

# GIVE WAR NA CHANCE!

The pro-Palestine march in London on Saturday was sufficiently large so as to leave a political footprint. It undoubtedly helped lead to Home Secretary Suella Braverman being given the order of the boot. The other reason was the behaviour of the right-wing thugs around the Cenotaph whom she had invited and who went on to disturb the Remembrance Day Observances. It turned into a remembrance of just how stupid the far-right is as they tried gate-crashing the memorial itself in order to plant Israeli flags. These political simpletons handicapped by racism failed to recognise this was a sacred moment for the ruling class, one not to be disturbed, because this event is meticulously crafted to cover up their historical crimes through 'honouring' its victims.

In many ways Braverman's behaviour mimics that of Trump's on the 6<sup>th</sup> January 2021 when he mobilised and directed his supporters towards the Hill and Congress. But unlike Trump who is likely to get away with any prosecution given the fractious nature of US society, Braverman has lost her political career. Perhaps now she is out of the limelight she will die her hair Trump blond to identify with him.

The pro-Palestinian march which I was proud to have built, numbering three quarters of a million, shows that neo-liberalism has not stifled the human spirit, nor has it petrified solidarity, nor has it tarnished the sense of injustice, and nor has it dispersed the anger felt towards bullies. This spontaneous movement numbering tens if not hundreds of millions worldwide is of considerable importance for two reasons. Firstly, because it symbolises the fact that the Zionists and their imperial backers, despite owning the media, are losing the propaganda war. Secondly, it forms the basis for building a more conscious and durable anti-war movement.

Zionists who weaponised anti-Semitism by equating criticism of the State of Israel with hatred for the Jews, who treat the term 'holocaust' as their own exclusive Intellectual Property, are in disarray. No doubt this is the reason they concocted a 40-minute video of alleged Hamas atrocities on the 7<sup>th</sup> October to counter the truth which is seeping out about what really happened on that day. Zionism has deservedly become a swear word. In fact, given that the Arab people, together with the Jews, are Semitic by language, and given that the Zionists used the same old anti-Semitic tropes originally used against them in Europe, such as *they are killing our babies and violating our women*, to stir up the bloodlust against the Palestinians, we can justifiably say that today it is **the Zionists who are the modern Anti-Semites**. They are the racists and by dehumanising the other, they have become killers.

Unlike the USA, possibly because the pro-Palestine movement is more established and larger in the UK than in the USA, and conversely, because the Jewish capitalist class in the USA is larger, the Jewish establishment is beginning to sanction supporters of the Palestinians. This is particularly true for the universities in the USA where donors have threatened to withhold funding and endowments, and or, they have withdrawn job invitations to those they have identified as supporting the Palestinians. This is a stupid over-reach as it will only fuel anti-Semitic tropes such as the *Jews run America*.

The same applies to Israel itself. With every scene of bombing and killing, especially of children, supporters of Israel are slinking away, no doubt to deny in the future they ever supported the Zionist project. Israel is becoming increasingly isolated, and is now cast deservedly as an international pariah. Even the USA which has provided unlimited bombs is seeking to distance itself from Israeli excesses. No doubt Netanyahu is

just as resentful as Zelensky, for after doing the bidding of the USA, they have been verbally stabbed in the back by the hegemon attempting to reduce the damage done to what remains of their reputation.

As I pointed out in earlier articles, the cruel acts by the Israeli Air Force in Gaza around hospitals and ambulances are designed to provoke Hezbollah into a full-scale war on the Lebanese border. Only by drawing Hezbollah into the war can the war be extended to Iran. Gaza is not the main target, Iran is. Strategically speaking Hamas is only a local force. It cannot block the Middle East and all the gateways linking the three continents. Iran can. Only by crushing Iran and installing a pro-Western government can the USA secure the Middle East and prevent a second front opening up in the event of war breaking out in the China Sea. Only in this way can the USA protect its back and secure its supply lines.

In the period 2012 – 2014 the US's China strategy became clear. First there was the military pivot to Asia culminating in the establishment of [313 military basis](#) in the region of China. The necklace of death. Those are the ones we know of. Then we had the Maiden coup in the Ukraine designed to pave the way to toppling the Putin regime thereby exposing China's northern flank and completing the encirclement of that country. And of course there was the [Zionist invasion of Gaza](#) in 2014 which killed more Palestinians than in any single year since 1967.

Sound familiar. An embryonic playbook for the events unfolding today in their fully realised form. Thus we have full-scale war in the Ukraine and potentially a full-scale war in the Middle East, while the US prepares its garrisons around China for the time of war. That timing depends on when the US has sufficiently reduced its industrial dependency on China so as to minimise the collateral damage to its own economy.

### **No stalemate in the first front.**

The first front in what could be an unfolding world war is of course Ukraine. Here things have gone from bad to worse for the US and NATO. With its army depleted and running out of ammunition, the Ukrainian army is on the retreat. Of course this retreat is being spun as a stalemate, similar to two punch drunk boxers holding on to each other for support. The West cannot admit that the balance of forces has swung decisively in favour of Russia. Indeed to reinforce this stalemate narrative, Ukrainian media is now downplaying the much-spun counter-offensive, saying it was simply psyops intended to demoralise Russian troops thus not a real operation, and because it was not a real offensive it could not be a defeated one. Tell that to the 100,000 Ukrainian soldiers who fell making this psyops thriller.

This fabrication of a stalemate follows a whole line of fabrications from the outset of the war, beginning with Russia being driven from the outskirts of Kyiv, then casting the Russian army as bumbling and unable to fight, to amplifying minor gains in the summer counter-offensive into strategic gains and so on and so forth. The presentation of the situation as one of stalemate creates the impression that it is advantageous to continue supporting the Ukrainian war effort, and it allows Zelensky to claim that if only the Ukraine was provided with the right weapons it could still break the stalemate in its favour.

The fact is that Ukraine has little to show for the \$360 billion pumped into its war effort if we include IMF disbursements. This is 2.3 times larger than Ukraine's entire economic output in 2019 amounting to \$154 billion. On the other hand the carnage in the Ukraine is catastrophic. It is likely that by year end Ukraine will have lost 600,000 troops. That is nearly 50% of its total troop numbers, a casualty ratio much higher than the Wehrmacht suffered in five years of war and only surpassed by the losses of the Red Army during that period.

Such is the losses of soldiers that even NATO is reconsidering pumping in more equipment. After all, equipment without soldiers simply rusts. The question is no longer whether the Ukrainian army can go on the offensive, but whether it has the capacity to even go on the defensive. At worst, NATO and the USA would like to see this war drag on for as long as possible in order to pre-occupy Russia and that means rear guard actions forcing Russia to fight trench by trench..

But current defeats have political repercussions even when that war is being directed by politicians abroad who are therefore able to avoid responsibility for their actions within Ukraine itself. Here the current battle for Avdiivka and Kupiansk is crucial. Zelensky managed to survive the fall of Bakhmut despite staking his reputation on holding it. It is unlikely that he will survive the fall of these two towns. Their fall will make it clear to Ukrainians that Ukraine has lost the war, and it will intensify the civil war already raging between the more realistic military establishment and the delusional Zelensky clique.

Will there now be peace negotiations. That depends on two things. Firstly whether the Ukrainian army can survive a drawn-out defensive campaign, and whether or not the Zelensky clique can hold onto power. Cancelling next year's presidential elections is merely symbolic, Zelensky's hold on power is a practical question addressed by conditions on the ground and in the country. Its bullets, not ballots which will determine Zelensky's fate.

Long gone are the days when the Ukrainian 'offensive' could have improved Kyiv's position at the negotiating table, aka Zelensky's fabulous 10-point peace plan which added up to Russia picking up its arms, leaving Ukraine and paying reparations. Now the terms will be set by Moscow, and they will represent a blow to NATO. They will likely demand territorial concessions including the recognition that Crimea is Russian, Ukraine abandoning all attempts to join NATO and permanent demilitarisation. Should this transpire, then this will represent a setback for the strategic ambitions of the US and NATO because China's military position will have been decisively improved.

But the USA has not gone away empty handed. It may not have weakened Russia, but it certainly has weakened the European economy especially Germany. Germany's loss in competitiveness has been the US's gain, especially in the field of energy supplies. It gives new meaning to the US's diplomatic approach to Europe since the War: *keep the US in, Russia out and Germany down.*

In every way, whether it is the drive to encircle China, to tame Russia, and to bolster its own military, the US has lost out. The US is more isolated, its armouries are emptier, and the drawn-out war in Ukraine has bought more time for China to re-arm and secure its borders. It has enabled China to accelerate its arms production and develop new weaponry. However, this will not stop the US asserting its hegemony, all it will do is make the use of nuclear weapons more likely.

### **China's industrial might.**

Talking about China, it is not often I commend a *Financial Times* article for its insights. But [this article](#) deserves such an accolade. Titled: *The Global Constraints to China's Growth* it was published on the 7<sup>th</sup> of November. Its purpose is to locate the relative size of the Chinese Industrial Economy within the Global Economy and to measure the effect any changes to the Chinese economy has on the world economy. It cites a number of statistics. Gross fixed investment represents 24% of Global GDP. (Total investment is actually bigger because this figure ignores circulating capital.) Within this 24% figure, China is responsible for 32% which means that China's investment represents 8% of Global GDP. This compares to the US share

of just 5% despite the US economy being nominally 40% bigger. The article then goes on to project current Chinese investment rates into the future suggesting a huge oversupply looming, in turn aggravated by all the reshoring going on in the rest of the world.

What this article is projecting is a monumental overaccumulation of capital. Much of it will be unprofitable particularly in the USA where cost prices are highest due to reshoring. And if capital is not profit-making but loss-making, it is no longer a question of capitalists grudgingly sharing out profits but desperately seeking to palm their losses off onto their competitors. Thus this trend will intensify inter-imperialist rivalries deepening the existing hegemonic struggle between the USA and China. If history teaches us anything it is this: capitalism always resolves its overaccumulation destructively, and there is nothing more destructive than war.

### **The tasks facing the anti-war movement.**

The genocidal bombing of Gaza must therefore be seen in its strategic context, similar to the war in the Ukraine. Unfortunately, Stop the War in the UK saw Ukraine as a regional conflict, to which they even attributed imperial ambitions on the part of Putin. This time it is different; they do see Gaza as having the potential to spark an even broader Middle East conflict aiming to draw in Iran.

However, they still do not and cannot grasp the geo-political context of such a war. They do not see it as a second front in a looming world war. They limit their tasks to preventing a broader war in the region and protecting the Palestinians, neglecting to prepare the movement for what is to come.

Alas, it is only a matter of time before Israel achieves its military goals in Gaza, which is to uproot Hamas, destroy its infrastructure and demoralize Palestinians. And it is likely that this will be achieved without provoking Hezbollah into an all-out conflict. What then? Will the current anti-war movement melt away as it has always done in the face of a victorious Imperialism, or will it endure because its goals are more far-reaching and all embracing, one which recognises we are all potential victims, because in the event of another world war, no one is safe. That it is no longer a matter of defending them, but all of us. Will it use this moment to prepare for the future? Of one thing we can be certain, in the event of World War 3, a mass revolutionary movement must appear before, not after the war, simply because there may not be an after.

But to prevent that war, a different kind of anti-war movement is needed, revolutionary in content and international in scope, one which addresses the causes of war, private property and the class that benefits from this ownership and is made to fight over it - the capitalist class. One which permanently ends the threat of war by replacing private property by collective property, because when we all own the means of production and the land in common, there is no longer anything to fight over. Productive co-operation will have replaced destructive competition. The human race will have come of age.

Brian Green, 14<sup>th</sup> November 2023.