

Peace and Antiwar Update

April 2021

David Swanson for Roanoke Center for Peace and Justice, April 9, 2021

April 9th in the Peace Almanac

- **April 9.** *On this day in 1947, the first freedom ride, “Journey of Reconciliation,” was sponsored by CORE and FOR. Following WWII, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that segregation on interstate trains and buses was unconstitutional. As the ruling was ignored throughout the South, the Fellowship of Reconciliation (FOR), and a team of eight African-Americans and eight whites from the Congress for Racial Equality (CORE), including group leaders Bayard Rustin and George House, began boarding buses and sitting together. This activism led to the freedom rides of 1960 and 1961, but it began with the nonviolent activism to integrate prisons engaged in by conscientious objectors to WWII.*
- Use the Peace Almanac to educate and to mark and celebrate dates and schedule events. Get your local radio stations to air it every day. <https://peacealmanac.org>

Military Spending

- U.S. military spending has soared, including during Trump years. It's \$1.25 trillion every year across numerous departments. It's as much as most if not the entire rest of the world combined.
- Much of the rest of the world's military spending is on U.S. weapons. The U.S. now sells more weapons to foreign dictatorships and "democracies" than to itself.
- Much of the rest of the world's military spending is by U.S. allies and NATO members and NATO partners.
- President Joe Biden is committed to Trump's military spending level.
- Nearly 100 Congress Members might vote for a reduction in military spending if it's guaranteed to fail. Exactly 0 have committed to voting against increased military spending even if their vote might matter.
- Biden is proposing to pay for big spending plans with minimal tax increases on corporations that will take 15 years to raise the spending in one bill, and to not moving money from militarism.

Conversion

- Educate people about conversion to peaceful enterprises, including addressing pandemics, including the economic benefits:
<https://worldbeyondwar.org/2trillion>
- Celebrate pandemic heroes for their services
- Pass local resolutions urging Congress to move money, creating hearings on what could be done locally with military budget, and creating studies of local conversion
<https://worldbeyondwar.org/resolutions>
- Get allies involved in this also involved in pushing for a demilitarized Green New Deal
- The Markey/Khanna "ICBM Act"



End the War on Yemen!

...the worst humanitarian crisis in the world...

- Both houses of Congress voted twice to end war on Yemen when they could count on a Trump veto. The Democratic Party Platform 2020 promised it. Biden promised it. Blinken promised it.
- On February 4, President Biden announced in vague terms the ending of U.S. participation in this war. On February 24, a letter from 41 Congress Members asked the President to explain what he meant in detail.
- Biden said on February 4 that he was ending U.S. participation in "offensive" attacks and "relevant" weapons shipments, but attacks (however one characterizes them) have continued, and so have weapons shipments. The Biden administration has paused two bomb sales to Saudi Arabia but not suspended all U.S. weapons sales and shipments to Saudi Arabia and the UAE, not removed U.S. logistical and maintenance support for the Saudi military, not demanded an end to the blockade, and not sought to establish a cease-fire and peace settlement.
- We're now six years into this war, not counting the "successful" drone war that helped start it. Enough is enough. Deference to a president is not more important than human lives.
- <http://bit.ly/yemennow>

Afghanistan

- Another broken promise
- Global strategy
- Congressional strategy
- Biden strategy



Syria

Deadly sanctions

U.S.-backed troops controlling oil and territory

Unchanged goal of overthrowing the government

Bombings don't all come with press releases

Tim Kaine

- Instead of ending any wars, some in Congress want to create a new AUMF.
- Senator Kaine wants the White House to tell him “the Thou Shalts and the Thou Shalt Nots” for it.
- Some, like Kaine, also want to have Congress authorize each presidential war.
- Kaine admitted to me that Congress could not make bombing Syria legal if asked.



Senator Tim Kaine's Brief Run-In With the Law

528 views • Apr 20, 2018

13 likes 0 comments

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David Swanson
1.78K subscribers

ANALYTICS EDIT VIDEO

The video player shows a scene from a hearing. Senator Tim Kaine is seated on the right, gesturing with his right hand while speaking. To his left, another man in a suit is seated, looking towards Kaine. The background features a window with blinds and an American flag.



IRAQ



IRAN

DON'T IRAQ IRAN.

- There is a brief opening to undo the Trump damage and the damage of decades of U.S. conduct on Iran, before the Iranian elections in June 2021.
- This has been known since before Biden's election, yet his first months in the White House have suggested unbelievable ignorance or a desire to avoid peace.

- Learn more, sign the petition to Biden, and inform others here: <https://actionnetwork.org/petitions/end-sanctions-on-iran>

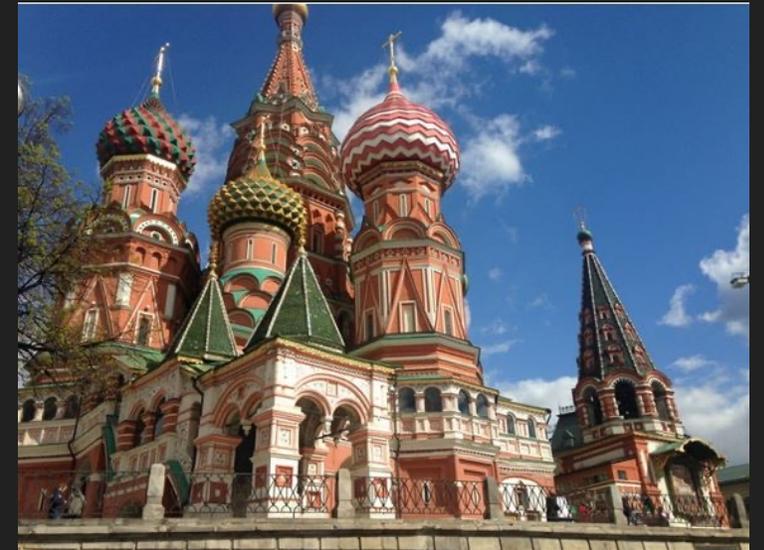
ICC

- After months of demand from World BEYOND War and others, the Biden administration finally last week lifted Trump-imposed sanctions on the ICC, stating a preference for a subtler approach to imposing lawlessness in the name of upholding the rule of law.



A Killer with No Soul (How Biden Talks About Putin)

- **Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov** this week did not threaten war or scream that he was coming to eat your children. This may come as a shock to some media consumers, but what he did was hold out hope that despite the name-calling and insults from U.S. President Joe Biden, there were people in the United States willing and able to make peace. “As far as I know,” he said, “the other day 27 political organisations in the United States publicly urged the Biden administration to change the rhetoric and the essence of the U.S. approach to relations with Russia.” This was a reference to a statement signed by World BEYOND War and promoted by World BEYOND War in Russian media.



Ukraine

Things Trump did for NATO:

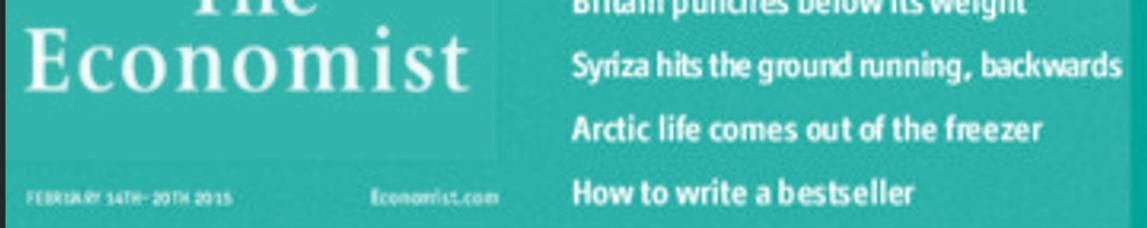
1. Got its members to buy more weapons
2. Enlarged it (30 members plus 40 partners = 70 nations around the world)
3. Armed Ukraine (but got impeached for delaying weapons shipments)
4. Tore up treaties with Russia
5. Fueled hostility toward Russia
6. Promoted huge war rehearsals, and installed missiles near Russia
7. Convinced virtually every Democratic Party loyalist that Trump was anti-NATO, and NATO therefore good, and most of them that Trump is Putin's servant

The SUPREME genius of Russiagate

Trump sold weapons to Ukraine, blocked Russian energy deals, forced NATO members to buy more weapons, continued the militarization of the border of Russia, sanctioned and expelled Russian officials, rejected numerous Russian overtures on space weapons and cyber wars, tore up key treaties with Russia, tore up the Russia-backed Iran deal, bombed Russian troops in Syria, and staged the largest war rehearsals in decades.

Therefore Trump is Putin's servant and got peed on.

QED



WAR. It's the new war.

- It's humanitarian!
- It's anti-terrorism!
- It's anti-Trump!
- It's recommended by 4 out of 5 dentists for their patients who kill children!

*Some restrictions may apply. Check local listings. If you experience suicidal thoughts, suck it up and think about the flag.

The United States Senate loves for your anger to be directed toward foreigners



Disarmament and Global Engagement

- The Doomsday Clock is closer to midnight than ever!
- Intermediate Range Nuclear Forces Treaty, Open Skies Treaty, UN Human Rights Council, UNESCO, Anti-Ballistic Missile (ABM) Treaty, . . .
- The United States' rogue status didn't begin with Trump. Of the United Nations' 18 major human rights treaties, the United States is party to 5, fewer than any other nation on earth, except Bhutan (4), and tied with Malaysia, Myanmar, and South Sudan. The United States is the only nation on earth that has not ratified the Convention on the Rights of the Child. It is by many measures a top destroyer of the natural environment, yet has been a leader in sabotaging climate protection negotiations for decades and has never ratified the UN Framework Convention on Climate Control (UNFCCC) and the Kyoto Protocol. The U.S. government has never ratified the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty and withdrew from the in 2001. It has never signed the Mine Ban Treaty or the Convention on Cluster Munitions.
- The Pentagon on Tuesday called land mines: "a vital tool in conventional warfare that the United States military cannot responsibly forgo."

Promises Promises from Biden

- Ending endless wars
- Restoring relations with Cuba and Palestine
- A \$15/hour minimum wage
- Paid sick and family leave
- Expanded voting rights, including for people convicted of felonies
- Campaign finance reform
- Free community college for two years
- Forgiveness of student debt at public colleges and universities
- Free college for families paid less than \$125,000 a year
- Universal preschool
- A healthcare “public option”
- A lowered age for Medicare
- A pathway to citizenship
- A ban on assault weapons
- A ban on union busting
- A ban on “new” fracking
- A tax penalty for offshoring
- The cap removed on Social Security taxes, and Social Security expanded
- Vouchers capping housing costs at 30% of income
- Abolition of the federal death penalty
- Decriminalization of marijuana
- Elimination of cash bail and of mandatory minimum sentences
- No kids separated from immigrant families.

How Organizations Can Work With WBW

- Sign the Peace Pledge at <https://worldbeyondwar.org/organization>
- Consider becoming an affiliate <https://worldbeyondwar.org/affiliation>
- Join an ongoing campaign, such as divestment, police demilitarization, billboards, blocking weapons shipments, etc.
- Start something new that World BEYOND War can help with.

Local / State, Global, National

- Make everything you do
1) educational and
2) organizational and 3) activist
- Make as many things you do as possible both local and global or national
- Make your own media and maximize other media
- Do nothing without recording and reporting it on a website and social media
- Do nothing that does not take seriously the urgent crises we face
- Do nothing that isn't fun

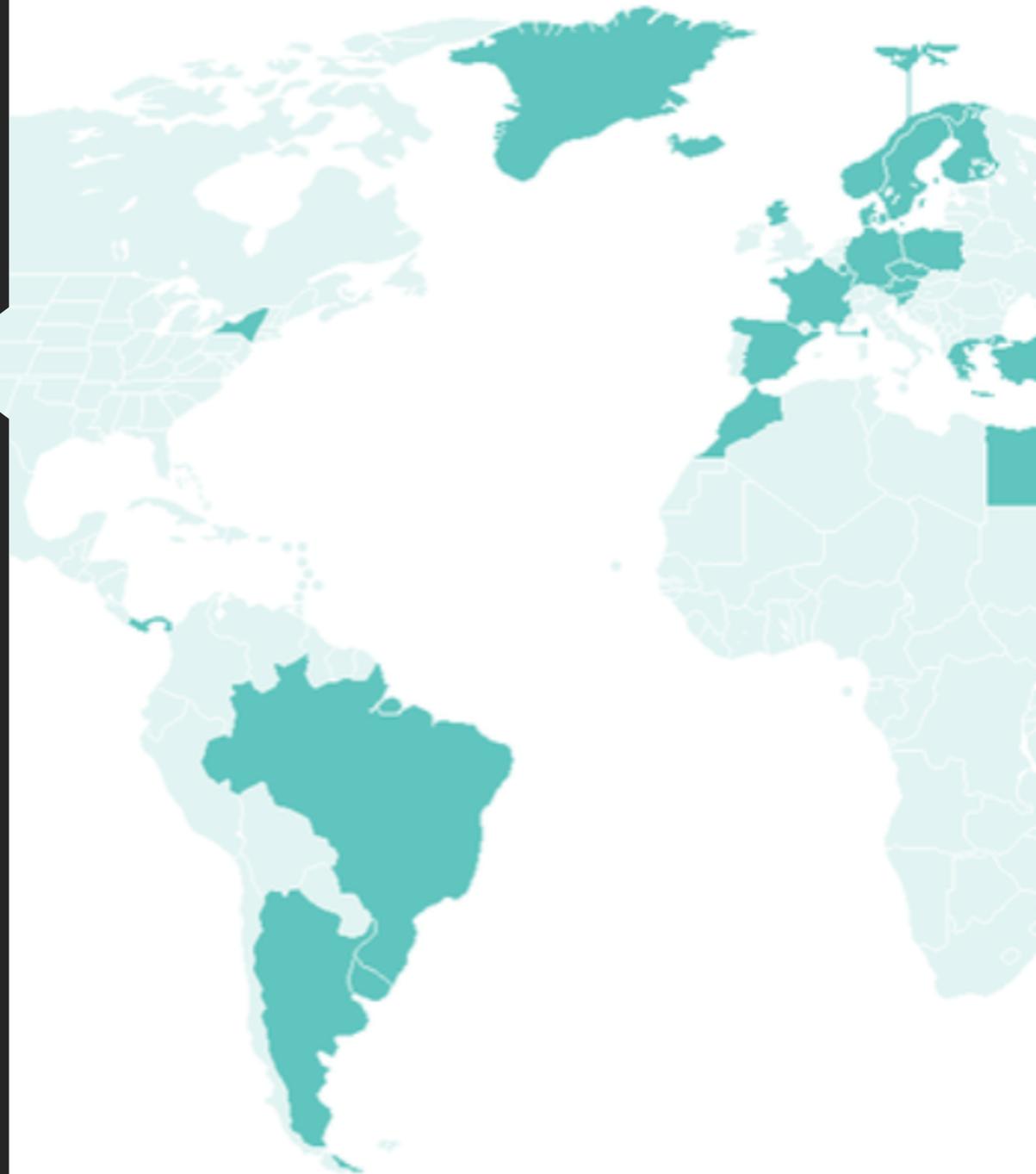


Form alliances w/ local environmentalists

- Do activist campaigns that educate and build your membership. Use resources from <https://worldbeyondwar.org/environment>
- Work to expose and halt criminal misconduct of military contractors in Virginia: <https://www.contractormisconduct.org/search?q=virginia>
- Bring your local environ-allies into global environ-peace campaigns such as that to stop excluding military pollution from climate agreements: <http://bit.ly/includeclimate> or ending war on Yemen.
- Get WBW to help with petitions, flyers, speakers, webinars, etc.

Back the Pentagon's Arch-Enemy: College as free public education

- Form alliances with every organization that wants to make college a free part of public education and/or end student debt.
- Inform your allies about the financial trade-offs, the tiny fraction of destructive, counter-productive military spending that it would take to treat college the way wealthy and poor nations around the world treat it.
- Form a youth-led peace and justice network to work on this and other issues it chooses. Work with the global WBW youth network.
- Educate about the advantages on non-divisive, non-bureaucratic, universal programs.
- Get WBW's help as always. Use the campaign to sign-up new members as always.



Divestment

- Begin divestment campaigns to get public dollars out of weapons (and fossil fuels?)
- Go after cities, counties, state, universities, other institutions, and individuals
- Use resources from <https://worldbeyondwar.org/divest> including the video and powerpoint there.
- Combine with urging investment in local, sustainable enterprises?
- We had success on this in Charlottesville: <https://divestcville.org>
- There are ways to do this at state level in Virginia.



Demilitarizing Police

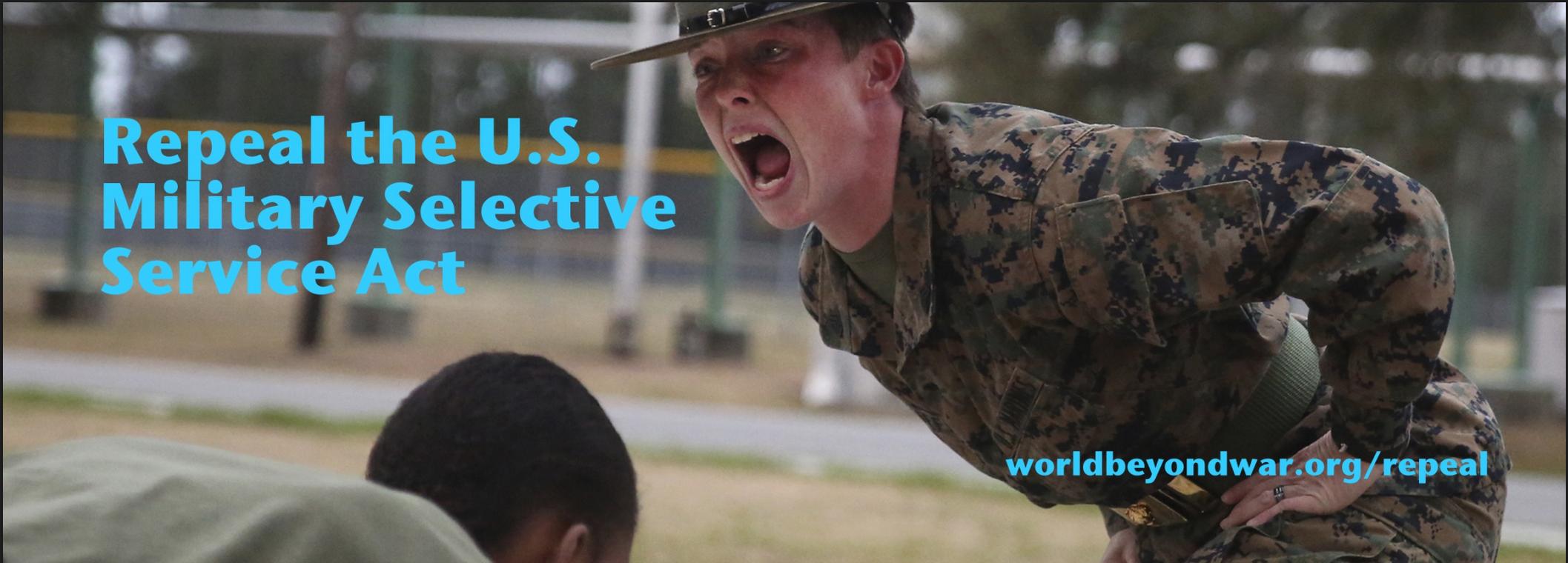
- Do local and state campaigns, building on successes elsewhere, such as Charlottesville:
<https://worldbeyondwar.org/policing>
- Join the hunt for Biden's lost executive order.
- Build alliances with civil rights organizations.
- Educate and build membership.
- Support bills from Rep. Hank Johnson and Rep. Nydia Velasquez.



Forcing Women to Kill Is Not Feminist

**Repeal the U.S.
Military Selective
Service Act**

worldbeyondwar.org/repeal



Education

- Do webinars that combine local and global speakers and issues.
- Do viewings and discussions of WBW's recent webinars: <https://worldbeyondwar.org/webinars>
- Promote and take part in WBW's online courses. <https://worldbeyondwar.org/education/#onlinecourses>
- Join the WBW Alumni Network (graduates of online courses).
- Talk to WBW about using our online courses with your own facilitators, promotion, ticket sales.
- Join a book club. <https://worldbeyondwar.org/bookclubs>
- Do online film screenings with discussions. <https://worldbeyondwar.org/resources>
- Use WBW's resources for events and education. <https://worldbeyondwar.org/resources>
- Work with local schools and universities to get WBW's and your speakers to classes. <https://worldbeyondwar.org/speakers>
- Create local peace essay and art contests with awards ceremonies.
- Celebrate peace holidays.
- Put up billboards and use WBW's guide to maximizing the impact. <https://worldbeyondwar.org/billboardsproject>

Antiwar Education in U.S. Must Explain U.S. Role

- Since World War II, during a supposed golden age of peace, the United States military has killed or helped kill some 20 million people, overthrown at least 36 governments, interfered in at least 85 foreign elections, attempted to assassinate over 50 foreign leaders, and dropped bombs on people in over 30 countries. The United States is responsible for the deaths of 5 million people in Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia, and over 1 million just since 2003 in Iraq.
- On the day of the Capitol Hill coup attempt, Joe Biden named Victoria Nuland as possible nominee for Undersecretary of State – a key planner of the Ukraine coup and advocate for one in Russia.
- Some 95% of foreign military bases are U.S. foreign military bases.
- Some 50% of military spending is U.S. military spending.
- The top dealer of weapons to the world, rich countries, poor countries, dictatorships, so-called democracies, the Middle East, etc., is the United States.
- Most war-torn regions manufacture no weapons. Most wars have U.S. weapons on both sides.

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6. The United States did not have to develop practices of genocide, ethnic cleansing, and concentration of people on reservations
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Global campaigns



- Make sure you are on World BEYOND War's email list and discussion listserve.
<https://worldbeyondwar.org/individual> <https://groups.google.com/g/wbw-discussion>
- Join in global campaigns and give them a local twist.
- Partnering with activist campaigns in other countries, assist and learn from them.
- Co-host getting-to-know-each-other webinars with break-out groups uniting people from different places.
- Create campaigns to establish local sister-city relationships.
- Present your new ideas to the global peace community and get the help of others on your local or global initiatives.

Website

- Looking good online pays off 1,000 fold.
- Work with WBW to design a powerful website.
- Work with skilled volunteers or staff to maximize social media, videography, webinars, and the use of a system like Action Network that builds a list, sends emails, hosts petitions and letter campaigns and forms, handles fundraising pages, etc.

Build WBW globally and locally with the Peace Pledge

○ <https://worldbeyondwar.org/individual>

Sign the Declaration of Peace

English. 日本語. Deutsch. Español. Italiano. 中文. Français. Norsk. Svenska. Русский. Polskie. বাংলা। हिंदी. 한국어. Português. فارسی العربية

Organizations [sign the pledge here](#). Get [sign-up sheets](#).

“I understand that wars and militarism make us less safe rather than protect us, that they kill, injure and traumatize adults, children and infants, severely damage the natural environment, erode civil liberties, and drain our economies, siphoning resources from life-affirming activities. I commit to engage in and support nonviolent efforts to end all war and preparations for war and to create a sustainable and just peace.”

+ Why sign? >

Declaration of Peace - individual