

WHAT IS IMPERIALISM?

Imperialism is a country expanding its power and influence by taking control of other places, by military force and through economic domination. Empires-- the wealthiest and most violent one of our time being the United States-- must constantly expand and seek to be the only decisive power in the world, or lose their ability to continue controlling and profiting off the exploitation of the people they prey on.

The U.S. uses a network of over 500 overseas military bases to rain down death and destruction on the people of the world through remote-controlled bombings of civilians and civilian infrastructure. When governments come to power that oppose the interests of the U.S. ruling class, they are overthrown with CIA-sponsored military coups and proxy wars that rely on torture, invasion, and genocide. When other countries threaten U.S. dominance, the U.S. strangles the competition through economic sanctions, which starve the masses, deprive them of medicine, and cripple the economy.

WHAT DOES IMPERIALISM LOOK LIKE?

Imperialism is cholera outbreaks and famine in places like Yemen, where U.S.-made bombs target water treatment plants.

Imperialism is open slave markets in Libya and soaring homicide rates in Honduras, after the U.S.-backed destabilization of their societies.

Imperialism is the assassination of environmentalists, journalists, and human rights activists in Colombia and the Philippines, by repressive U.S.-backed governments.

Imperialism is bulldozed Palestinian homes, millions of refugees, Afghan families bombed while dancing at a wedding, Somali shepherds shot down from the sky, Central American migrants suffocating in semi trucks bound for the U.S. border.

Imperialism is the mass displacement of refugees, exploding urban slums, ecological devastation, widespread starvation, human trafficking, and violence among the people, as the global masses bear the weight of economic sanctions and the destruction of their land and livelihoods.

Imperialism is more Iraq war veterans dead by suicide than killed in combat, rampant sexual violence against women within the military and in U.S.-occupied countries, an epidemic of opioid overdose in the U.S. as the war in Afghanistan flooded the global market with heroin, military equipment sent back home to American police to gun down Black people and repress protest.

WHAT DO WE DO?

Imperialism isn't usually part of mainstream political discourse. Dominating other countries is so deeply built into the DNA of the U.S. that for most Americans, passive acceptance of the empire and receiving its benefits goes without any recognition. We know we can't rely on politicians to tell us the truth or give us solutions.

We believe that people who live in this country have an obligation to oppose the empire and to stand with the people of the world, and we draw on a history of resistance to imperialism even from behind enemy lines. During the Vietnam War, widespread resistance from within the U.S. military helped to bring an unjust war to an end. Dockworkers refused to load ships bound for Apartheid-era South Africa. In the 1980s, religious people illegally gave sanctuary to Central American refugees fleeing genocidal proxy wars. Right now, courageous whistle blowers sit in prison for speaking to the media about the murder of civilians by drone strike.

Behind Enemy Lines believes that our allegiance is not with the U.S. empire, but with the people of the world. Those of us living in the U.S. have a responsibility to reject the atrocities being committed in our names, to build a culture of anti-imperialism, and to create the conditions for mass militant resistance against future imperialist wars and aggression.

**THE EMPIRE IS THE ENEMY-- FROM THE BELLY OF THE BEAST,
WE CHOOSE TO RESIST IT!**

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