



## Capitalists wage class war

# Organize resistance!

Billionaire Warren Buffett admitted in a 2006 interview that he and his fellow billionaires waged class war against the workers. The U.S. federal government, representing the interests of the U.S.-based imperialist ruling class, makes it a global war against all workers and poor people and most nations.

The U.S. rockets sent to the Kiev regime in Ukraine and the scabs hired to work in place of striking New York City nurses are weapons in this global class war.

Atop the news is the U.S./NATO proxy war in Ukraine against Russia. To grasp the extent of the corporate media's lies about Ukraine, you must review recent U.S. war history. Washington has aimed at reconquering the countries of the Global South that had achieved some sovereignty while the Soviet Union existed.

### U.S. strategy led to:

Two wars on Iraq, in 1991 and 2003, with bombs and sanctions that destroyed the infrastructure and killed a million people, dislocated millions more, promoted ethnic and religious civil war and left behind a social and environmental nightmare. Over 500,000 of those who died were children.

Wars in 1995 and 1999 broke multinational Yugoslavia into seven ministates, most now colonies of the U.S. and NATO imperialists.

A 2001 occupation of Afghanistan lasted to 2021, killed tens of thousands of people, wrecked the country and destabilized Central Asia. In Afghanistan, the U.S. left hunger, disease and murderous sanctions.

A 2011 NATO war destroyed a stable, prosperous Libya, murdered its leader and split it in two, while destabilizing North Africa and the Sahel region and forcing millions to risk perilous flight to Europe. Every year thousands of refugees drown in the Mediterranean Sea.

### Wars of subversion

The U.S. facilitated the Saudi monarchy's murder and starvation of Yemenis, armed the Israeli occupation and criminal war against Palestine and encouraged wars to divide Sudan and Ethiopia and rob resources across Africa. And used economic sanctions to impoverish Venezuela and Cuba. That's class war.

Another 2011 U.S./NATO war on Syria

ended with the country in ruins but the Damascus government intact. Russian assistance aided local resistance to set back Western schemes.

The relentless march of NATO militarism across Eastern Europe assaulted the borders of Russia. U.S. intervention in Ukraine used fascist elements to install an anti-Russian regime in Kiev in 2014, which waged war on its own eastern regions. The assault gave Moscow little choice but to intervene last year.

While this was happening, an equally relentless fleet of warships threatened war with socialist China, the one country capable of challenging U.S. imperialist world dominance. If Washington's strategists have advised against a hot war with China, it has been because they advise first weakening Russia.

Despite these wars, which have cost the U.S. working class trillions of dollars, the U.S. and its NATO allies have been unable to impose a stable colonial puppet regime hardly anywhere. And they have only made life worse, more violent, less democratic, every place they have intervened. That's class war.

The U.S. has made every effort to destabilize progressive governments in Latin American and Caribbean countries through sanctions and coups. In Venezuela they went so far as to handpick their own "president" Juan Guaidó, who has absolutely no support at home.

### The war at home

While the Pentagon was committing mass murder abroad, capitalist globalization increased the exploitation of the working class at home. Workers received an ever smaller proportion of the wealth they produced.

Most productivity gains came from increasing the hours and intensity of the workday. Technology advances eliminated union jobs. Workers were forced to take gig jobs, where the rate of exploitation is even greater.

The first months of the COVID-19 pandemic brought awareness of the value of all workers to society: Every evening we cheered for health caregivers, supermarket clerks, messengers, delivery people, teachers.

And then these workers started to fight back and demand a bigger piece of the wealth they created. Amazon and Starbucks workers

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Minneapolis, October 2022. One of 70 local UNAC-coordinated antiwar actions.

organized; nurses demonstrated for themselves and for their patients; and railroad workers dared to threaten a strike.

When the workers fought, the bosses, bankers and entrepreneurs, Warren Buffett's class, answered by hiring union-busting firms, threatening firings, disrupting union votes; and when it came to a possible freight railroad strike, they got President Joe Biden to block it. That's class war.

In the summer of 2020, mass demonstrations shouted to stop funding cops in response to the murder of George Floyd. It almost seemed police brutality was in retreat. But even after an electoral defeat for racist Donald Trump, the Biden administration expanded funding for cops just as it did for the Pentagon.

The latest report shows a record number, 1,196 killings by police in 2022, with the usual disproportionate number of police victims being people of color and/or people with disabilities. (mappingpoliceviolence.us) That's class war.

Making reproductive rights illegal — as the Republican Party has pushed for — and the vicious attack on LGBTQ+ rights, promoting violent assaults, are also part of the war on the working class at home.

Buffett knew in 2006 that this class war exists. Our first task is to make sure our class knows it — and then to mobilize to fight back. This week in mid-January, to honor Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., who called out the war at home in 1967, we are marching in the streets against the U.S./NATO war in Ukraine. And we are marching in solidarity with striking nurses in New York City.

Our class must unite if we are to win. That too is class war. □

# War budget passes

Days before the New Year, President Joe Biden signed a \$1.7 trillion fiscal year 2023 omnibus bill, allocating the budget for that sector of federal spending called “discretionary.” If one had to describe the bill in two words, they would be: “war crime.”

Before examining the role of the Republican and Democratic imperialist war parties in handling this bill, we should describe the budget as it really is.

The budget provides the funds for a war on the world’s people, including on the working class within the United States. It hands the Pentagon more money than Biden even asked for, over \$850 billion. It funds the proxy war in Ukraine against Russia; it increases military aid to the Israeli regime to oppress Palestinians and seize more of their land.

Adding Military Construction/Veterans Affairs, Homeland Security and the outlay for police and prisons to the budget for the Department of Defense, more than \$1.1 trillion will be used to strengthen the state repressive apparatus.

That comes mainly from taxing income withheld from the working class. Remember that a trillion means a million millions, one followed by 12 zeros.

This budget’s character is no surprise to

Marxists who track government spending. An analysis at the Speaking Security Newsletter ([stephensemle.substack.com](http://stephensemle.substack.com)) summarizes that budget. The budget uses workers’ taxes to finance the Pentagon’s worldwide reach and imperialist plunder and to enforce exploitation of the working class at home.

Regarding the two parties that are the political wings of the imperialist War Party, they both supported military spending and adding funds to Biden’s proposals. The omnibus spending bill passed the House 225-201. All House Democrats but two voted for the budget; all the Republicans but eight voted against it. In the Senate, many Republican senators voted for the bill, and all the Democrats did, including Bernie Sanders.

Of the House Democrats, only Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez voted against the budget, and Rashida Tlaib voted “present,” which is something like abstaining. This means that even the most progressive, social-democratic sector of the Democratic Party had only token opposition.

Many House Republicans made noises objecting to the high sums spent for military aid to the Kiev regime in Ukraine, but no one should misinterpret their “no” vote as opposition to imperialist war. They spoke out mainly

against any part of the total budget that might aid some of the poorer members of U.S. society, including low-wage workers, all of whom they consider undeserving, even of the crumbs offered. And they complained that aid was sent to Ukraine but that no wall was built on the U.S.’s southern border to punish human beings from the Global South for the crises that imperialism has created.

Democrats, on the other hand, boasted that they pushed through some programs that benefit the poor. To the small extent that was true, it fails to justify a vote for this war budget. Feeding the war in Ukraine risks nuclear confrontation with Russia, and the continued belligerent moves by the Pentagon against China can easily turn from cold war to hot — a war crime.

The budget vote showed once more that any movement wanting to stop the imperialist war buildup must abandon the belief that electing Democratic Party politicians will accomplish this. Look instead to the developing movement in the working class; organize demonstrations in the streets — like those called this month by the United National Antiwar Coalition — and build a movement outside the two dominant capitalist parties.

They are the war criminals — the working class must be the war resisters. □

## Aprobado el presupuesto de guerra

Días antes de Año Nuevo, el presidente Joe Biden firmó un proyecto de ley ómnibus de 1,7 billones de dólares para el año fiscal 2023, asignando el presupuesto para ese sector del gasto federal llamado “discrecional”. Si uno tuviera que describir el proyecto de ley en dos palabras, serían: “crimen de guerra”. Antes de examinar el papel de los partidos imperialistas de guerra republicano y demócrata en el manejo de este proyecto de ley, debemos describir el presupuesto como realmente es.

El presupuesto proporciona los fondos para una guerra contra los pueblos del mundo, incluida la clase obrera de Estados Unidos. Entrega al Pentágono más dinero del que Biden siquiera pidió, más de 850,000 millones de dólares. Financia la guerra por poderes en Ucrania contra Rusia; aumenta la ayuda militar al régimen israelí para oprimir a los palestinos y apoderarse de más de sus tierras.

Sumando Construcción Militar/Asuntos de Veteranos, Seguridad Nacional y el desembolso para policía y prisiones al presupuesto para el Departamento de Defensa, más de 1,1 billones de dólares se utilizarán para reforzar el aparato represivo del Estado.

Eso proviene principalmente de gravar los ingresos retenidos de la clase trabajadora. Recordemos que un billón significa un millón de millones, la cifra 1 seguido de 12 ceros.

El carácter de este presupuesto no es ninguna sorpresa para los marxistas que prestan

atención al gasto público. Un análisis en el Speaking Security Newsletter ([stephensemle.substack.com](http://stephensemle.substack.com)) resume ese presupuesto. El presupuesto utiliza los impuestos de los trabajadores para financiar el alcance mundial del Pentágono y el saqueo imperialista y para imponer la explotación de la clase obrera en casa.

En cuanto a los dos partidos que son las alas políticas del Partido de la Guerra imperialista, ambos apoyaron el gasto militar y añadieron fondos a las propuestas de Biden. La ley ómnibus de gastos fue aprobada por la Cámara 225-201. Todos los demócratas de la Cámara menos dos votaron a favor del presupuesto; todos los republicanos menos ocho votaron en contra. En el Senado, muchos senadores republicanos votaron a favor, y todos los demócratas lo hicieron, incluido Bernie Sanders.

De los demócratas de la Cámara, solo Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez votó en contra del presupuesto, y Rashida Tlaib votó “presente”, que es algo así como abstenerse. Esto significa que incluso el sector más progresista y social-demócrata del Partido Demócrata solo tuvo una oposición simbólica.

Muchos republicanos de la Cámara de Representantes hicieron ruido objetando las elevadas sumas destinadas a la ayuda militar al régimen de Kiev en Ucrania, pero nadie debería malinterpretar su voto negativo como una oposición a la guerra imperialista. Se pronunciaron principalmente en contra de cualquier

parte del presupuesto total que pudiera ayudar a algunos de los miembros más pobres de la sociedad estadounidense, a los que consideran indignos, incluso de las migajas ofrecidas. Y se quejaron de que se enviara ayuda a Ucrania pero no se construyera un muro en la frontera sur de Estados Unidos para castigar a los seres humanos del Sur Global por las crisis que ha creado el imperialismo.

Los demócratas, por su parte, se jactaron de haber impulsado algunos programas que benefician a los pobres. En la pequeña medida en que eso era cierto, no justifica el voto a favor de este presupuesto de guerra. Alimentar la guerra en Ucrania entraña el riesgo de una confrontación nuclear con Rusia, y los continuos movimientos beligerantes del Pentágono contra China pueden fácilmente pasar de la guerra fría a la caliente: un crimen de guerra.

La votación del presupuesto demostró una vez más que cualquier movimiento que quiera detener la acumulación de guerra imperialista debe abandonar la creencia de que elegir a políticos del Partido Demócrata lo logrará. En su lugar, hay que mirar al movimiento en desarrollo en la clase obrera; organizar manifestaciones en las calles -como las convocadas este mes por la United National Antiwar Coalition- y construir un movimiento al margen de los dos partidos capitalistas dominantes.

Ellos son los criminales de guerra — la clase obrera debe ser los resistentes a la guerra. □