immediately prior to the war, they entered into a strategic partnership, which has been continuously expanded. The US has tried in vain to put pressure on China to condemn the war and stop its trade with Russia.

The two countries realise that if the US and its Western allies win the war in Ukraine, America's next war will be waged against China. This is the reason for the alliance between the two countries, an alliance that also contains security policy elements.

The majority of the Global South sees itself as increasingly connected to Russia. They see Russia as an ally in the fight against Western imperialism's aggressive oppression of the world and the continued theft of their resources, as well as a rebellion against colonialism. They perceive that the West's goal in the war is to maintain its grip on the Global South.

In this way, the Ukraine war reflects a qualitative change. It becomes defining for the development of the world order. It is the driving force behind the enormous changes in the world's balance of power - the outcome of the war in Ukraine is crucial to the development.

Israel's war and the genocide in Gaza have further accelerated the development. Western imperialism has shown moral inconsistency and double standards in relation to the two wars. They do not recognise the right of the Palestinian people to defend themselves in Gaza or the West Bank, which are occupied

territories, they refuse to denounce the genocide that is so abundantly documented, and they do not want Netanyahu to be brought before the International Criminal Court.

The Global South has criticised the West for its moral inconsistency and double standards. This criticism has grown in scope. This is evident in the way the countries of the Global South organise themselves into various economic, military and political alliances. They are turning their backs on the West.

### **Changed balance of power**

It has not been possible for the West to pressurise the rest of the world to condemn and sanction Russia. The latest UN General Assembly vote on the war in Ukraine on 16 February this year did not condemn Russia, but called for a cessation of hostilities, recognition of Ukraine's internationally recognised borders and urged all member states to support diplomatic efforts to bring about a just and lasting peace. 141 countries voted in favour, 7 voted against and 32 countries abstained.

This was also reflected at the recent so-called peace meeting on Ukraine in Switzerland. Switzerland had invited 160 countries, but only 87 countries and several international organisations attended. Of these, 57 were heads of state and government, while 30 countries sent ministers or diplomats.

83 countries signed the final declaration, the majority of which were countries in the transatlantic NATO alliance and a few countries from Asia, Africa and about half of the countries in Latin America. Signatories also include the European Parliament, the European Commission and the European Council, which consists of EU heads of state and government. This means that the 27 EU countries have, so to speak, signed the declaration twice.

During the Ukraine war, the BRICS grouping - Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa - has grown into BRICS+. As of 1 January, Iran, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, Egypt and Ethiopia became full members of BRICS.

The admission of both Iran and Saudi Arabia, bitter enemies for decades, became possible after the two countries resumed diplomatic relations in March 2023 and agreed to resume a 2001 security cooperation agreement brokered by China.

And more countries in the Global South are queuing up to join. At least <u>34 countries</u> have expressed interest in joining BRICS+.

The main focus of BRICS+ is to strengthen economic cooperation and trade for the mutual benefit of all member countries and create an alternative to the US-led international financial institutions such as the World Bank and IMF, which demand extensive cuts in public budgets and privatisation in order to provide loans.

The organisation has set up a development bank and is working to create an alternative international payment system to the US-controlled SWIFT, which the US uses to unilaterally sanction and punish countries it considers its enemies. This has affected Cuba and Russia, among others.

BRICS+ is also working to become independent of the dollar as a means of international payment. More and more trade is now conducted in local currencies, and most recently, Saudi Arabia has decided not to renew its 50-year agreement with the US to sell its oil in dollars.

Today, the BRICS+ countries account for <u>45.8 per cent</u> of the world's population and an estimated <u>37.3 per cent</u> of the world's gross domestic product. In comparison, the G7 countries - the United States, Japan, Italy,

France, Germany, Great Britain and the European Union - will account for <u>less than 30 per cent</u> by 2024, down from over 40 per cent in 2000.

18 countries, all part of the Non-Aligned Movement, have organised themselves into the Group of Friends for the Defence of the UN, which was founded in July 2021. At UN gatherings, they deliver joint statements on various issues such as the Gaza ceasefire, the recognition of Palestine as a full member of the UN, the illegal freezing of various countries' assets in Western banks that are not sanctioned by the UN or the blockade against Cuba.

They see it as a defence of the UN Charter against the rule-based world order of Western imperialism, defined by the US to preserve the current unilateral world order. They want the world to be multipolar and adhere to the principles of the UN Charter, which is built around multipolarity.

#### The decline of Western imperialism

Since the outbreak of the war in Ukraine, a new phase of US military alignment with the world has begun. In a series of rapid moves, the US further subordinated all the countries of the Western imperialist alliance and thus the military apparatus of these states. It established itself as the open military hegemon in NATO. The military budgets of the member countries grew at rocket speed.

With this war, the US has defeated Western Europe, which now follows its every whim, despite the fact that it goes against Western Europe's own economic interests. All the sanctions against Russia have hit those who trigger the sanctions hardest - Europe more than the US. Several EU countries are now in recession. Denmark is one of the exceptions, which is solely due to Novo Nordisk.

The destruction of the gas pipeline between Germany and Russia meant that Germany could no longer get cheap gas. This has caused major problems in Germany, including deindustrialisation. The EU's industrial engine is now stalled.

Throughout the EU, there have been rising energy prices, rising food prices, inflation and so on.

We are seeing a deepening political and economic crisis in both the US and the EU: energy crisis, inflation, cuts in social welfare, the introduction of a war economy, all at the expense of the living conditions of the working population. And the ruling elite is in trouble in several countries where populist right-wing forces are gaining ground, including criticising spending and support for the Ukraine war.

An imperialism in decline is a desperado. The less political and economic success, the more military muscle. And working class revolutionary organisations in the western imperialist world are weakened. The old left has succumbed to the pressure of imperialism. In this sense, we are living in a dangerous moment.

Yet there is hope. In the imperialist heartlands of both the US and Europe, we have seen protests against the deterioration of living conditions, protests against war appropriations, protests against the genocide in Gaza, protests against the so-called green transition that is skewed, and so on.

We see how countries in Africa like Niger, Mali and Chad are throwing their old colonial power France out of the Sahel region. In Niger, the US military has also been kicked out. These countries now want to share their wealth of raw materials, uranium and more - for the benefit of their people. They want the right to national self-determination. And in some African states, they are asking for Russian military.

We see how solidarity with the Palestinian struggle for a free Palestine has grown to a scale never seen before in the world. Israel's genocide in Gaza, which is taking place with gunpowder and bullets and moral support for Israel from the Western alliance, has brought new young generations to the streets everywhere.

It is time to resist imperialism and colonialism - which are part of the same coin. We must organise resistance against war and demand an end to the senseless death on the battlefield in Ukraine. We must demand an end to escalation and the start of peace negotiations. Escalation can only lead to the use of weapons that no one wants.

We must support any uprising that demands decolonisation and the right to national self-determination. These are not socialist uprisings. But it is a step on the road. It weakens imperialism and creates opportunities for a different path of development for the working class in these countries, ultimately a socialist development.

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