

Irish “Neutrality”

The Anglo-Normans invaded Ireland in 1169 and Irish history has been largely dominated by our struggle for Irish Independence, democracy and neutrality against the British Imperial State since then.

The latest being its decision to withdraw from the EU including its customs union and single market, but not its military connections, which would reimpose a hard border in Ireland resulting in a major economic crisis and the probable termination of the GFA. The vast majority of the Irish people has again sought and obtained substantial international support against this objective of the British Imperial State to prevent these horrific consequences,

Seeking support from abroad is a very long tradition. In the 17th century O'Neill and O'Donnell in their 9 year war against the English Tudor conquest sought the support of the Spanish.

In the 1790's Republicans that first advocated Irish neutrality & Independence sought and gained the support of the French. In 1916 Republicans sought and gained the support of the Germans.

This time, Ireland not only have the support of Spain, France and Germany, but all the other countries in the EU and the US Congress. But Britain remains a powerful Imperial warmongering state, a great deal smaller than it used to be, but an imperial State nevertheless and is also allied to President Trump.

So how do we respond, given our objective is a United Irish Republic, without our own independent foreign policy, with positive neutrality as its key component, to be pursued primarily through a reformed United Nations?

Firstly we have to accept Ireland is not neutral. The six counties of Northern Ireland are part of the UK and as such have been an integral part of NATO since its formation in 1949. The 26 county state of the Republic of Ireland has been a US Aircraft Carrier since since 2001. By allowing well over 3 million US troops land in Shannon Airport on their way to its perpetual wars, this state has helped the US kill hundreds of thousands of men women and children. Ireland, all of it, is a key part of the US/EU/NATO military axis.

Not happy with assisting mass killings by the US, the Rofl is now planning to help create a EU Army via PESCO (Permanent Structured Cooperation) which initially creates permanent military formations between different groups of EU States on different projects. Ireland is involved EU training competence and maritime surveillance with a number of other states. But the intention is to eventually merge the different military formations and create an Army of the European Union. We know this because they keep on telling us. Irish people will be expected to go out and die fighting for the Army of the European Union just we were expected to do (over 180,000 did volunteer) in the Army of the British Union. To quote President Macron:

“We need a true European Army to protect the continent-with respect to China, Russia and even the United States of America”

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But the reality is that while the EU is seeking to become an Imperial state with the support of the the FF/FG axis parties in this state, together with the entire corporate media (with a handfull of exceptions), it has yet to achieve that objective.

The UK however, has been and remains an actual existing Imperial State in control of Northern Ireland. As such, it is and remains the major immediate opponent of a neutral Irish Republic.

The latest RedC/RTE poll of the people in the Republic of Ireland showed that 82% supported Irish Neutrality in all its aspects, so that the response of the dominate parties has been to invente the phraze “military neutrality” which has no meaning whatsoever, except to give the impression they support neutrality while actually being bitterly opposed to it. It does however show the failure of the FF?FG axix and its corporate media to change the minds of the vast majority of the Irish people. Even the decision of corporate media to deliberately all but excludes PANA and other groups in favour of neutrality in any political debate and exposing mythical nature of Irish Neutrality has not broken that commimtmnt to real Irish Neutrality.

PANA needs to continue to strongly oppose the idea that Northern Ireland remaining in NATO or the Republic of Ireland remains in PESCO. If a no deal Brexit is imposed by the British Imperial State, and the consequences are as economically disasterous as predicted, then it absolutely inevitable that the demand for an Independent United Ireland will grow and the issue of NATO and PESCO will become a central issue in what kind of United Ireland should emerge.

Not only the demand for a United Ireland will grow, so will the demand for a United Independent Scotland, and a United Independent England and maybe an Indepenent Wales. In such a situation, the break up of the British Imperial State, a greater focus could develop between the 4 states which would allow a focus of resources on social issues like health and housing. Shorn if its Imperial culture very good relations relations between the four

peoples could grow and develop giving all of us a better future to look forward to.

PANA since its foundation in 1996 built up strong links with other national peace groups and the international groups to which they belong such as the World Peace Council and the NO to NATO, No to War Network. We should continue to encourage them to continue to oppose in their own countries membership of NATO and PESCO.

We should continue to point out the powerful link between global warming and its consequence such as the massive acceleration in the number of wars due to reduced resources, part of which is continually pointing out this reality especially to those in the climate change movement that refuse to link the war and the consequence of global change.

Nevertheless we are aware that for many people their focus, as they see it is on immediate issues like housing and health. They see no direct link with war. The thousands of men women and children being killed by the US/EU(including Ireland)/NATO military axis are in Afghanistan, Iraq, Syria. Yemen, and Libya, are in far away places.

The next targets for war Iran and Venezuela are also far away. But Iran has a population over over 80 million. It has allies all over the Middle East. The US/EU/NATO axis are split, especially as after so many disasterous wars on having yet another war. The people living in the US/EU/NATO axis are not too keen on yet more wars (only 15% in the US), especially with one that has a population of over 80 million people and allies in Iraq, the Yemen, Lebanon and Syria and the economic consequences would have a global impact. Their corporate media will have to work very hard and lie much more than

usual to gain the people's support for a war in defence of Saudi Arabia.

For once therefore the warmongers and their acolytes are divided and unsure of their own people in their pursuit of their doctrine of perpetual war.

So what I am saying is this. Ireland's 850 years of struggle against British Imperialism will not be successful even if we achieve a United, Neutral, Democratic and Independent Irish Republic. We are only a small, a very small part, of a global struggle for peace. The choice is clear. The end of the all life on the planet via climate change and/or nuclear war. We are the sane people, we are the rational people, but we have no guarantee of success over those like Trump and Johnson and the greed and ignorance of those that sustain them.

But we should never give up the struggle. The choice is clear, a World without War or no World at all.

Roger Cole

Chair

Peace & Neutrality Alliance

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