

PART's Perspective:

War and Fascism March in Lockstep

by Michael Novick, *Anti-Racist Action-Los Angeles/People Against Racist Terror (ARA-LA/PART)*

Nearly a century ago, Benito Mussolini clarified the relationship between war and his fascist project of making Italy a colonizing power. He said, “War is the normal state of the people. The function of a citizen and a soldier are inseparable.... War alone brings up to their highest tension all human energies, and imposes the stamp of nobility upon the peoples who have the courage to make it. It matters little who wins. To make a people great, it’s necessary to send them to battle even if you have to kick them in the pants.”

The particular aggressive wars of choice that he launched were against Libya through aerial bombardment and independent Ethiopia by invasion. Trump is following that same fascist playbook with his attacks on Venezuela and now Iran. Like Mussolini and Hitler before him, he has unleashed the dogs of war on a far larger scale than he intended.

Stress Tests

In this second term, already into its second year, Trump has been subjecting the structures of government and the capacity of civil society to ongoing and intensifying stress tests. Government has failed the test. The “checks and balances” are designed

to check and marginalize the power of the people and balance human rights with the prerogatives of wealth and white supremacy. The challenge now is for the working class and civil society to meet Trump’s stress test with a counter-offensive as urgent, massive and transformational as the times demand.

Trump’s efforts to normalize troops in the streets of US cities, arming ICE as a force to terrorize and intimidate not only immigrants but the whole population, produced a strong countervailing resistance. It turned his immigrant bashing from a political strength into a weakness. So he backed off slightly and immediately pivoted to the international arena. He brazenly and blatantly contradicted all his campaign promises and posturing for over a decade as a peace candidate opposed to endless wars for regime change.

The response to his invasion of Venezuela and kidnapping of its elected president and the first lady who is also an elected representative, and the related threats against Cuba, did not produce as effective and widespread a resistance as had the ICE and military invasions of US cities. Nor did the continuing genocide in Palestine after Trump’s so-called cease-fire. Thus emboldened, Trump and Netanyahu launched an aggressive, massive surprise attack on Iran while “negotiations” were ongoing.

In Israel, despite retaliatory strikes by Iran, this war seems so far to have achieved the results Netanyahu was looking for, silencing his opposition to a great degree, as his partisan opponents generally fell in line to support the Israeli/US attack.

But if Trump and Netanyahu imagined that “decapitation” would work in Iran, they were incredibly and tragically over-optimistic. Iran, a large, young, well-armed, populous country that has a military with plenty of defensive combat experience, has proven capable of taking the war to Israel and to US bases and warships throughout the region. The Iranian people will determine their own future; it will not be imposed by the US.

Neo-conservatism + Neo-liberalism = Neo-colonialism and Neo-Nazism

Far from rebuilding Trump’s eroded support base in MAGA and society, response to the invasion has been generally negative, particularly from MAGA, which is having trouble wrapping itself around the shift from a perceived America First isolationism to international aggression in service of regime change and the same old pro-Zionist neo-con dreams of “reshaping the Middle East.” Rather than distracting MAGA from the Epstein files, the Iran invasion in cahoots with Israel has served to intensify the misgivings already disrupting and fracturing his coalition.



Memorial sculpture against war and fascism in Austria, Hitler’s birthplace.

The question remains, however, how the stress-test of war will be responded to by broader sectors of civil society. Sentiment measured in public opinion polls show that a substantial plurality are opposed to the attacks on Iran, and a majority oppose or distrust Trump’s use of US military might to dictate to other countries. But it will take a lot more than sentiment to stop the US war machine.

Peace and anti-war forces and the left did not adequately prepare the public at large, or the sectors they have organized around “domestic” issues, to act decisively against the well-telegraphed assaults on Venezuela or Iran. The weeks of attacks on fishing boats or later oil tankers in the Caribbean were not met with sufficient demonstrative outrage, let alone anything like the Italian workers’ combative response to Israeli war crimes. Trump had a relatively free hand for his limited-scope incursion into Venezuela.

Nor were there any clear, well-publicized and organized plans in place for mass action in case Trump’s threats and saber-tattling in the so-called “Middle East”, directed at Iran, became a reality. Which they did in the form of the vicious bombing, including of civilian areas, that materialized on Feb. 28. Demonstrations that were called in many cities attracted crowds only in the hundreds. In Los Angeles, there was little advance notice for a rally at City Hall, despite endorsements from the Black Alliance for Peace, CodePINK, and DSA-LA in addition to sponsorship by the ANSWER (Act Now to Stop War and End Racism) and the PSL. The turnout was small despite celebrity speakers like Jane Fonda. Pro-war Iranian monarchists thankfully did not disrupt it, because they were having larger rallies of their own on the other side of town supporting the war.

Nor were there any of the kind of pre-war protests that preceded the various Bush wars of choice on Iraq. This despite the fact that Trump quite openly refused to consult even with his lap-dog Congress as required. Trump does not believe in asking for either permission OR forgiveness. He is constantly testing the limits of what he can get away with.

We have yet to demonstrate that we are passing that intentional stress test. Illusions about the possibility of the Democratic Party or the “mid-term” elections being effective in countering Trump -- illusions based on the belief that the problem is only Trump, and not the imperialist system and corporate domination -- are part of the problem. Fascism is in fact deeply rooted in US settler-colonial capitalism and white supremacy.

Trump Youth?

Meanwhile, other sectors of civil society continue to accommodate themselves to Trump’s fascist proclivities. Secretary of War Pete Hegseth demanded that Scouting America drop all badges and references to “diversity,

equity and inclusion,” or face exclusion from use of all Department of War facilities and bases. They did so, although they balked at his maximalist demands of returning to the name Boy Scouts and restricting their membership to biological boys. Although he stopped short of renaming them “Trump Youth,” Scouting America should have rejected any ultimatum, and in fact stopped using military bases for any of its functions.

Artificial ‘Intelligence’ and the Intelligence ‘Community’

Similarly, despite the supposed “red lines” drawn by founder Dario Amodei on the use of Anthropic by the “Department of War”, its Claude A-I was in fact used in the attack on Iran, as it was in the attack on Venezuela. Trump petulantly declared Anthropic a “supply-chain risk” and intends to rid the US government entirely of its products, and Secretary of War Hegseth practically accused the company of treason, but they will keep using Claude. It was customized by Anthropic for high-security classified operations by the military and “intelligence community,” and must be phased out over six months and replaced by other ‘frontier’ A-I tech, which Open AI or Musk’s X-AI will be only too happy to provide. Even the slightly more scrupulous Amodei has made it clear that he will collaborate with DOW and the other agencies in making the transition smooth.

Last month ARA-LA co-sponsored a teach-in on A-I, Labor and the Future of LA, War and the World, a small but positive step towards organizing working people and civil society against the threat A-I poses and against the national security state apparatus and military-carceral-industrial complex that are driving its use to build a fascist surveillance infrastructure domestically and a robotic military juggernaut internationally.

The video recordings of the conference are at:

Part 1: <https://youtu.be/oaPdrHmrOAI>

Part 2: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zH3Xy5bf8Jo>

The task remains before us to amplify and crystallize the mistrust most people have of A-I, and the growing disillusionment with Trump’s transgressions and aggressions, into a powerful, positive and effective movement for solidarity, peace, and justice and against imperialism, colonialism and racism. Trump has shown through his stress tests that “democracy” as practiced by the oligarchs and the empire is a sham.

It’s up to us to build up the popular forces of solidarity, resistance and liberation that can apply stress and pressure to the fault lines and internal contradictions of capitalism and the empire, to salvage the planet and a future worth living. That will require not just regime change, but system change, to an eco-socialist economy and society.

100X100 Campaign to Increase Publication Frequency of *Turning the Tide*

Over its 38-year publishing history, *TTT* has been published variously as a photocopied zine, in magazine format, as a 24-page tabloid, and from time to time on a bi-monthly basis, six issues a year. For the last few years, economic necessity has dictated that we guarantee four 8-page issues a year. To restore bi-monthly publication, we launched a fund-raising campaign we’ve dubbed “100X100.”

We are still looking for one hundred people who will donate \$100 a year, or \$10/mo, to make it possible for *TTT* to resume publishing six issues a year, and continue mailing about 1700 copies of each issue into the prisons. You can donate at http://ko-fi.com/anti_racist_action_la. Help it go viral!

Turning the Tide doesn’t print itself, or mail itself. Some prisoners who get the paper contribute a few stamps.. Often, they pass the copy of *TTT* that they received from hand to hand, cell to cell, or they send in the names and addresses of half-a-dozen or more other prisoners. **Prisoners, if you can find donors or subscribers outside prison to subsidize your sub, that would help a lot!**

If you’d like to see *Turning the Tide* more frequently, if you want to contribute to breaking down the walls of isolation and separation imposed by the prison system, please contribute. If you can’t manage \$100 all at once, you could donate \$10 a month. But any donation you make can help. Postage costs for a single issue of *TTT* are over \$1000 and climbing. If you can’t donate yourself, please help spread the campaign via your social media, to your Facebook friends, X or Bluesky followers, and email contacts. Everything helps. Nobody makes a dime from working on *TTT*.

If the campaign is successful, we will continue publishing every other month in 2026. Postage is our biggest expense, but printing, especially in a format prisons will accept, is also costly. We have a handful of people who are sustainers, making a monthly donation, a larger number of people who subscribe once a year or so. Right now, we are at about 10% of our goal. LA area supporters could set up house meetings, where the editor will pitch to your friends for support. The future of *Turning the Tide* is in your hands. Now, while you’re thinking about it, go to:

https://ko-fi.com/anti_racist_action_la

and donate, or use paypal to antiracistaction_la@yahoo.com if you prefer. Then share it with your contacts. With your help, *Turning the Tide* can step up to the “urgency of now” -- the necessity for radical organizing, educating and analyzing to respond to the growing crisis of the Empire -- endless war, police terror with impunity, mass incarceration, colonialism, ecological devastation that will shortly become irreversible.

If you think *TTT* is a useful tool in the struggle for people’s power and a new world, please donate today. If you wish, you can also just send cash, check or money order to

Anti-Racist Action, PO Box 1055, Culver City CA 90232.

Necessary, But Not Sufficient: The General Strike and the Need for More

by Kali Akuno

Wednesday, January 28, 2026

A dear, dear comrade hit me with a set of serious questions about the efficacy of calling for a General Strike to stop ICE. It was not a question premised on rejection, but on efficacy as currently outlined. Some of their critical points were centered on the efficacy of such a strike hurting or hindering the Trump regime, since the regime has clearly demonstrated that it is perfectly willing to punish and outright starve the strongholds of the Democratic Party (and even elements of his own base with tariffs and cuts to SNAP). So, how will a coordinated strike, that would largely be conducted in Democratic party run states and urban strongholds, hurt this regime? This is especially the case if few, or any, of the transnational corporations that dominate the US economy, support or participate in the strike (keeping in mind that most of the businesses that supported the strike in Minneapolis were small “mom and pop” businesses)?

Let me be clear, mass strikes, in and of themselves, are not going to bring the Trump regime to heel, particularly if they are primarily concentrated in the coastal states and the urban strongholds of the Democratic Party. It is going to take a lot more than strikes, even though we won't get there without them.

Strikes are absolutely necessary, but not sufficient.

In order to dislodge the Trump regime, the strike movement must focus a critical portion of its energy on fracturing the Trump coalition, and fracturing it decisively. It is going to be extremely difficult to separate the regime from its true believers. The movement has to start by reaching the forces who are aligned primarily on economic lines with the Trump coalition. The lowest hanging fruit in that orbit are the Trump forces in the labor movement itself. They must be appealed to on account of Trump's empty promises regarding the reindustrialization of the empire, while deliberately seeking to eliminate organized labor. The second, and more critical target, are the farmers, the small corporate aggregates and the family farmers, particularly those in the “red” states that form the geographic base of the Trump coalition. These forces are essential to move in order to ensure that the mass strike isn't just an urban phenomenon, with the racial undertones that would imply.

No, it has to hit red states, rural and suburban areas, and it has to shut the economy down at the point of production, distribution, and consumption on as wide a scale as possible. Trump and his coalition would feel that, literally. In order for the mass strike to work, a genuine national farmer-worker (and beyond) alliance must be formed and strategically deployed.

Now, to be clear, a General Strike is a means to an end. The question is what is or should be the end in this case? Getting rid of Trump and the Trump regime would be the most popular answer. I would argue that while that objective is a necessary starting point, without a broader

and deeper set of objectives, that singular objective in and of itself would just lead to another turn of the wheel to a dead end - meaning just returning the Democrats and their neoliberal politics and imperatives back into power.

The General Strike being called for must not repeat the mistakes of the No Kings Movement in having no demands. Nor should it be pigeon holed into being an effort to win the 2026 mid-term elections for the Democrats, or an effort to preserve the constitutional order or the false agreements of bourgeois society. It must aim to deal with the challenges of our times, head on. To that end, it must push back against the threats of AI and automation, the acceleration of climate change, the concentration of capital and the extreme inequality it is breeding, and ultimately the capitalist system itself.

This is not a short order task to be clear. But, if we are going to pull off a General Strike it shouldn't be half-assed, particularly if it might ignite massive repression from the Trump regime and a civil war.

We must take aim at it all. But, we have to do the necessary organizing work to build our capacity to win, not just put up a valiant fight. To this end, I want to offer to this movement the Build and Fight Formula (see graphics) and to offer it in this context, along strike lines.

The press for a General Strike, is the opening part of what we style the practices of maneuver - practices a social movement has to build towards. The practices of position are those things people are actually doing, but which we have to bring to scale in order to build our collective capacity and aggregate our power. But, per our analogy, think of the practices of position as

our strike fund. The deeper the strike fund, the better our chance to win our demands. Now, in the real world context we find ourselves in, there are millions of people engaged in the practices of position all throughout the empire, best exemplified by all of the mutual aid projects that have emerged since the Occupy Movement, the countless community gardens that been built over the last 20 years, or all of the Maker Spaces and Fab Labs that have developed over that same period of time, and the numerous self-defense brigades that emerged in virtually all of the cities invaded by ICE this year.

Unfortunately however, these initiatives aren't sufficiently coordinated to exercise maximum power. To this end, in order for the General Strike actively being called for to win, we are going to have to get millions more people involved in developing the capacities outlined in the practices of position, and we are going to have to accelerate our capacity to federate and coordinate at scale quickly. Very quickly. And to be clear, it is these practices that will enable us to move past the mere ouster of the Trump regime, and instead put us in position to go for it all.

So, when considering the General Strike, and assessing if it is worth pursuing, I hope you endeavor to answer yes, but to condition that yes on doing the organizing to bring in new forces, fracture the Trump coalition, and build a new world from the bottom up that goes beyond the limits of the bourgeois order and the two-party duopoly that preserves it within the US empire. Dream big, leave no stone unturned, and aim for the stars.

Build and Fight!



Venezuela Falls, Mexico Next? Trump's Continental Domination Plan

by Richard Wolff

Let me tell you something that will fundamentally change how you see what's happening in Latin America right now. Venezuela just fell. And if you think that's the end of the story, you're missing the most dangerous part. This isn't about one country's collapse. This is about a systematic strategy, a continental plan that has Mexico directly in its crosshairs. I've studied economic warfare for over years, and what I'm seeing unfold is the most sophisticated campaign of regional domination since the original Monroe Doctrine. Venezuela was the test case.

Mexico is the real target. And if you understand the pattern I'm about to show you, you'll realize why every Mexican, every Latin American should be paying attention right now. Because what happened to Venezuela didn't happen in isolation. It was designed. It was executed. And it's about to be replicated on a much larger scale. But here's what they didn't expect. Mexico has something Venezuela never had at the crucial moment. The question is, will they use it in time? Throughout this analysis, we're going to trace the economic blueprint that destroyed Venezuela. Understand why Mexico is next on the list and most importantly discover what Mexico can do that Venezuela couldn't.

It's about whether an entire continent will be allowed to determine its own economic future. Let me start with a moment that most people missed but which told me everything I needed to know about what was coming. It was late 2024, and I was analyzing trade flows in the Americas when I noticed something that made my blood run cold. The same financial patterns that had preceded Venezuela's economic collapse were beginning to appear in Mexico's data.

Not identical patterns, but structurally similar ones. Pressure on currency reserves, manipulation of commodity prices, coordinated attacks on energy sector investments. I thought to myself, they can't be planning to do to Mexico what they did to Venezuela. It would be too obvious, too brazen, too economically catastrophic for the entire region. But then Trump's recent statements began to make a different kind of sense when he talks about Mexico needing to remember who's in charge of this continent, when he threatens economic consequences for any country that doesn't align with US interests.

When he openly discusses treating Mexico as a subordinate territory rather than a sovereign nation, he's not improvising. He's following a playbook. A playbook that was first tested on Venezuela with devastating effectiveness. Venezuela's collapse wasn't an accident of mismanagement, despite what the mainstream media tells you. Yes, there were internal problems. Yes, there was corruption. But those weren't the decisive factors. The decisive factor was a coordinated economic warfare campaign designed to destabilize the country's economy, create hyperinflation, destroy social cohesion, and ultimately force regime change. It worked perfectly.

The strategy had three phases. First, financial strangulation. Cut off access to international credit markets. freeze assets held abroad and make it virtually impossible for the government to service its foreign debt.

Second, commodity price manipulation. Since Venezuela's economy was heavily dependent on oil exports, systematic pressure on oil prices through market manipulation and sanctions could create an immediate fiscal crisis.

Third, currency warfare. Attack the domestic currency through parallel market manipulation, create artificial scarcity of foreign exchange, and trigger hyperinflation that would destroy people's savings and make basic goods unaffordable.

The genius of this strategy is that it creates exactly the conditions that allow you to say, "Look, their system doesn't work. Their government is incompetent. Their economy is failing because of their own bad decisions." The external pressure becomes invisible. The internal collapse becomes the only story people hear. And once the population is desperate enough, any alternative starts to look attractive, even if that alternative means losing national sovereignty.

Mexico's situation today contains disturbing echoes of Venezuela a few years ago, not identical circumstances, but structurally similar vulnerabilities. Mexico has a more diversified economy, stronger institutions, and deeper integration with North American supply chains. But it also has something Venezuela didn't have. Something that makes it an even more attractive target for economic warfare. Mexico has the potential to become a genuinely independent regional power. Venezuela was always going



Editor's note: We disagree with Wolff's assessment of how much success Trump has had in Venezuela, or that the country "fell", but the remainder of his commentaries regarding Mexico, the threats and prospects, merit study. The other factor Wolff neglects is how millions of Mexicanos and Chicanos inside the US would respond to a US attack.

to be limited by its small population and oil dependent economy. Mexico has 132 million people, a growing industrial base, increasing ties with China and other non-US partners, and most dangerously from Washington's perspective, a geographical position that could serve as a bridge between Latin America and Asia. That potential for independence, that possibility of Mexico charting its own course is exactly what triggers the Monroe Doctrine response. It's exactly what makes Mexico such a high priority target for the kind of systematic pressure campaign that destroyed Venezuela. But here's where the story gets more complex and more hopeful.

Mexico is not Venezuela. The global economic landscape has shifted dramatically. China has emerged as a genuine alternative partner for countries seeking to diversify their economic relationships. The BRICS alliance offers new financial institutions that operate outside the Washington controlled system. European partners are increasingly willing to maintain business relationships even when the United States applies pressure.

Most importantly, there's growing regional consciousness in Latin America about the need to resist external economic manipulation.

Trump's threats about tariffs and trade relationships aren't random outbursts. They're systematic pressure designed to test Mexico's resolve and prepare domestic US opinion for stronger measures if necessary. The timing is not coincidental. Trump is moving against Mexico now because he believes the global situation gives him maximum leverage. China is dealing with its own economic pressures and may not be able to provide the same level of support it offered to other countries in the past. Europe is focused on the war in Ukraine and may be reluctant to take strong stands against US economic policy. Russia is isolated and under sanctions itself. From Trump's perspective, this is the optimal moment to force Mexico into complete subordination.

But Trump's calculation may be wrong. And that's where Mexico's opportunity lies. The global situation that Trump sees as advantageous may actually provide Mexico with alternatives that weren't available to Venezuela. China's Belt and Road initiative is actively seeking partners in Latin America. European companies are looking for ways to reduce their dependence on both US and Chinese supply chains, making Mexico an attractive production platform. Other Latin American countries are watching Mexico's situation and may be willing to coordinate their responses to US pressure.

Mexico's survival strategy must be based on the Venezuelan lesson, but adapted to Mexico's unique strengths and opportunities.

First, diversification of international partnerships. Mexico needs to accelerate its economic relationships with China, Europe, and other Latin American countries, not to replace the United States entirely, but to ensure that no single country can strangle Mexico's economy through economic pressure alone.

Second, preparation for economic warfare. Mexico needs to build financial reserves in multiple currencies, create alternative payment systems that don't depend on US controlled banking networks, and develop domestic production capabilities for essential goods.

Third, regional coordination. Mexico needs to work with other Latin American countries to create mutual support systems that can withstand external economic pressure. If one country faces sanctions or financial attacks, the others must be prepared to provide alternative markets and financial support.

Fourth, communication strategy. Mexico needs to explain to its own population and to the international community what is happening and why. The Venezuelan government failed to control the narrative about their economic crisis, allowing external actors to define the story. Mexico cannot afford to make the same mistake.

Most importantly, Mexico needs to understand that this is not a crisis that can be solved through compromise or accommodation. When an imperial power decides that your independence has become a threat to their regional dominance, negotiation becomes impossible. The only choice is resistance or submission.

Is Mexico's leadership willing to pay the short-term costs necessary to maintain long-term independence? Because make no mistake, there will be costs.

When you resist economic warfare, you don't avoid economic pain. You choose which kind of pain you're willing to accept. Venezuela chose the pain of resistance, but couldn't sustain it because they started too late with insufficient preparation. They faced hyperinflation, shortages, and social chaos. Mexico, if it chooses resistance, will face different but still significant costs. Economic growth will slow as trade relationships are disrupted. Certain sectors dependent on US markets will suffer. There will be periods of financial volatility and uncertainty.

The question Mexico must answer is whether these short-term costs are acceptable in exchange for maintaining the possibility of long-term independence and prosperity. The alternative is to accept complete economic subordination, which means forever being a supplier of cheap labor and raw materials while watching the benefits of economic development flow elsewhere.

If Mexico chooses the path of resistance, it must begin immediately to educate its population about what economic warfare looks like and why independence is worth defending. It must begin building alternative economic relationships that can function even under US pressure. It must create domestic production capabilities for essential goods that cannot be cut off by external sanctions. It must build financial systems that do not depend entirely on US controlled international networks. Most importantly, it must forge genuine partnerships with other countries and regions that can provide markets, technology, and financial support when the pressure campaign intensifies.

No matter how many concessions Venezuela made, no matter how willing they were to negotiate, the pressure only intensified. This is the nature of imperial power. When it decides that a country's independence has become intolerable, negotiation becomes impossible because the imperial power's goal is not specific policy changes but complete subordination.

Recently I received a call from a contact inside Mexico's economic policy circle. What they told me sent shock waves through my understanding of how power really operates in this hemisphere. Richard, they said, you need to understand something. We're not just responding to Trump anymore. We're building something that will outlast him.

Here's what Trump actually said, stripped of all the diplomatic language. Mexico needs to remember who runs this continent. Those words were a declaration of economic warfare, territorial intimidation, and symbolic violence, all wrapped into one sentence.

Continued on next page

Mexico: Can It Upset Trump's Plans for Continental Domination?

Economic Analysis by Richard Wolff (Excerpts)

...Continued from prior page

While Washington was celebrating what they thought was another successful intimidation, Mexico was already three steps ahead, they had anticipated this moment for months, maybe years.

The first sign something was different came within hours of Trump's statement. Instead of the usual scrambling, the defensive posturing, the behind-the-scenes phone calls to calm tensions, Mexico did something unprecedented.

They responded with historical evidence, not diplomatic protests, not economic counter threats. They pulled out documents from 1848, treaties signed under military occupation, maps that showed exactly how much territory had been seized through coercion. They essentially said, "You want to talk about who runs this continent? Let's discuss how you actually got here."

This wasn't emotional reaction. This was strategic precision. Because when you challenge the historical legitimacy of imperial power, you're not just fighting today's battle. You're reopening questions that empires spend centuries trying to bury.

I've studied power structures for over 50 years. I can tell you this with absolute certainty. When an empire resorts to public ultimatums, it's not showing strength. It's confessing weakness. Real power operates in silence, through structures, through economic dependency, through quiet intimidation.

Trump's outburst revealed something Washington has been desperately trying to hide. The old mechanisms of control aren't working anymore. Mexico isn't behaving like the subordinate neighbor it was designed to be.

While Trump was threatening, the rest of the world was watching. And what they saw was an empire that could no longer manage its own backyard without resorting to crude intimidation.

China saw it, Russia saw it, Europe saw it, most importantly, Latin America saw it, and they all began making calculations about what this meant for their own relationships with Washington.

Within 48 hours of Trump's ultimatum, I started receiving reports of unprecedented diplomatic activity throughout the region. Emergency meetings, economic planning sessions, security consultations, not against the United States necessarily, but around it. For the first time in decades, major powers were seriously discussing Latin America as something other than Washington's sphere of influence. That shift, though invisible to most observers, represents a tectonic change in global power dynamics.

When a country has options, it can negotiate. Mexico's response to Trump's ultimatum wasn't just diplomatic push back. It was a public demonstration that they now have alternatives. Trade relationships with Asia, economic partnerships with Europe, regional alliances that don't require Washington's approval. That diversification is what terrifies the old power structure because their entire model depends on exclusive dependency.

If Mexico can thrive without complete subordination to US interests, what stops every other country in the region from following the same path? The economic implications are staggering.

For decades, US corporations have built their profit margins on the assumption that Mexico would always provide cheap labor, open markets, and compliant policies. That assumption is cracking.

When Mexico started asserting energy sovereignty, when they began negotiating directly with other powers, when they stopped automatically aligning with Washington's international positions, corporate boardrooms from Manhattan to Silicon Valley began feeling nervous.

But here's where the story takes an even more dramatic turn. While Wall Street was worrying about Mexican independence, something was happening inside the United States that posed an even greater threat to the established order. Trump's ultimatum backfired domestically.

US businesses with operations in Mexico, supply chains that depend on cross-border integration, agricultural exports that rely on Mexican markets. All of these sectors realized that their president's threats were endangering their own profitability. For the first time in recent memory, significant portions of US capital found themselves on the opposite side of their own government's foreign policy. That internal contradiction is exactly what brings empires down.

I watched the stock market reaction in real time. Companies with heavy Mexican exposure saw their values fluctuate wildly. Supply chain managers started making emergency calls to their Mexican counterparts. Trade organizations that rarely engage in politics began issuing carefully worded statements about economic



The US conquered and annexed northern Mexico in 1848, a key contradiction in its settler colonial expansion.

stability and regional cooperation. The message was clear. Trump's aggressive posture toward Mexico was hurting US business more than it was hurting Mexico. That realization spread through corporate America faster than any diplomatic protest could have traveled. Within a week, I was hearing reports of US executives quietly reaching out to their Mexican partners, essentially communicating that whatever their president was saying publicly didn't represent their actual business intentions.

Meanwhile, Mexico was learning something powerful about its own position in the global economy. They discovered that their value as a trading partner, as a young and growing market, gave them leverage they hadn't fully recognized. The threats that would have brought them to their knees 20 years ago now felt manageable because they were no longer isolated.

But perhaps most importantly, Mexico's response revealed something about the changing nature of international law and legitimacy in the 21st century. By invoking historical grievances, by questioning the legal foundations of current territorial arrangements, they were tapping into a global conversation about colonial legacies and imposed boundaries.

This strategy resonated far beyond Mexico. Countries throughout the global south saw a precedent being set. Historical injustices could be legally challenged. Treaties signed under coercion could be questioned. Imperial narratives could be confronted with documentary evidence. That's why this conflict escalated so quickly beyond bilateral tensions. It became a test case for whether the old imperial order could still suppress challenges to its fundamental legitimacy. The answer increasingly appears to be no. The world has become too multi-polar, too connected, too aware of historical patterns for simple intimidation to work the way it once did.

What struck me most was how quickly this dynamic spread beyond Mexico. Within days of their historical response to Trump's ultimatum, I was hearing similar language from governments across Latin America. Not coordinated exactly, but clearly inspired by Mexico's example.

Latin American leaders had operated under the assumption that defying Washington meant economic catastrophe. Mexico's example proved that assumption false. But the real transformation was happening at the level of regional integration. While Trump was trying to isolate Mexico, his threats were actually accelerating cooperation between Mexico and its southern neighbors. Trade agreements that had been stalled for years were suddenly being fast-tracked. Energy partnerships that had been theoretical were becoming operational. Security arrangements that had been dominated by US interests were being renegotiated with greater regional autonomy.

I witnessed this personally during a conference in Sao Paulo, where Mexican and Brazilian officials were discussing economic coordination with an urgency and specificity that would have been impossible just months earlier. The conversation had shifted from how do we work within Washington's framework to how do we build our own framework?

That's a fundamental change in how power operates in this hemisphere. Trump in his attempt to reassert dominance had actually accelerated the process of regional independence. Every threat he made demonstrated the limits of his actual power to control events.

Allies and adversaries alike were taking notes on how the American Empire responded when its authority was questioned by a neighbor. What they saw wasn't impressive. Inconsistent

messaging, contradictory policies, public disputes between different government agencies about how to handle the situation. China, in particular, was observing these dynamics with great interest. This crisis revealed something about the changing nature of economic power in the modern world.

Mexico's ability to withstand US pressure wasn't just diplomatic. It was structural. Their economy had diversified enough. Their trade relationships had spread widely enough. Their technological capabilities had advanced enough that they no longer required Washington's approval to function effectively. This represents a historical shift that goes far beyond this particular crisis. When the global economy becomes multi-polar enough that medium-sized countries can survive and thrive without superpower protection, the entire international system changes.

If the United States can no longer rely on automatic compliance from its neighbors, how does it maintain its global position? If economic threats lose their effectiveness, what replaces them? These questions don't have easy answers. And that uncertainty is what makes this moment so dangerous and so full of potential.

Mexico has been quietly reducing its dependency on US dollar denominated transactions. They're increasing trade with China in yuan, with Europe and euros, and they're exploring bilateral currency arrangements with several Latin American partners. When a country reduces its reliance on the dollar for international trade, it reduces Washington's ability to use financial sanctions as a weapon. Every peso-yuan transaction, every peso-euro exchange is a small step away from US monetary control. I've been tracking these currency flows for months, and the numbers are remarkable. Mexico's non-dollar trade has increased by over 30% since Trump's ultimatum. That's not coincidence. That's strategic economic planning in response to political pressure.

The second mechanism is institutional bypassing. Instead of working through international organizations dominated by US influence, Mexico is creating and joining alternative frameworks. The Pacific Alliance, expanded cooperation with SEAC, deeper engagement with the Shanghai Cooperation Organization as an observer. Each of these relationships provides Mexico with options that didn't exist during previous confrontations with Washington.

Mexico's decision to invoke historical grievances wasn't just emotional catharsis. It was strategic communication designed to reframe the entire relationship by presenting documented evidence of coercion in the 1848 treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo by highlighting the territorial seizures that followed. By connecting current pressure tactics to historical patterns of domination, Mexico fundamentally altered the international conversation, they transformed a contemporary trade dispute into a larger discussion about imperial legitimacy.

That reframing has profound implications because it invites other countries to examine their own relationships with Washington through the lens of historical justice rather than current convenience. I've been corresponding with colleagues throughout Latin America and the impact of Mexico's historical narrative has been extraordinary.

Countries that never previously questioned the legitimacy of US territorial acquisitions, trade arrangements, or security agreements are now openly discussing these topics.

Mexican businesses are actively seeking partnerships throughout Latin America, reducing their dependence on US markets and supply chains. I recently spoke with a manufacturing executive in Monterrey who told me his company has shifted 20% of its export business from US customers to Latin American partners in the past year alone. After Trump's threats, he said, we realized we were too exposed to political risk from the north. That sentiment is being repeated throughout Mexican industry. Executives who spent decades building US-oriented businesses are now diversifying their customer bases, their supply sources, their financial relationships. This private sector diversification is reinforcing the government's diplomatic diversification.

As Mexican businesses become less dependent on the US market, Mexico's government gains additional flexibility in its foreign policy choices. The cumulative effect is that Mexico's economy is becoming more resilient to US pressure at the same time that Mexico's diplomacy is becoming more independent of US preferences. But perhaps the most significant transformation is occurring at the level of public consciousness. For the first time in generations, ordinary Mexicans are seeing their government successfully resist US pressure without suffering catastrophic consequences. This psychological shift cannot be overstated. When a population believes resistance is futile, they accept subordination as natural. When they see resistance succeeding, they begin demanding more of it. Mexican public opinion polls show unprecedented support for assertive foreign policy positions vis a vis the United States. Politicians who advocate accommodation with Washington are losing ground to those who advocate sovereignty and dignity. This popular pressure is creating a political dynamic that makes it extremely difficult for any Mexican government to return to the old patterns of automatic compliance with US demands.

Mexico now knows it can survive US pressure. Washington now knows that pressure has limits, and the rest of the world now knows that the hemisphere's power dynamic is more fluid than anyone previously imagined. This is how empires end. Not with dramatic military defeats or sudden economic collapses. They end when their authority stops being automatic. When their threats stop producing automatic compliance, when their neighbors start having other options. What we witnessed wasn't just a diplomatic spat between two countries. It was the moment when the "American century" grip on its own continent began to slip. And once that process starts, it rarely reverses itself.

Lawmakers Demand DHS Define ‘Domestic Terrorist’ As It Uses Vast Array of Surveillance Tools

by Joseph Cox [Excerpt]

<https://www.404media.co/lawmakers-demand-dhs-define-domestic-terrorist-as-it-uses-vast-array-of-surveillance-tools/>

More than a dozen Democratic lawmakers have demanded the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) provide its definition of “domestic terrorist,” after the agency labeled Renée Good and Alex Pretti, whom DHS officers killed, as such. The move also comes as DHS and its various components purchase and deploy a wide range of surveillance technologies and demand sensitive information from tech companies to unmask people criticizing ICE.

“You and your underlings appear to be labeling untold numbers of people as ‘domestic terrorists’ or individuals of concern at will without evidence, operating wildly invasive spy tools to identify targets—and then using such labels as an excuse for yet more surveillance,” they wrote in the letter, addressed to DHS Secretary Kristi Noem. The office of Rep. Bennie G. Thompson (D-MS), ranking member of the Committee on Homeland Security, shared a copy of the letter with 404 Media.

“This self-reinforcing spiral of civil liberties violations ratchets in only one direction: toward an authoritarian surveillance state that punishes dissent and inflicts state violence,” the letter adds.

It then points to a long list of media reports, including 404 Media’s, about DHS’s increasing use of surveillance technologies and powers. Those include how DHS shared a memo with employees in Minneapolis telling them to capture images, license plates, and other information about protestors “so we can capture it all in one consolidated form”; 404 Media’s revelation that Palantir is working on a tool called ELITE for ICE that provides a confidence score on targets’ addresses; ICE’s purchase of smartphone location data; how ICE agents told legal observers they were identifying them with facial recognition technology; and several more examples.



“The Department’s opaque, mass expansion of spy tools and framing of protesters, photographers, political opponents, and passersby as enemies of the state leans into people’s worst fears of a surveillance state. Your weaponization of DHS undercuts decades of effort to develop a Department that responsibly balances security with privacy and civil liberties protections and transparency,” the letter reads.

It then includes a list of demands for information from DHS. Many of them are about the legal regime behind those surveillance powers, and the technical infrastructure and policies related to them. One asks DHS for “Documentation of the Department’s definition of the

term ‘domestic terrorist,’ a copy of the policies in place that permit Departmental designations of United States persons as a ‘domestic terrorist,’ and a description of the consequences of such a designation.”

“Your actions are abhorrent, blatantly unconstitutional, and corrosive to the functioning of a peaceful society. They cannot stand. Accountability is coming,” the letter adds.

Joseph Cox is an award-winning investigative journalist focused on generating impact. His work has triggered hundreds of millions of dollars worth of fines, shut down tech companies, and much more. He writes: Do you work at DHS? I would love to hear from you. Using a non-work device, you can message me securely on Signal at joseph.404 or send me an email at joseph@404media.co.

On International Women’s Day—

Epstein: Why are We Talking about “Elite Complicity” and not Male Supremacy?

by Soraya Chemaly {Excerpt}

from Unmanned blog:

<https://sorayachemaly.substack.com/p/22-epstein-why-are-we-talking-about-709>

Women and men are having remarkably different responses to ongoing Epstein revelations. For many men, there is episodic moral outrage; for many women, there is the feeling of nonstop emotional distress of sadness, anxiety, and rage. Women are often reliving our memories of harassment, sexism, and assault, thinking about our children’s vulnerabilities, seeing ourselves in the position of Epstein’s victims. Meanwhile, men in general aren’t only not feeling overwhelmed, but focusing on legal technicalities, procedural issues, class analysis, and political framing.

What it really comes down to though, is that men are consuming information while women are processing the knowledge of how fungible and extraneous we are. How easily used and thrown away.

Men who have been sexually or physically abused as children more typically respond as women do, but most men simply aren’t as upset as women because, unpalatable for many, I know, the same systems that enabled Epstein et al are buffering men psychologically, emotionally, and physically today. Everyone is reaching for language and analytical paradigms that can explain what happened, using vocabulary that mainly describes the violence rather than the core beliefs driving it.

Pedophilia is both a pathology and a crime, but focusing on it suggests that Epstein represents an exceptional but temporary rupture, one that began with monsters and will end in their containment. Patriarchy describes the institutional male dominance through identity and family formations, religious hierarchies, and political systems, but it, too, explains “how” rather than “why.”

Brologarchy is a variant that identifies an elite subset of men. It sharpens more widespread critiques of global elites that currently dominate the conversations I’m hearing. These are about class warfare, unregulated capitalism, and systemic corruption, all vital to understanding how wealth buys access and impunity, but they describe the how; not, other than some vague “power corrupts,” the why. “Elites!” unhelpfully erase the centrality of gender and race in Epstein’s network and suggest that anyone with wealth and elite status would behave the way Epstein and others did.

None of these answers the important question posed, in relation to the Epstein Files, by Representative Ro Khanna: “We must ask ourselves how we have produced an elite that is so immature, reckless, and arrogant.”

It is possible to hold several ideas at once—that

Epstein was a predator protected by a ruling class and that this ruling class is structurally and systemically male supremacist. It is possible to move from looking at symptoms to looking causes.

To answer Khanna’s question, you have to center male supremacy.

What is the nature of the Epstein network’s elite corruption exactly? That people knew what he was doing and said nothing? That they continued to affiliate with him regardless of what they knew? That some of them took money from him and perhaps participated in his crimes?

Epstein didn’t thrive because so many wealthy and prominent people participated in acts of extreme depravity, but because they were silent about his ‘open secret.’ There is no complicity that isn’t anchored to the casual and “fun” background of sexism, misogyny, and racism of his milieu or to the ease with which he could leverage legal, tax, and social systems. He wasn’t only a “pedophile” or a member of the “elite”; he was the ultimate beneficiary of systems designed to protect him, as a wealthy, white man.

He didn’t, for instance, break as many laws as he used in his favor: property rights, privacy rights, the

shield of tax-exempt philanthropies, the silencing power of contract law, and the deference disproportionately afforded to “rational” men. He took advantage of philanthropy to build institutional proximities that burnished his reputation and maintained his image as a smart, rational person entitled to respect, deference, and legal protections.

Those legal protections are grounded in traditions that continue, today, to prioritize men’s reputations and privacy above women’s safety or testimonies. This is what the current administration, for instance, does: redacts the names and images of men involved but exposes those of Epstein’s victims.



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Communism from Below, Abolition and the State

<https://tempestmag.org/2026/02/communism-abolition-states-and-the-future-of-the-left/> [Excerpts]

Welcome to the Haymarket Books discussion of communism, abolition, and the Left featuring authors and comrades David Camfield and Brian Bean. I'm Demetrius Noble, and I will moderate tonight's discussion on their respective books. I'm really excited to discuss David's book *Red Flags: A Reckoning with Communism and the Future of the Left* and Brian's book *Their End Is Our Beginning: Cops, Capitalism, and Abolition*.

To open things up, a primary theme that is explored in both books is the leftist critique of the state. You are both very much interested in having us assess our orientation to the state and how it informs how we struggle for change. What should our orientation to the state be right now, as we currently what is needed to organize and struggle for the types of revolutionary projects and goals outlined in your respective books?

Brian Bean: I'll start by talking about that big question about the state. I'm thinking about what one does with elections, for example, Mamdani's win in the New York City mayoral race. Or, for example, when you have ICE agents kidnapping people off the street, like they are in Chicago right now.

I think the first thing to understand is that the state is not class-neutral. It's not something that can just be transformed by working-class people or the oppressed. The state's very existence is to create a good business climate in the interest of the system of capitalism. So, the state is the preferred model for capitalism as opposed to direct rule by individual capitalists.

Under capitalism, the capitalist class, all the billionaires and so on, are in solidarity against our interests. But capitalists are also in competition with each other. Individual capitalists are not good at administering what is best for the system as a whole because their individual profits always dictate their interest. So Jeff Bezos can't really determine what is best for the system of capitalism because he's really invested, and I use that word intentionally, in maximizing his own profit.

So capitalism needs a body that has a relative separateness from society. This is what Marx talks about as far as a committee of the general interests of the bourgeoisie. That's what the state is. And that body that has this relative separateness has to be able to enact its will, administer taxes, and set and enforce laws.

Those things, of course, are almost always done against us—the working class, the oppressed, the dispossessed—but occasionally the state acts against individual capitalists. So it's a capitalist state because it runs on tax revenues and then requires investment. The state administers political choices whose horizon is set by

what is best for the general business climate of the system of capitalism. That is why it's a capitalist state.

But what allows it to do these things is the police. So behind the force of every law, as innocuous as "pay your taxes" or "don't sleep here" or "get off the street" or "don't do this," is the threat of violence. This is why Lenin, the Russian revolutionary, described the state as a special body of armed men. That basic description still applies today, and I leave it gendered as men on purpose.

Before Trump's administration, 75% of all federal employees—Department of Defense, prisons, border patrol, the FBI or CIA—75% of all federal employees constituted bodies of armed men. These numbers have been shifted even more by Trump's huge cuts to the administrative state, firing people in the Environmental Protection Agency, the Department of Education, the IRS and so on. And he has overseen a hundred percent increase in the budget that is going to ICE and border patrol agents who are terrorizing our communities everyday.

I argue that it means that if we want to abolish the state, we need to get rid of the police. We're seeking to abolish the thing that is in many ways necessary for the state to keep functioning, to maintain its monopoly on legitimate violence. The consequences for strategy are that we can't abolish the police through the state as if we're going to win electoral power and then dissolve them as an agency. But similarly, we can't go around that state. We can't just make up the alternatives on a community basis and assume the police will disappear or wither away.

The police will never be obsolete for the ruling class, even as much as we make them obsolete for us. So we may engage in struggle on the terrain of the state and government, trying to put the pressure on the government to do things like have mental health workers respond to mental health crises and engage even in running electoral struggles.

Similarly, we may engage in struggles on the terrain beyond the state in working to build communities that are organized to better handle conflict and work collectively to keep each other safe. But the state is not class-neutral, and the police are its main tool. This means that our task of abolishing the police has to come along with replacing the state with actual democracy, not having a body that floats above, acting against our interests, unaccountable, and with the constant and ever-present threat of police violence that secures state power.

Any attempt to really win a society that's democratic, in which we actually control our resources, our labor, and our destinies, will at some point come up against the

police, the institution that is always used to thwart our dreams and strivings for a better world.

Practically, this means that our organizational tasks should not just be judged along the scale of whether they achieved the immediate win, the reform, or even elected office. We have to have the utmost clarity about the larger horizon of political change and see the state and the police as obstacles in building a movement powerful enough to overcome them in building a new world.

David Camfield: I really agree with everything that Brian just said, and I would add that if we think about the state as part of the fabric of capitalism, it's really part of how the dominant class rules, regardless of which political party forms a government at any particular time. It's why it's a capitalist state, and I think this is also important to understand.

The state has become ever more important to capitalism since the global crisis that began with the 2008-2009 recession. Capitalism has not extricated itself from the crisis that began at that time. The state is ever more involved in different ways in perpetuating the system, in trying to get it through the crisis that it still faces. Even if you find a historical example from another part of the world where you have capitalism with a broad welfare state and the best kind of capitalist democracy, it's still a very undemocratic form of society because, at its best, you're voting every four years or something like that for who is going to administer those state institutions.

But you don't vote for many people, right? You only elect people to the legislature and a few executive positions. You don't elect the people who head the police. You don't elect the people who head the central bank. You don't elect people who are the top of all sorts of other state institutions. And we don't vote for our employers. We don't vote on anything connected to the places where so many of us spend so much of our time in the world of paid work.

The state is about a small minority of people administering the vast majority. It's not about the democratic self-government of the majority of people over the decisions that affect our lives. And so when it comes to strategy, I think we need to think above all about trying to build counter power: counter power to our employers and counter power to the state, whether that's taking on Trump or taking on employers.

Of course, we need to defend what remains of the welfare state. We don't want libraries privatized, we don't want public transit to be privatized where it's still public. But that doesn't mean defending the capitalist state as it exists.

THE MONEY BEHIND THE WAR ON IRAN

by Judd Legum, Popular Information [Excerpts] <https://popular.info/p/the-money-behind-the-new-iran-war>

In private calls over the last several weeks, Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman (MBS) reportedly urged President Trump to attack Iran. Iran is a top regional rival of Saudi Arabia, and MBS had become concerned about Iran's growing military capabilities.

The lobbying campaign achieved success when Trump announced he had and Israel begun "major combat operations in Iran." Trump launched a war even though U.S. intelligence assessed that Iran posed no imminent threat to the US. Last June, Trump declared that more limited strikes had "completely obliterated Iran's nuclear capability."

MBS's influence with Trump has grown as the Saudi government has invested billions in projects that personally enrich Trump and his son-in-law, Jared Kushner. Despite the glaring conflicts-of-interest, Trump installed Kushner as a top negotiator with Iranian officials. Kushner and Middle East envoy Steve Witkoff participated in a mediation session with their Iranian counterparts in Geneva on Thursday, billed as a last-ditch effort to avoid war [yet Trump launched the war with the talks ongoing].

The Saudi Arabian Public Investment Fund (PIF) is the largest investor in Jared Kushner's private equity firm, Affinity Partners. PIF invested \$2 billion in Affinity Partners in 2021, even though the PIF committee that screens investments recommended rejecting Kushner's proposal, citing "inexperience" and "excessive" fees. The committee's recommendation was overruled by MBS, who heads PIF's Board of Directors.

PIF pays Kushner 1.25% of its investment, or \$25 million, annually. The Senate Finance Committee estimates that Kushner will be paid \$137 million in management fees from PIF by August 2026. Further, in September 2025, PIF, Affinity Partners, and others jointly acquired Electronic Arts, the publisher of iconic video games like The Sims and Madden NFL, for \$55 billion. The deal, which is the largest leveraged buyout in history, will likely be very lucrative for Kushner.

In February 2024, Axios' Dan Primack asked Kushner whether his business relationship with foreign governments would make it "very difficult... to do any sort of foreign policy work" moving forward. "I'm an investor now," Kushner replied. "I served in government, and I think my track record is pretty impeccable. Now I'm a private investor." Yet, after Trump took office, Kushner resumed his central role in shaping U.S. foreign policy.

In an October interview on 60 Minutes, Kushner argued that financial conflicts made him and Witkoff more effective. "What people call conflicts of interests, Steve and I call experience and trusted relationships that we have throughout the world," Kushner said.

CNN reported that the United Arab Emirates also lobbied Trump to strike Iran. Like Saudi Arabia, the UAE has significant financial ties to Kushner and Trump. The UAE directly invested about \$200 million with Kushner's firm Affinity Partners. Additional money came via Lunate, a supposedly private Abu Dhabi investment firm that is financed by government money and tied to the

UAE's sovereign wealth funds.

Witkoff is the co-founder of the crypto firm World Liberty Financial (WLF) and retains an 8-figure stake in the company. Trump and his family also own significant pieces of the company. Sheikh Tahnoun bin Zayed Al Nahyan, the UAE's national security advisor and head of the country's largest sovereign wealth fund, purchased 49% of WLF days before Trump's inauguration. Of the \$250 million paid up front by the UAE, \$187 million was directed to Trump family entities and \$31 million to the Witkoff family. In May 2025, MGX, a company controlled by Tahnoun, purchased \$2 billion of crypto tokens from WLF.

The new Iran War comes weeks after PIF financed a \$7 billion development deal in Saudi Arabia with the Trump Organization. Under the agreement, Dar Global, a developer with close ties to the Saudi government, will build a "Trump-branded hotel and golf course," along with "500 mansions, priced between \$6.7 million and \$24 million." The project is part of Diriyah, a \$63 billion development funded entirely by PIF.

Trump maintains full ownership of the Trump Organization and will profit from the deal. Typically, these deals involve the developer paying millions in fees simply to license the Trump name. About 80% of the money will flow directly to Trump, according to Forbes' reporting on similar deals. (The Trump Organization has been nominally transferred to a trust controlled by his son, Donald Trump Jr. — an arrangement ethics experts have dismissed as meaningless.)

On-Line Resources for Turning the Tide & ARA-LA/PART:

You can find archives of *Turning the Tide* at www.antiracist.org that go back more than 15 years.

In addition, there are several Facebook pages, such as facebook.com/tideturning, and facebook.com/intercommunalsolidarity.

You can follow @ara_losangeles on Twitter, and the De-Colonize LA! blog at ara-la.tumblr.com.

ISRAELI SOLIDARITY ACTIVISTS BEATEN BY SETTLERS IN THE WEST BANK

by Noam Lehmann and Emanuel Fabian, The Times of Israel [Excerpt]

Two activists from the left-wing Israeli group Looking the Occupation in the Eyes were hospitalized with serious head wounds on Friday after settlers beat them in the Palestinian village of Qusra, near Nablus in the northern West Bank, the group said. The wounded activists were airlifted to Beilinson Hospital in Petah Tikva in moderate condition. The Palestinian Red Crescent Society said its medics treated two “foreign solidarity activists” who were severely beaten by settlers. The Red Crescent identified the activists as a 51-year-old man and a 71-year-old woman.

Israeli troops and police officers were later dispatched to Qusra. The IDF said the forces were scanning the area for the assailants, and that an investigation has been launched at the police’s Ariel station.

According to Looking the Occupation in the Eyes, some 15-20 armed settlers took part in the attack, which targeted both Israeli activists and local Palestinians. Footage filmed by one Israeli activist showed at least three masked people wielding clubs pulling up in a small ATV. Threads of tzitzit, a Jewish ritual undergarment, can be seen hanging from under a dark hoodie worn by one of the assailants as they get out of the vehicle. The attackers then swing their clubs at the person filming, who yells in pain and pleads with the assailants to stop.

Separate footage filmed by a Palestinian showed a woman lying face down on the ground, apparently unconscious. A person could be heard saying, in Arabic, “They killed

her.” However, Israeli medical sources said both wounded activists were conscious when they arrived at Beilinson.

Looking the Occupation in the Eyes, one of several Israeli groups that perform “protective presence” in Palestinian communities, accused the government of supporting such attacks and claimed the vehicle used by the attackers was provided by far-right finance minister Bezalel Smotrich. “Settlers are not the fulfillers of Zionism and redeemers of the land. They aren’t poor boys from broken homes,” the group said on X, paraphrasing Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu’s description of Jews who attack Palestinians in the West Bank.

“They are violent, criminal racists, with no scruples about carrying out cruel and violent attacks — with the backing of the state, in an ATV provided by Smotrich — against Palestinians and human rights activists,” the group said. Meanwhile, Palestinian media reported that settlers also set fire to a warehouse and vehicle in the Palestinian village of Jalud, less than 4 kilometers (2.5 miles) south of Qusra. The settlers also pelted homes with stones, damaging some windows, the reports said.

Meanwhile, the High Court of Justice on Thursday issued a conditional order against two senior IDF officers demanding they explain their failure to protect a group of Palestinian farmers in the Jordan Valley from harassment and violence by settlers.

MURDER INCORPORATED - HISTORY OF THE US EMPIRE

© Jan. 2026 by Mumia Abu-Jamal

<https://www.prisonradio.org/commentary/murder-inc-us-empire-history/>

Several years ago, my co-author, Stephen Vittoria and I, wrote a series of books called Murder Inc. -- i-n-c, not i-n-k -- Murder Incorporated. We were writing about American history, from below. We were writing in the spirit of the late, great historian Howard Zinn, whose *Peoples' History of the United States* sparked fires in the minds of millions of young people, and continues to do so today.

We mad a point in *Murder Inc.* to distinguish imperial history from national history, and we tried to argue that empires are not nations, but imperial structures that own and direct and lead other nations.

Therefore, we argued that empires have no allies, because the very concept of an empire forecloses the ability to have an ally. It has vassals, only vassals that it controls, that it directs, that it tells them what to do.

Why is that important? Look around you. Look at what happened within weeks in Venezuela. Look at what’s happening right now in the United States of America, where armed troops are at war with American citizens and people who want to be citizens one

day in America,

But again to the point of no [allies, just] vassals. If an empire interacts with a nation, enters that nation by military force, takes its leader, transports the leader and his wife to another country, for a case against that leader in the imperial territory, and then sets up leadership to obey its directives, to give them the raw materials in that nation, are we talking about two nations? Or are we talking about an empire, and a vassal state? You answer the question -- but be honest about it.

Years ago, when we wrote those words, we were thinking of Iraq and Afghanistan, where [US]Americans put in puppets, to manage -- unsuccessfully, mind you -- the successor states to the states that were crushed by military attack. Because of the resistance of the Iraqi people, and the Afghan people, we know now that the most powerful weapons in the world cannot create a result if the people continue to resist.

We could not have imagined what we are looking at today. We were more right than we thought we were. We suggest that you take a moment to acquire and then read *Murder Inc.* today, and then think about what’s happening today, before your very eyes.

Were we right? You decide.

With love, not fear, this is Mumia Abu-Jamal



Mumia Abu-Jamal & Murder Inc. co-author Stephen Vittoria

TTT Note:

As is evident from this (and many another) commentary, Mumia Abu-Jamal is not only a journalist, but an educator.

You can find reviews of the three volumes of Murder Inc. **here:** <https://change-links.org/murder-incorporated-empire-genocide-manifest-destiny-book-review/>; **here:** <https://change-links.org/war-murder-incorporated-americas-favorite-pastime/>; **and here:** <https://change-links.org/murder-incorporated-book-three-perfecting-tyranny/>. The subtitle of all three volumes is “Empire/Genocide/Manifest Destiny”.

You can order the volumes and listen to Mumia in his own voice here: <https://www.prisonradio.org/news-update/murder-incorporated-empiregenocide-and-manifest-destiny/>

The deep understanding of the nature of this system that Mumia has developed as a journalist, an educator, and a political prisoner of that Empire, and as a “long-distance revolutionary,” can help guide and inform our own efforts. Murder Inc. was the name of a criminal gang before Mumia Abu-Jamal and Stephen Vittoria applied

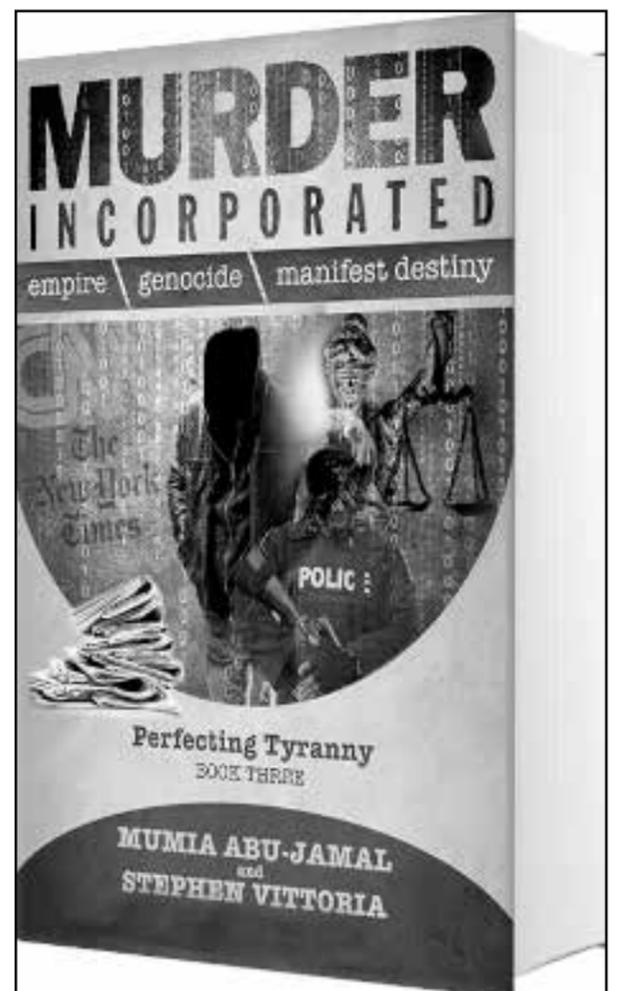
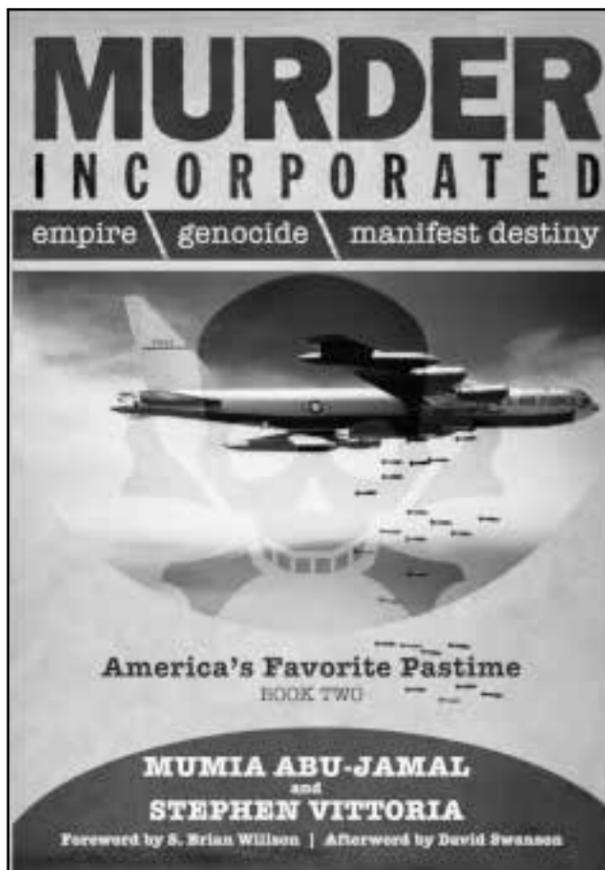
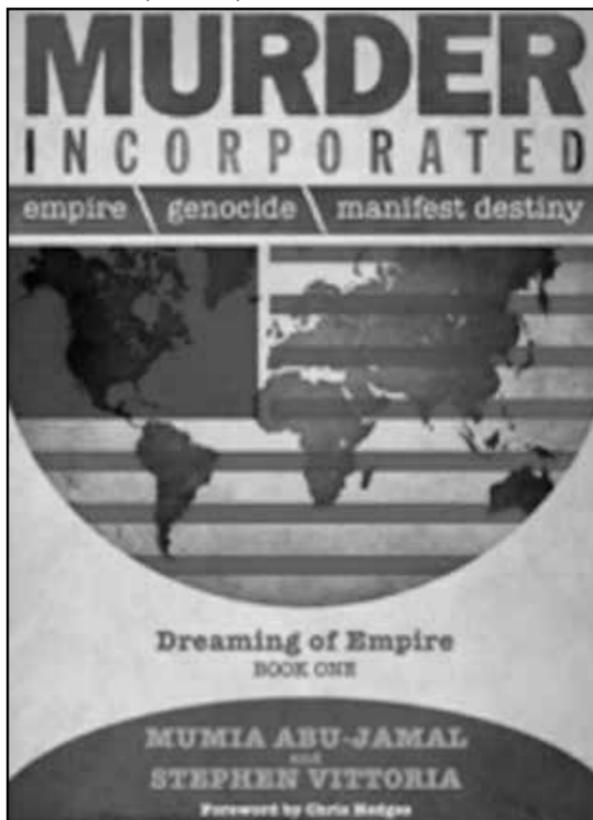
it to the US empire. The words “empire” and “genocide” are not metaphorical, but accurate descriptions of the exact nature of the society in which we live. The only way to save ourselves, humanity and the planet itself is to topple and replace that imperial system.

This commentary was written before the US attack on Iran, but it applies to the history and current “relationship” between the US and Iran as well.

In 1953, the US could overthrow Iranian democracy with its British vassal, and impose the Shah, because it controlled Iran’s military.

In 1979, the US transferred the vassal dictatorship from the Shah to Khomeini and the mullahs because it controlled the SAVAK, Iran’s CIA-run secret police.

Today, a weakened empire must join with its Zionist vassal Israel to launch a full-on war to try to regain control over Iran. It’s up to us to turn imperialist war into a revolution against Empire.



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TURNING THE TIDE

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UPCOMING EVENTS:

- ★ March 8 - International Women's Day - Global Women's Strike for Peace
- ★ March 17 - Commemorate the San Patricio Brigade in US War on Mexico
- ★ March 28 - No Kings - No Empire - No Imperialist War!
- ★ April 15 - War Tax Resistance Day
- ★ April 20 - Beware fascist attacks on Hitler's birthday
- ★ April 30 - Anniversary of Hitler's suicide as Red Army crushed Nazi Germany

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- ★ Fascism & War Go Hand in Hand!
- ★ Mexico in Imperial Cross-Hairs
- ★ General Strike - Necessary but Insufficient
- ★ Settlers Attack in West Bank
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