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WAMM Co-Founder Polly Mann is 100 and you are invited to her birthday party! see back page

# The Great-Power Competition: Can We Hear What Our Competitors Say?

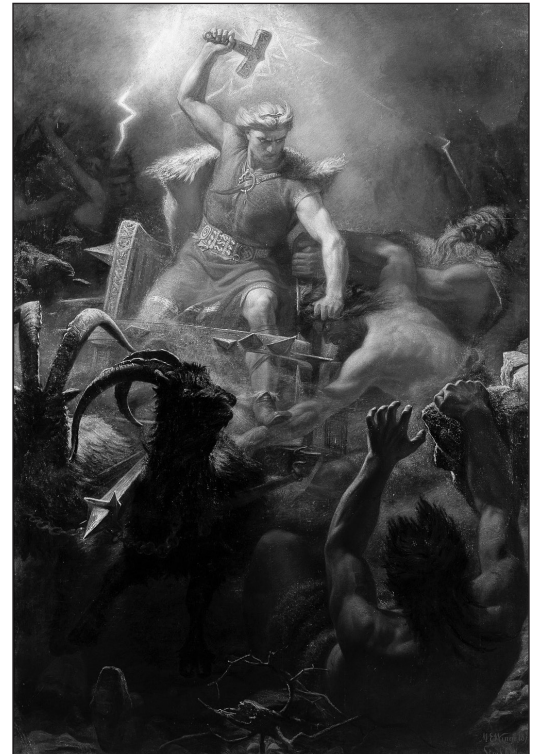
by Newsletter Staff

FOCUS ON  
RUSSIA  
& CHINA

The bombing of suspected ISIS continued even after the first announcement that the Islamic caliphate had been defeated with the 2017 obliteration of Mosul in Iraq, and Raqqa in Syria. War on the Middle East is not over even when it's been announced that it's over. On October 12, 2019, former U.S. Secretary of Defense James "Mad Dog" Mattis, revered by pundits as the "adult in the room," joined the retired general Sunday-morning talk show circuit.<sup>1</sup> His purpose? To warn that there could be a resurgence of ISIS with Trump's decision to pull U.S. troops out of Syria.<sup>2</sup>

Not long ago, the War on Terror had been relegated to a series of sideshows. In January of 2018, as Secretary of Defense, Mattis released the official national defense strategy described as: "sharpening the American military's competitive edge."<sup>3</sup> Foreign policy planners began emphasizing "the Great-Power Competition" as the new main event.

The appearance of Mattis on our TV screens again is a reminder that there have been many changes in the highest echelons of Washington's power, but these changes don't make much difference in overarching U.S. foreign policy. When it comes to war, driven as it is by the manufacturers of bombs, bullets,



"Thor's Fight with the Giants" by Mårten Eskil Winge (1872, Sweden) depicts the Norse god wearing his belt of power, swinging his hammer of thunder and riding a chariot pulled by his loyal goats.

and media narratives, the Washington power structure perpetuates it in whatever form it takes. Democrats were joined by Republicans in condemning Trump's abrupt removal of U.S. troops from northern Syria, where we shouldn't have been in the first place.<sup>4</sup> And both sides agreed when the Trump administration announced the biggest threat was

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**Women Against Military Madness** is a nonviolent, feminist organization, founded in 1982, that works in solidarity with others to create a system of social equality, self-determination and justice through education, action and the empowerment of women. W.A.M.M.'s purpose is to dismantle systems of militarism, economic exploitation and global oppression.

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## Great Power Competition...

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**FOCUS ON RUSSIA & CHINA** competition with Russia and China.

As policy analyst Ali Wyne, at the War Institute of the Rand Corp, Washington's primo strategic think tank, stated:

... members of the U.S. foreign-policy establishment widely agree that the Trump administration has been prudent to shift America's focus from counterterrorism to what the Pentagon's national defense strategy calls 'the reemergence of long-term strategic competition.'<sup>5</sup>

On September 9, 2019, Richard Fontaine in *Foreign Policy* magazine described it this way:

For all the acrimony in Washington today, the city's foreign policy establishment is settling on a rare bipartisan consensus: that the world has entered a new era of great-power competition. The struggle between the U.S. and other great powers, the emerging consensus holds, will fundamentally shape geopolitics going forward, for good or ill. And more than terrorism, climate change, or nuclear weapons in Iran or North Korea, the threats posed by these other great powers – namely, China and Russia – will consume U.S. foreign-policy makers in the decades ahead.<sup>6</sup>

With other powers on the rise, the U.S. sees Russia and China as "threats" to its hegemony in a world once dominated by American economic power and military might. Aggressive competition is particularly frightening when it comes to the scrapping of international arms control treaties involving nuclear weapons.

## Russia and China Respond to Nuclear Threat

The new competitive model alarmed Russia and China so much that they jointly called a UN Security Council meeting this past August in the wake of the U.S. withdrawing from the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces (INF) Treaty. Under the treaty, INF missiles, which are land-based and have a range of 310 to 3,410 miles, were banned. Their range from locations in Europe and the Asia Pacific could reach Russia and China.

Over the years, Russia and the U.S. have accused one another of violating the treaty:

The Obama administration in 2014 first publicly accused Moscow of violating the INF by testing a treaty-busting cruise missile, and the Trump administration pressed the accusation. Russia denies it cheated, and it counters with a contention that America's armed drones and missile defense systems in Europe are violations.

U.S. military officials said 95 percent of China's ballistic and cruise missiles would have violated the treaty.<sup>7</sup>

Yet, in spite of disagreements, Russia and the U.S. remained partners to the bilateral treaty, which was part of the international arms-control framework and served as a basis for nuclear cooperation – till now. (China was not a party to the treaty. It did not have the technology that the treaty covered at the time it was drawn in 1987.) The current U.S. administration, which actively opposes existing international treaties in general, blamed Russia *for the U.S.' own* withdrawal from the treaty, stating that "Russia is solely responsible for the treaty's demise."<sup>8</sup> Further, the U.S. quickly announced plans to openly test a new, previously banned missile.<sup>9</sup>

Is it possible for us to listen to what

representatives of Russia and China actually say about the implications of the U.S. withdrawing from the treaty? Can we put on pause straw man arguments about human-rights violations in foreign countries (when our country doesn't have a moral leg to stand on)? Can we eliminate the conversation-stoppers like "dictatorship" and "autocratic regime" from our vocabulary so we actually hear what foreign diplomats say? Even if we know that other states act as much out of self-interest and their leaders may lie as do our own, could we for once give other states credit for being reasonable?

When Russian and Chinese representatives have something to say, might listening be in our self-interest, as well?

Carla Stea, UN Headquarters New York correspondent for Global Research, Canada, reported the response of Russia and China at the special August 22 UN Security Council session.<sup>10</sup> Understanding that the U.S. position was clear about withdrawing from the INF,

Dmitry Polyanskiy, deputy permanent representative of the Russian Federation, directed his remarks at the UN primarily to "our European colleagues":

Are they [the European states] aware that, because of the geopolitical ambitions of the U.S., we are all just one step away from an uncontrolled, unregulated arms race? ...according to publicly available data the U.S. military budget is about \$700 billion, while the budget of NATO amounts to \$1.4 trillion. These are just approximate figures. For reference, the military budget of Russia, which is allegedly a threat to us all, is about \$60 billion – that is, more than 20 times lower than that of NATO...

Stea reports Chinese Ambassador Zhang Jun's response to the U.S. withdrawal of the treaty:

The U.S. withdrawal from the INF Treaty is another negative act in the pursuit of unilateralism and

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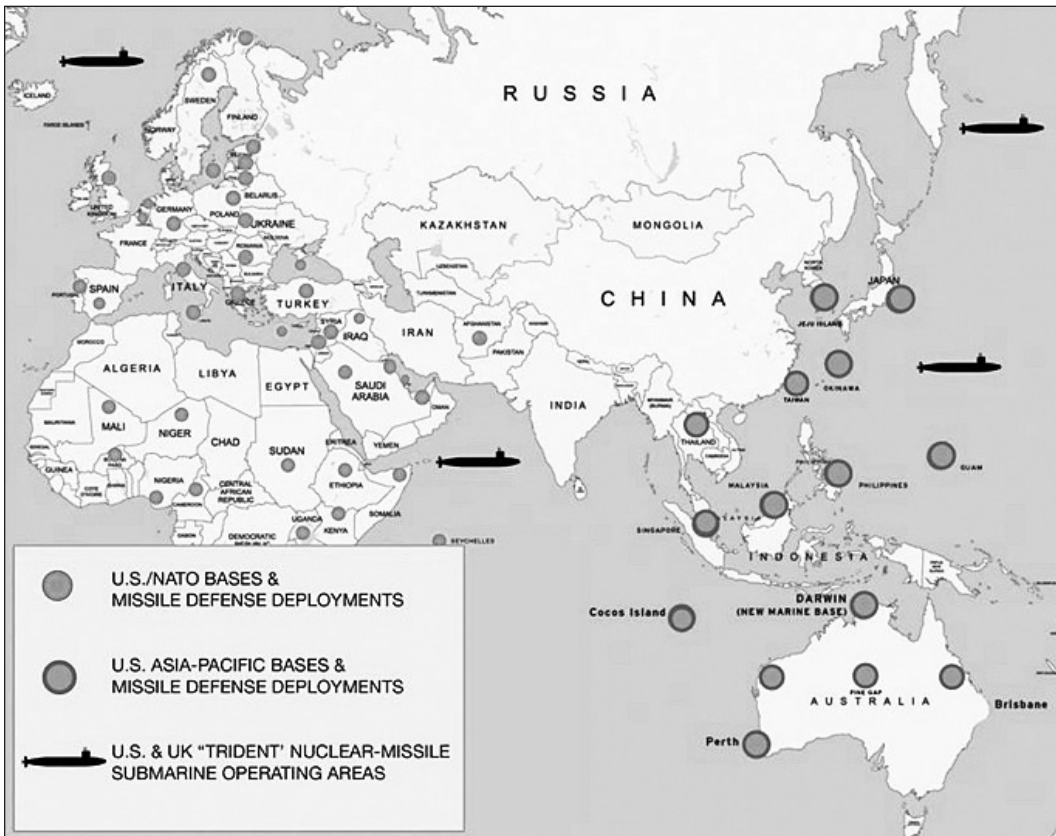
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Map: Global Network Against Weapons & Nuclear Power in Space

## Great Power Competition...

*continued from page 3*

### FOCUS ON RUSSIA & CHINA

the shirking of international obligations. Its true intention is to render the Treaty no longer binding and seek a unilateral, absolute military advantage. China's land-based intermediate-range missiles are all deployed within Chinese territory. They are for defence purposes only and pose no threat to any other country. China firmly opposes the United States attempts to deploy land-based intermediate-range missiles in the Asia-Pacific region...

### A Race to the Death Is On

The following month, the Show of Force military parade at the People's Republic's 70th anniversary bash in Beijing featured state-of-the-art Chinese-made weaponry and 15,000 military troops marching in formation.<sup>11</sup> It's obvious that China is not content to sit quietly while the U.S. installs nuclear-capable planes and other modernized weaponry (including first-strike weapons) targeting its nation while maintaining more than 130,000 U.S. military troops in its region.

And Russia? By inference, NATO acknowledges that Russia was provoked to speed up missile development:

Russia moved forward with the deployment of the SSC-8/9M729 [a cruise missile forbidden under the IMF Treaty] *only after* the radical downturn of Russia's relationship with the West following the illegal annexation of Crimea. A plausible explanation is that the Kremlin concluded that going slow did not offer any benefits and the potential benefits of

dividing [the NATO] Allies were increasing, so the time was ripe for moving full steam ahead." [italics by WAMM Newsletter editor who also disputes the context-lacking characterization that Russia "illegally" annexed Crimea.]<sup>12</sup>

### And the Winner Is...?

It should be clear that Russia and China are pursuing ever more dangerous weapons because they are reacting to threats aimed at them. The U.S. behaves as though it's in a competition it can win. But there can be no winners in a race for nuclear superiority. Just to be in the race deprives a country of national treasure that could otherwise be used for the benefit of its citizens. And, even worse, competing with death threats is a horrible way to live and, if acted on, will be a horrible way to die.

And, if anything should make policymakers think, you might suppose it would be wondering which great competitor Turkey favors. It has a "done deal" contract to purchase new advanced Russian air-defense missile systems and has already begun receiving parts (S400 batteries).<sup>13</sup>

Turkey is presumed to be a U.S./NATO ally but in retaliation for Turkey attacking the Kurds in northern Syria, Trump sanctioned Turkish officials, hiked tariffs on Turkish steel up to 50 percent, and halted trade negotiations.<sup>14</sup> The U.S.'s "Great-Power Competitor" Russia jumped in as a powerbroker and sent in military patrols to create a buffer zone between Turkey and Syria (Let's not forget that Russia actually has the permission of the Syrian government to be in Syria.)

The U.S. sent its own powerbrokers Vice President Pence and Secretary of State Pompeo to Ankara to meet

with Turkish President Erdoğan. Art-of-the-deal Trump announced that his promise of lifting the sanctions (that he imposed) was great leverage for the U.S. to get a temporary Turkish ceasefire.

On October 21, it was reported that members of Congress (which had passed a bi-partisan resolution condemning Trump for pulling troops out of northern Syria and endangering the Kurds in the first place<sup>15</sup>) were not talking in terms of lifting sanctions but instead proposing a "strong Bi-partisan sanctions package" on Turkey. Supposedly this humanitarian intervention tactic was to protect the Kurds from Turkish annihilation but the editors of the *Wall Street Journal* revealed the real reason: "The goal is to get back to negotiating an arrangement that protects the Kurds, protects Turkey's legitimate security concerns along its border, and **helps develop the oil fields in the region.**"<sup>16</sup>

Syria's oil fields are significant to Syria's economy but not to the world oil market. What is significant to the world market is Syria's key location through which Middle Eastern oil and gas pipelines could route to the Mediterranean. On October 22, Washington was reported unable to agree to sanctions on Turkey; Congressional members were belatedly befuddled by the fact that this would drive Turkey even closer to Russia. Such a dilemma! It's hard to destroy the Syrian government under Assad and gain access to pipeline routes, while at the same time punishing NATO ally Turkey when Turkey is cooperating with great-power competitor Russia.

*So, in light of the "Great-Power Competitors" at this flashpoint, is anyone nervous about the 50 U.S. tactical nuclear weapons sitting at*

*Incirlik, the U.S. Air Force base in the Turkish city of Adana?*<sup>17</sup>

## Let's Stop Before We Reach the Finish Line!

We need to cry Uncle (Sam), disqualify ourselves from this race, and get out of the Middle East and the war business. The only way the world will survive is if we cooperate instead of compete.

**ACTION:** Call your senators to demand that the U.S. sign the International Treaty to Abolish Nuclear Weapons.

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# When the Enemy You Kill Is Yourself

by Doug Olson

### FOCUS ON MILITARY RECRUITMENT

The military is considering a proposal to lower the recruitment age to 16 to counter sagging enlistment numbers. One proponent of lowering the recruitment age is Shane McCarthy, the chief marketing officer of Sandbox, a platform used by military service members. McCarthy briefs and advises numerous military recruitment commands!

In his *Military Times* article advocating lowering the recruitment age to 16, McCarthy notes 16-year-olds are more likely to consider military service than 18-year-olds, recruiting younger teens is less expensive than recruiting young people in their late teens and early twenties, and 15- to 17-year-olds are half as likely to have arrest records than 18- to 20-year-olds. McCarthy approvingly notes Canada and the United Kingdom

permit 16 year olds to serve in their militaries.

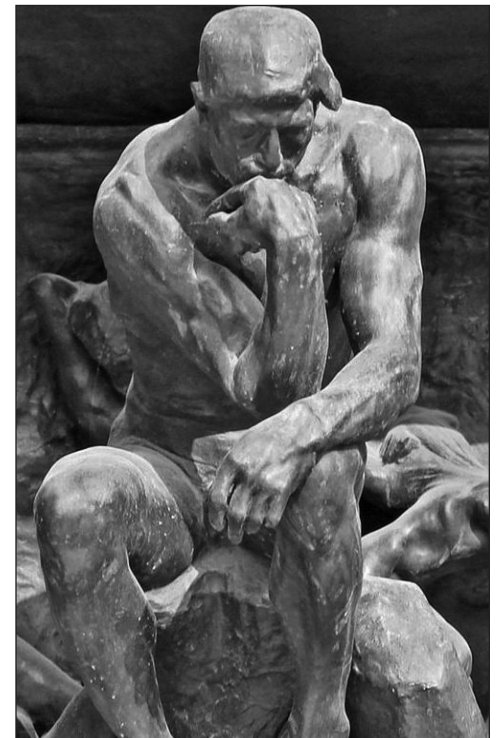
Preying on 16-year-olds to make up for the military's lagging recruitment is appalling. One of the reasons this proposal is disgusting is because it would expose young people to a greater risk of suicide.

The number of suicides in the military increased from 285 in 2017 to 325 in 2018. The suicide rate grew from about 22 suicides per 100,000 service members to about 25 suicides per 100,000 service members. The active duty suicide rate has risen an average of six percent every year over the past five years.

Of all the military components, the Army National Guard had the highest suicide rate. 118 Army National Guard soldiers committed suicide in 2018.

The suicide rate in the Army National

*continued on page 6*



*The Thinker (Le Penseur), detail from the bronze sculpture, La Porte de l'Enfer (Gates of Hell), 1880-1890, Auguste Rodin.*

## When the Enemy You Kill...

*continued from page 5*

### FOCUS ON MILITARY RECRUITMENT

Guard is 35.3 suicides per 100,000 service members – much higher than the 22.4 per 100,000 rate among civilian young men in 2017.<sup>2</sup>

While the *Military Times* article does not discuss the reasons behind the high rates of suicide among Army National Guard soldiers, undoubtedly many of the suicides can be attributed to repeated deployments to fight in the endless U.S. wars in the Middle East and Afghanistan, as well as the Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) that many veterans suffer due to their horrific experiences in war.

Soldiers can suffer from moral injury because of their horrific war experiences. Moral injury is “the harmful aftermath of exposure to events which ‘transgress deeply held beliefs and expectations.’”<sup>3</sup> Such events included the unjustified taking of life in war. U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs research finds soldiers who suffer moral injury as a result of war crimes they commit or witness have

an increased risk of suicide. Soldiers who commit unjustified killings are the most likely to suffer from severe PTSD.<sup>4</sup>

The military will never tell young people considering enlistment about the disproportionately high rates of suicide in the military. Peace activists should share this disturbing information with young people to discourage them from joining the military.

### Peace Activists Firmly Oppose Military Recruitment of Youth

The peace vigil outside Camp Ripley in Little Falls, Minnesota is a good example of peace activists taking a stand against the military recruitment of young people. On Sunday, September 15, 2019, around 36 peace activists held a vigil outside Camp Ripley to counter Camp Ripley’s pro-war propaganda fest known as Open House Day. Among the peace activists were members of Brainerd Area Coalition for Peace (BACP), Women Against Military Madness (WAMM), Veterans for Peace (VFP), and the Minnesota Anti-War Committee (AWC), as well as long-time peace

activist and semi-retired priest Father Tony Kroll, and four Little Falls Franciscan Sisters. Vigil participants held signs and banners reminding Open House Day visitors “War is Terrorism” and “War Kills Kids.”

Remarkably, the Camp Ripley peace vigil received more positive than negative responses from passersby. Many passersby, including several National Guard soldiers, honked their horns, gave thumbs up, or made peace signs. This was the first time a peace vigil at Camp Ripley received such a positive response. The positive response is indicative of the war-weariness a majority of Americans, including a majority of Iraq and Afghan War veterans, feel.<sup>5</sup>

*Doug Olson is a member of Brainerd Area Coalition for Peace. He can be reached at djo819@hotmail.com*

**ACTION:** Peace activists can translate this antiwar feeling into a stronger movement, and make a special appeal to young people as they are targeted by the military for recruitment. Join the Camp Ripley Peace Vigil in September of 2020.

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*Activists stand, kneel outside Camp Ripley at a prior year’s vigil.*

# Hong Kong: Are These Really Protests We Want to Support?

by Mary Beaudoin

FOCUS ON  
HONG  
KONG

Should peace and justice advocates support pro-democracy efforts whenever they arise in the world? Even some U.S. alternative media identifying as liberal and progressive have joined the chorus, portraying the protests in Hong Kong as the noble pursuit of democratic freedoms, brave resistance to the authoritarian Chinese government oppressing the people.

Democratic freedoms aside, many nations in the world but particularly the U.S., Britain, and China have interests to protect in Hong Kong. The island-city is a special administrative district within China with a unique history. It was subject to British colonial rule for approximately 150 years but, under an agreement with the People's Republic of China, in 1997 it was returned to China and governed as "one country, two systems" with its own legal and administrative systems. Hong Kong's special status enabled it to become a leading financial center and tax haven for international corporations. Its free market is so free from regulation and accountability that the conservative American think tank, the Heritage Foundation, has consistently ranked the city as number one in its Index of Economic Freedom!

The arrangement has been of mutual benefit to both foreigners and the Republic of China. As a Reuters primer explains: "China uses Hong Kong's currency, equity, and debt markets to attract foreign funds, while international companies use Hong Kong as a launchpad to expand into mainland China."



The Hong Kong rebellion calls on Trump to "liberate" Hong Kong.

Hong Kong's particular legal characteristics have not only enabled China to rise as an economic power and shelter foreign corporations from taxes and tariffs but they have also allowed an individual to get away with murder. That's because Hong Kong lacks an extradition treaty for those who commit crimes in Taiwan and China. When a resident of Hong Kong murdered his pregnant girlfriend while on vacation in Taiwan in 2018, the accused fled back to Hong Kong where he couldn't be prosecuted. Hong Kong's administrative government attempted to amend its extradition law as a result of the incident. But protesters claimed extradition would extend to overreach by the People's Republic and cause Hong Kong citizens to be deprived of their freedoms.

## Anti-extradition protests were ignited.

Complaining of Washington's and London's interference in Chinese internal affairs, the following

appeared in the government-sponsored *China Daily*, HK edition:

There are two reasons why they chose the extradition law amendment bill as a turning point in their disruptive Hong Kong strategy. One is their failure to seize Hong Kong's governing power through their political proxies with 'true democracy' as an excuse. The other one is the need to facilitate the U.S. government's updated global strategy since 2018 that regards China as its main rival. – Zhou Bajun<sup>3</sup>

The protesters looked to London to assist them in their cause. Wearing hardhats, they smashed into the Hong Kong legislative chambers and raised the Union Jack.<sup>4</sup> On the street, people could be heard singing the British anthem "God Save the Queen" while waving the flag of their former colonial master.<sup>5</sup>

But it's not just the British that

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## Hong Kong...

*continued from page 7*

FOCUS ON  
HONG  
KONG

protesters appealed to for support.

American flags were also prominent in street protests. The leader of the Hong Kong activist organization Demosistō, Joshua Wong, called for outside intervention by the U.S., Western Europe, and Japan to “liberate Hong Kong.”

### And U.S. officials responded.

With Wong by her side, on September 18, 2019, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi held a press conference in Washington on human rights in Hong Kong.<sup>6</sup> Something not lost on astute observers was that she made a statement reminiscent of one delivered by Undersecretary of State Victoria Nuland in 2013, when, against the backdrop of a Chevron logo, Nuland praised “the brave people of the Maidan” as she encouraged the overthrow of the Ukrainian government in a color revolution. Pelosi welcomed the “very brave champions for democracy, for freedom of expression in Hong Kong,” advo-

cating for the Hong Kong Human Rights and Democracy Act of 2019 (H.R. 3289) “to send an unequivocal message that the protesters of Hong Kong have the full support and backing of the U.S. in their quest for justice and freedom.”<sup>7</sup>

On October 13, in an interview with CBS *Face the Nation*, Ted Cruz, the U.S. senator from Texas, in a new rad persona, announced from Hong Kong: “I’m here, I’m dressed in all black standing in solidarity with the protesters.”<sup>8</sup> (When asked about reported violence, Cruz later claimed not to have observed any.)

This color revolution is characterized by wearing black clothing. Fewer in number than the masses of protesters in the street were those among them disguised by masks and with helmets protecting their heads, causing mayhem by destroying the commons – subway stations, buses, and the Hong Kong International Airport – as well as local businesses. These actors wielded steel rods, have beaten people considered the opposition, and threw gasoline bombs at police. *Asia Times* columnist Pepe Escobar, who lives in

Hong Kong, describes the destructive acts as black bloc tactics borrowed from anarchist groups but more incendiary than the usual.<sup>9</sup>

Back in the U.S., the House of Representatives passed additional legislation based on the “responsibility to protect,” the humanitarian interventionist policy used to defend people in foreign countries from their own governments on the premise that they need to be protected and the U.S. should do it. The Hong Kong Human Rights and Democracy Act passed the House with bipartisan support on October 15. The House also passed a resolution condemning the Chinese government in Beijing and, in addition, the Protect Hong Kong Act, which restricts non-lethal crowd control equipment exports to Hong Kong.<sup>10</sup> (While in July, the U.S. State Department had approved two billion in arms sales to Taiwan<sup>11</sup> and continues, under the 1033 program, to allow local U.S. law enforcement agencies to obtain surplus military equipment.) As of this writing, the Hong Kong bills are expected to pass in the Senate.<sup>12</sup>

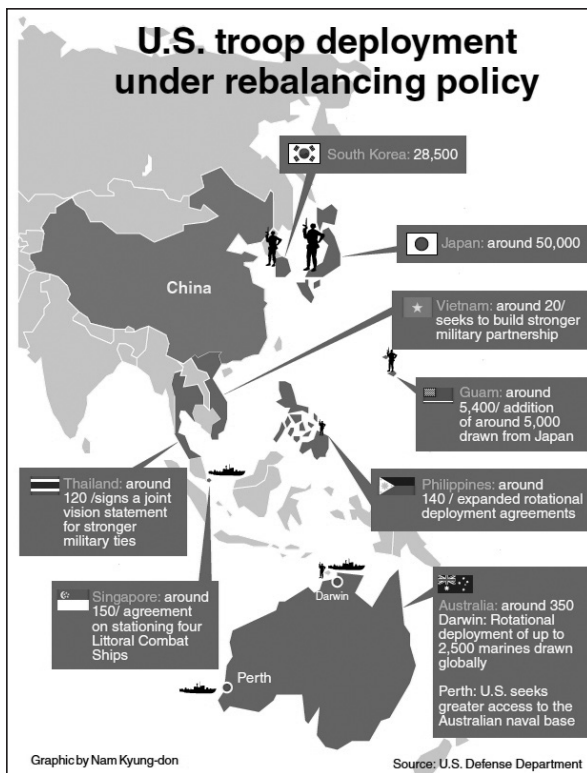
Comparing this to American media and government reactions to our own protests, the China Daily commented: “It’s not hard to imagine the U.S.’ reaction if Chinese diplomats met leaders of Occupy Wall Street, Black Lives Matter, or Never Trump protesters?”

The ordinary people of Hong Kong do have reason to be angry. The city is the most expensive in the world to live in with the highest rent, according to Deutsche Bank’s 2019 “Mapping the World’s Prices.” Many people experience extreme poverty. But their anger is directed at the



*Protesters smash into Hong Kong government headquarters and raise the Union Jack.*





*U.S. military threatens China in Asia Pacific. Map: Graphic by Nam Kyung-don; info source: U.S. Department of Defense*

Hong Kong city administration and Beijing, not the wealth gap.

Jimmy Lai, the Hong Kong billionaire and media mogul, widely believed to be funding the Hong Kong protests, came to the U.S. in early July to meet with Vice President Mike Pence, U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, National Security Advisor John Bolton, and some senators.<sup>13</sup> His visit to Washington was preceded in March by a delegation of Hong Kong “democracy” advocates.<sup>14</sup>

The National Endowment for Democracy (NED) fosters movements in foreign countries. Since its inception during the Reagan administration in 1983, the NED, a private foundation funded by the U.S. government but for which there is no government oversight, has been providing grants to nonprofit organizations, labor, and political parties in foreign countries to influence

their populations. It boasts of the ability “to respond quickly where there is a need for political change.” In 1991, Allen Weinstein, NED founder and president said, “A lot of what we do today was done 25 years ago by the CIA.” David Ignatius as the foreign editor of the *Washington Post*, referred approvingly to the NED as “the sugar daddy of overt operations.”

“The NED should be called the “National Endowment for Attacking Democracy,” says Stephen Kinzer, who wrote “America’s Century of Regime Change from Hawaii to Iraq” (Henry Holt & Co., 2007).<sup>15</sup>

In a not to be missed video, *Mintpress News* editor Mnar A. Muhawesh pointed out that neocons, the notorious Elliot Abrams and Victoria Nuland [her again] sit on the NED board of directors. Muhawesh reports that “Since 2014, the year of Hong Kong’s Umbrella protests, the NED has officially poured over \$29 million dollars into the island city in order to identify new avenues for democracy and political reform. But as the NED has already identified the Chinese government as despotic and a threat to democracy, this means that much of that money is defacto supporting groups to undermine that government and as *Mintpress* has previously reported much of that money went to the current groups that organized the protests.”<sup>16</sup>

*Dimsum Daily*, a Hong Kong focused internet publication reporting from Norway on August 16, 2019, also traced the current

anti-extradition protests back to Hong Kong’s 2014 Occupy Central (part of the Umbrella movement of agitators):

In an article we wrote yesterday, we detailed that the front-line anti-extradition protesters were potentially funded by Jimmy Lai and the American National Endowment for Democracy. Co-incidentally, Oslo Freedom Forum is also a New York-based non-profit Human Rights Foundation founded by human rights activist Thor Halvorsen. As exposed by the BBC documentary (website), 10,000 protesters during Occupy Central were trained as early as two years ago. Hence, it is highly possible that thousands of anti-extradition protesters were trained in 2017 or even 2018 to prepare themselves for the current anti-extradition protest.<sup>17</sup>

*NOTE: Since this writing there is no longer access to Dimsum Daily through Google. The search engine is reported blocking sites critical of the Hong Kong protests.*

Sara Flounders of the New York-based International Action Center, which advocates against war and racism, locates the Hong Kong demonstrations within a true global perspective of empire: “The escalating demonstrations are linked to the U.S. trade war, tariffs and military encirclement of China. Four hundred – half – of the 800 U.S. overseas military bases surround China. Aircraft carriers, destroyers, nuclear submarines, jet aircraft, Terminal High Altitude Area Defense missile batteries, and satellite surveillance infrastructures

*continued on page 10*

# Hong Kong

continued from page 9



are positioned in the South China Sea, close to Hong Kong.”<sup>18</sup>

Our antiwar call should be:

**“U.S. out of Hong Kong and the Asia Pacific!”**

Mary Beaudoin is the editor of the *Women Against Military Madness Newsletter*.

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# WAMM Calendar

*Please note that WAMM's provision of information on other groups' events is not meant to convey or endorse any action contrary to public policy that would be inconsistent with exempt purposes under Internal Revenue Code Section 501(c)(3), i.e., charitable purposes.*

## Ongoing Peace/ Justice Vigils *Vigil to End War*

Every Wednesday, Note change of hours: from 4:00 to 5:00 p.m. Lake Street/Marshall Avenue Bridge. Signs available on St. Paul side. Brief circle up for announcements after the vigil on St. Paul side.

FFI: Call WAMM 612-827-5364.

## *Vigil to End the Occupation of Palestine*

Every Friday, 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. corner of Summit Avenue and Snelling Avenue, St. Paul.

FFI: Call WAMM 612-827-5364.

## *Peace Vigil*

Every Tuesday, 5:00 to 6:00 p.m. on the east side of the Franklin Avenue Bridge, Minneapolis. Sponsored by: Prospect Hill Neighbors for Peace.

FFI: Call 612-379-7398.

## *Grandmothers for Peace Vigil*

Every Wednesday, 4:45 to 5:45 p.m. 50th Street and Halifax (1 block west of France), Edina. FFI: Call Marian Wright 612-927-7607.

## Immigrant Solidarity Vigils

*Every Tuesday, 7:30 a.m.* Stand up for justice, say NO to family separation, deportation. Gather weekly with signs (bring your own or use one provided) at ICE entrance closest to Fort Snelling light rail station. Vigil on Minnehaha Ave.,

Minneapolis by the sign at the driveway entrance to ICE. Rain or shine. (If using GPS—6000 Minnehaha Ave, Minneapolis). FFI: Call Pepper 612-701-6963 or Mary Lou 612-280-0354

## *Second Tuesday of every month, 7:30 a.m.*

Interfaith Coalition on Immigration (ICOM) gathers in solidarity with immigrants and refugees to achieve justice and stand up to systems of oppression. Vigil outside the Bishop Whipple Building, 1 Federal Drive, Fort Snelling. St. Paul. FFI: Facebook: Interfaith Coalition on Immigration (ICOM).

## WAMM Committee Meetings

### *Board Meeting*

Third Tuesday of every month, 6:00 p.m. 4200 Cedar Avenue South, Minneapolis.

FFI: Call WAMM 612-827-5364.

### *Book Club*

Episcopal Senior Living Complex, Welcome Center, 1860 University Avenue West, St. Paul. Call WAMM for meeting time and date.

FFI: Call 612-827-5364.

### *End War*

First Monday of every month, 6:00 p.m. 4200 Cedar Avenue South, Minneapolis.

FFI: Call WAMM 612-827-5364.

### *Ground All Drones*

Times/dates pending. FFI: Call WAMM 612-827-5364.

### *Middle East*

Second Monday of every month, 10:00 a.m. at Kenwood Isles Condominiums, 28th and Hennepin Ave. So., Mpls..

FFI: Call WAMM 612-827-5364.

### *St. Joan of Arc/WAMM Peacemakers*

Fourth Tuesday of every month, 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. St. Joan of Arc Church, Parish Center, 4537 Third Avenue South, Minneapolis. FFI: Call Barbara 612-722-4444.

### *Tackling Torture at the Top (T3)*

Second Wednesday of every month, 10:00 a.m. 4200 Cedar Avenue South, Minneapolis.

FFI: Call WAMM 612-827-5364.

## Ongoing Events

### *People of Faith Peacemakers Breakfast*

Second and fourth Wednesdays of every month, 8:00 to 9:30 a.m. African Development Center, Riverside and 20th Avenues South, Minneapolis. Peace with justice resource, support group. FFI: Visit [justviewpoint.org](http://justviewpoint.org) or call 612-333-4772.

### *Grandmothers for Peace*

First Wednesday of every month, 12:45 p.m. Edina Public Library, 5280 Grandview Square, Edina. Justice issue programs for understanding our role in changing systems.

FFI: Call 952-929-1566.

### *Pax Salons*

Call for details and location. Small donations accepted. FFI: Call 651-227-3228.

### *Middle East Peace Now*

Usually second or third Saturday. Refreshments 9:30 a.m. Program 10:00 a.m. Location varies. FFI: Visit [mepn.org](http://mepn.org).

### *WAMM Second Monday Movies*

Second Monday of every month, 7:00 p.m. 4200 Cedar Avenue South (enter on 42nd St.), Minneapolis. Projected on big screen. Free admission, popcorn. All welcome. Discussion follows film. FFI: Call 612-827-5364 or email [wamm@mtn.org](mailto:wamm@mtn.org).

*Undeterred* December 9. An intimate and unique portrait of how residents in a small rural community, caught in the cross-hairs of global geo-political forces, have mobilized to demand their rights and to provide aid to injured, often to dying people funneled across a wilderness desert.

Miss a movie? DVD collection is available for check-out in the WAMM office.

## Special Events

### *Give to the Max Day*

Thursday, November 14, 2019. All day. Show your support for WAMM and donate on Give to the Max Day. Go online to [givemn.org/organization/Wamm](http://givemn.org/organization/Wamm) or send donations directly to WAMM at the address on the back. FFI: 612-827-5364

### *Polly Mann's 100th Birthday Party*

Saturday, November 23, 2019. 2:00 to 4:00 p.m., Kenwood Isles Condominium, 1425 West 28th St, Minneapolis. See ad on the back. FFI: 612-827-5364.

### *December Coffee Hour*

Saturday, December 7, 2019. 9:30 to 11:00 a.m. Discussion on current events in the Americas sponsored by a group of WAMM members calling ourselves the Solidarity Committee on the Americas (SCOTA). Bagels and coffee provided. FFI: 612-827-5364.



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*You are invited!*

Please join with family and friends of W.A.M.M.'s co-founder Polly Mann to celebrate her 100th Birthday Saturday, November 23, 2019 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. at Kenwood Isles Condominium 1425 West 28th St. Minneapolis

In lieu of gifts, Polly asks you to send donations to Women Against Military Madness.  
**SPEAK TRUTH TO POWER!**