



Announcement of the Campaign "70 years of war. No to NATO, no to bases"



"Abandon the philosophy of plunder and the philosophy of war will end"
(Fidel Castro at the UN General Assembly, September 1960)

The imperialist war

4 April 2019 marks the 70th anniversary of the founding of NATO. The purpose of creating NATO was to prevent the emergence of any alternative to the western capitalist model. Its members were co-opted into a common objective under the sole command of the USA, unfettered by any kind of democratic control. All that prevented their war of annihilation against the socialist world was mutually assured destruction.

After the collapse of the USSR, the absence of a countervailing power in the concert of nations paved the way for countless military interventions, directly (by NATO or 'alliances of the willing' but using NATO resources) or indirectly using the armies of vassal countries or irregular fighters, in addition to attrition, destabilisation and regime change against any state resisting their purposes.

All these interventions, coupled with other less visible measures of economic, media, ideological, legal and other forms of warfare, represent the essence of imperialism in that they entail the use of force to achieve the dominion of one country over another.

Unconventional war

The scale of the actions and the difficulties of direct intervention by western militaries themselves have prompted their planners to develop a strategy of "fourth-generation warfare" in which all these factors are considered and there is an essential place for religious fundamentalists and illegal trafficking of all sorts—all readily serviceable for the creation of militarized gangs capable of offering violent opposition to governments and sapping their ability to defend themselves.

The spread of terrorism has caused innumerable innocent victims, largely in majority-Muslim countries. However, it has also affected western countries, resulting in exponential growth of the demand for security and the passive acceptance of the curtailment of all kinds of rights and freedoms.

The new powers

China's economic growth, associated with the spread of globalization in the 1970s, has placed it as the USA's main competitor. The US's repeated spurning of the overtures of the Russian Federation has prompted the latter to pursue a spectacular development of weapon systems, both conventional and nuclear.

The present alliance of China and Russia is a clear sign of the decline of Euro-Atlantic hegemony, which makes any desperate response all the more dangerous. And yet there is no sign of a climb-down in the ideological/cultural sphere, which is dominated by the cultural and media industries, in the hands of multinational corporations largely controlled by Zionist capital.

While conflicts of interests emerge among the members of the Euro-Atlantic alliance, the EU is subjected to the USA via NATO, an organization that appears to have a life of its own, transcending mere military force to penetrate terrorist organizations, control the Internet and generate war propaganda, all in conjunction with control of the military-industrial complex, internal

populations and ostensibly sovereign decisions. In this way it is forcing the military encirclement of Russia and the implication of the EU in the strategy of demonization and harassment, with utter disdain for the will of populations.

The attrition against Russia is dismantling the few advances that humanity had achieved in the control and abolition of nuclear weapons, accompanied by mounting provocations, threats of their use and the risks of nuclear catastrophe by error or accident.

With the breakdown of US unipolar hegemony, this seems likely to give way to a world of blocs dominated by powerful actors; but the US will not easily give up control of what it has always seen as its stamping-ground. It is that is behind the intensification of the fourth-generation war against Venezuela, as the possessor of enormous mineral wealth, but above all as a proud example of sovereignty and resistance.

The role of the kingdom of Spain

The purpose of accepting Colombia (which a regional role in Latin America similar to the Zionist entity of Israel in the Middle East) as a "global partner" of NATO is to secure the involvement and support of their European allies in the ongoing offensive against Venezuela's sovereignty and for control of the entire subcontinent. Given its record as the spearhead of imperialism in Latin America, we may assume that Spain will have a leading role in the military offensive.

At this time there are sizeable deployments of Spanish troops in combat missions in the Baltic states, Lebanon, the Horn of Africa, Turkey, the Mediterranean and several African countries, in addition to other training missions in Iraq, Afghanistan and Sub-Saharan Africa— all under the umbrella of NATO or in the service of the colonial interests of allied countries, taking advantage of our infrastructure.

In every intervention in Africa, the Near and Middle East and Eastern Europe, Spanish bases have served to supply and refuel US forces. What is more, the last several years have seen the reinforcement of the offensive potential of the Rota and Morón bases, with the stationing there of four AEGIS-class destroyers and the Rapid Deployment Forces of the US Marines. And in addition there is the Combined Air Operations Centre for NATO's southern flank.

The participation of Spanish troops in military adventures against enemies who have not attacked us militarily, and the cession of our territory for the USA to launch operations against third countries, amount to a treasonous abandonment of our own national sovereignty— a sovereignty further constrained by increasing difficulties in defending the rights of the popular classes in an atmosphere of generalized fear and shrinking freedoms.

The consequences of imperialist war

The consequences for the countries suffering this wave of militarism are hard to quantify in terms of destruction, pillage and social breakdown, but these are deliberately covered over so as not to affect the consensus that such criminal conduct requires. For the people of Spain, these consequences manifest themselves in the cuts and precariousness associated with the crisis as such, in the dilemma for workers of having to choose between working for military industries or becoming unemployed, and in the risk of indiscriminate reprisals.

The recent massive migratory movements are the outcome of unbearable living conditions in the countries of origin, due to military operations or the extreme violence unleashed by large transatlantic corporations in pursuit of mineral wealth. And yet this is systematically concealed from the population of the central countries, so that migrants can be portrayed as opportunists competing for ever-scarcer resources, thus encouraging the spread of xenophobia and fascism.

Spending cuts affect a majority of the population, particularly the most vulnerable, but whenever solutions are proposed they are rejected as impossible to fit into the budget, and the proposers are

pilloried as populists. And yet the same logic does not apply to military budgets; these are not challenged, they do not affect the viability of the budget, they are not populist and they do not threaten governability.

Resistance and struggle

In a country which saw massive opposition to NATO membership and to the Iraq war, it seems paradoxical that there should be such scant response to this situation. Despite the scandalous silence of politicians and media about the consequences of the military interventions, no-one seems to question the state's warmongering. Today the left are embroiled in identity and other destructive politics while retreating before the advance of fascism, more dispersed now than ever.

The suffering inflicted on the bulk of humankind by imperialist war constitutes a dramatic call on the conscience of the popular classes of the central countries and on internationalism which we cannot ignore. To halt this madness we need to demand from our governing authorities the exit from NATO, scrapping of the "Friendship and Cooperation Treaty" with the USA, closure of American bases and development of policies of peace and negotiation in pursuit of the legitimate interests of the Spanish people, rather than the usual policies of threats, impositions and wars. The democratic memory of our people demands the immediate implementation of article 6 of the Constitution of the Second Republic: "Spain renounces war as an instrument of international policy".

We denounce the surrender of sovereignty implicit in the formal or informal subjection of State institutions, enterprises, political parties, media and the very territory of the nation to foreign interests, and the moral responsibility inherent in the explicit or implicit acceptance of this given the grievous harm caused by NATO as such and the US military forces and agencies that use our country as a base or staging-post for its criminal activities.

For all these reasons, the Internationalist Anti-imperialist Front is launching the campaign "70 years of war. No NATO No Bases" and calling on organizations, movements and individuals throughout the country to join forces in support of actions in opposition to the bases and NATO which we will be announcing on our website: <https://frenteantiimperialista.org/>

Today the struggle against war and NATO is backed by many organizations worldwide, many of them coordinated in the network "No to war - No to NATO" (<https://www.no-to-nato.org/category/es/>), to which the FAI is affiliated.

No to mercenary wars! Not in our name!

Enough of social cutbacks and increased military spending!

No US bases on Spanish soil!

Immediate repudiation of the criminal organization NATO!

No NATO, No Bases!