

2023

A YEAR OF RESISTANCE: A YEAR OF CHANGE

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“We annually spend on military security alone more than the net income of all United States corporations. Now this conjunction of an immense military establishment and a large arms industry is new in the American experience. The total influence — economic, political, even spiritual — is felt in every city, every statehouse, every office of the Federal government... we must not fail to comprehend its grave implications. Our toil, resources, and livelihood are all involved. So is the very structure of our society.

“In the councils of government, we must guard against the acquisition of unwarranted influence, whether sought or unsought, by the military-industrial complex.”

President Dwight D, Eisenhower, Farewell Speech (1961)

All too often we imagine that governments behave rationally in terms of the class interests they represent, but it has become obvious, that the behaviour of the current US government is irrational — at least in terms of representing the interests of the US capitalist class as a whole.

Three factors can be observed in terms of the internal contradictions leading to the rapidly increasing decline of US world dominance.

- 1) State-capture of the US government by the military-industrial complex as warned of by President Eisenhower in 1961. Reckless and unchecked military spending both on new armaments and the maintenance of around 800 military bases worldwide is unsustainable as is the quest for continuous war to support the arms industry.
- 2) The neoliberal agenda, which began in earnest in 1981 with the presidency of Ronald Reagan, had the initial success of bringing down socialism in Eastern Europe and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and led to a few people becoming immensely wealthy in a very short time. The economic face of neo-liberalism, monetarism, led to deregulation of the banks, this coupled with the computer revolution enabled rapid transfer of money around the world, and the advent of the casino economy. However economies are, in reality, based on production, not on money. In 2008 there was a crash of US financial institutions, and fearful that the crash would lead to a worldwide slump, the rest of the world bought US Treasury Bonds to prop up the dollar. That mistake is not being repeated in the present situation.
- 3) Never believe your own propaganda! The US control of the media internationally has given the US hierarchy an arrogant belief in its invincibility which is not born out by the realities either internationally or internally. Much of that belief in US ‘liberal values’ has rubbed off in Europe, influencing even the Communist Parties there. However, partly due to the Internet and partly due to what the population of most of the world has experienced, that media control is wearing thin and increasing numbers of people no longer trust the information they are fed, either in the US or the rest of the world.

This behaviour by the USA and its European satellites, coupled with a growing antipathy by most of the world towards 'US exceptionalism' has led to 2023 being the year in which we have seen the beginning of a major change in the world balance of forces.

The dysfunctionality of the US state machine became a subject of grim humour when in September 2023, US Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen went to China to beg them to stop selling off US Treasury Bonds and therefore help prop up the US dollar: simultaneously Secretary of State Antony Blinken was threatening China with war over Taiwan.

But it is the US/NATO War against Russia which is the nodal point of change around which all else revolves.



JOHN McCAIN ADDRESSES NAZI RALLY IN MAIDAN SQUARE KYIV

In 2014 John McCain and Victoria Nuland personally launched the Nazi coup from the Maidan Square in Kyiv, against the elected Ukrainian government, with McCain being a major speaker. (Note that in 2013 during the conflict with Syria, McCain had had close and cordial interaction with the leadership of the Islamic State.)

It was that coup which led to the intervention by Russia in 2022 and the continuing war which has led to a number of results unforeseen by the

US leadership, but leading to results which **were** foreseen by not only genuine Marxists, but also by the US liberal political analyst John Mearsheimer and the US conservative former military adviser to President Trump, Colonel Douglas MacGregor.

Mearsheimer was the first major commentator to ask why it was necessary to start a war against Russia when after the fall of the Soviet Union many US companies were operating inside Russia, whereas MacGregor recognised from the beginning that due to the threat created on its western border by the US and NATO would mean that Russia would never back down. He has, throughout this war, accurately described and assessed the military and political situation.

According to a recent article, the USA has spent, so far, 46.3 billion dollars on the Ukraine War. Most of this went into the pockets of the defence contractors. The US 'defence' i.e. military budget based on figures for 2022 was \$877 billion, more than the next 10 countries combined. China which had the second biggest budget was \$292 billion and Russia \$86.4 billion. The US National Debt is now more than \$33 trillion.

With growing inflation, poverty and homelessness and a decline in life expectancy in the USA, the American dream has disappeared for all but a handful. In Europe, Germany, France Italy and Britain are either in recession or close to it. The destruction of the Nord Stream gas pipeline from Russia to Germany by US special forces has destroyed the cheap form of energy which the formerly robust economy relied on. Unfortunately for the people of Europe, most of the continent has become a semi-colony of the USA and the political leaders are more concerned with following orders from Washington than in pursuing their own national interests.

BRICS

BRIC — Brazil, Russia, India, China was formed in 2010. In 2010, South Africa joined and it became BRICS, in 2012 this grouping for trade and mutual development agreed on the formation of the New Development Bank and by 2016, this became a reality.

The continuous weaponisation of the US dollar and the Bretton Woods institutions (World Bank, IMF) had long been a source of discontent. The seizure of the assets of Libya had been an irritation, but the seizure of Russian assets by the USA at the start of the conflict with Ukraine became the catalyst which made other countries wonder if they would be next.

Thus the 15th BRICS Conference held in South Africa in August 2023 became the turning point. This Conference became the focal point of resistance to the 'International Community' led by the USA and their control of the banking system and world resources.

Prior to the Conference more than 40 countries expressed interest in joining BRICS, of 26 countries which had applied to join the alliance, 6 have been immediately accepted and will join formally on 1st January 2024. These are



Argentina, Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, as these countries settle into the alliance it will be called BRICS+. Note that most of the world's oil supplies come from Russia, Saudi Arabia, Iran, UAE plus Venezuela which is currently being assisted by Russia and China.

In 2024, the process of establishing a new world trading currency to replace the US dollar will be put in place. Already countries have established bilateral trade agreements, are going back to gold or are using the Chinese Yuan. Currently more than half the world's trade is expressed in US dollars, but two years ago it was more than 70%.

Some have expressed doubts about the leadership of Mohammed bin Salman in Saudi Arabia, Abdel Fattah el-Sisi in Egypt and Narendra Modi in India, questioning if they are truly anti-imperialist. The answer is simple, individually they are reactionary in many ways. Not nice people. But the fact that such people have led their countries into BRICS is a clear indication of changing world conditions. They are forced to join the anti-imperialist camp whether they like it or not.

AFRICA

For Africa the year was important. Of the ten BRICS+ countries, 3 are in Africa, South Africa, Egypt and Ethiopia. In June this year, an African peace delegation travelled to Ukraine and Russia led by President Ramaphosa of South Africa; when the two South African planes carrying President Ramaphosa and his entourage reached Poland *en route* to Kyiv and Moscow, they were held at the airport. The plane carrying security and media personnel was detained for 21 hours on the tarmac. President Ramaphosa travelled on without his bodyguard or media detachment. The Poles exposed their own arrogant racism, any bias towards Russia held by some African countries was strengthened.

From 26th-28th July the Second Russia-Africa Summit was held in Moscow. The most noteworthy speech there was made by young President Ibrahim Traore of Burkina Faso.

Here are some excerpts:

“We are here together because we are here to talk about the future of our peoples, about what is going to happen tomorrow, about this free world to which we aspire, this world without interference in our internal affairs...”

“...we do not understand how Africa, with so much wealth on our soil, with generous nature, water, sunshine in abundance — how Africa is today the poorest continent. Africa is a hungry continent.”



“Our predecessors taught us one thing: a slave who cannot assume his own revolt does not deserve to be pitied. We do not feel sorry for ourselves, we do not ask anyone to feel sorry for us. The people of Burkina Faso have decided to fight, to fight against terrorism, in order to relaunch their development.”

“Yesterday, President Vladimir Putin announced that he would be sending grain to Africa. We are very pleased. We thank him for that. But it’s also a message to our African heads of state. Because at the next forum, we cannot come here without ensuring... that our people are self-sufficient in food.”

The *Declaration of the Second Africa-Russia Summit* renewed the Russian commitment to African freedom which the traitor Gorbachev had renounced in the late 1980s. Here is part of the preamble:

Reaffirming the need to jointly oppose neo-colonialism, imposing conditions and double standards while not allowing these practices to deprive States and peoples of the right to make sovereign choices of their development paths;

Committed to the fundamental principles and purposes of the United Nations Charter, subscribing to safeguarding and upholding international law and emphasizing the need for the adherence thereto by all States;

Confirming the shared responsibility of the Russian Federation and African States for shaping a just and stable world order based on the principles of sovereign equality of States, non-interference in their internal affairs, respect for sovereignty, territorial integrity and the right of all peoples to self-determination...

As the Summit began, news came that there was a military coup taking place in Niger against the French-controlled government. ECOWAS, the Economic Community of West African States threatened to invade on behalf of France. But the people of Nigeria, which lies immediately south of Niger refused, especially those close to the border belonging to the same ethnic groups as the people of Niger. Bola Tinubu, had only been elected President of Nigeria in May 2023 with only 37% of votes in a 27% turnout — even then his victory was being contested. Many Nigerians on social media were saying, “We want the army to try to start war against Niger — because then we will organise our own coup.” [\[Note to printer: Someone from Niger is Nigerien, someone from Nigeria is Nigerian\]](#)

So why was France more upset about the coup in Niger than in other Francophone countries?

Niger was the main supplier of uranium to France for its electricity supply.

In September 2023, Niger, Burkina Faso and Mali established the Alliance of Sahel States and are receiving economic assistance from Russia. Niger has now built a massive solar panel farm. We can

reasonably assume that Nigeria's position on Niger influenced the decision of BRICS not to accept it as a member — at least not at this stage.

The break-up of French power in West Africa is of enormous importance to the African continent. Most of the Francophone countries were independent in name only, French colonial control is still a major factor in much of West and Central Africa.

Recent Developments

Latest news says that Russia is advancing in Ukraine as the USA shifts its attention towards supporting Israeli genocide against the Palestinians which is not only happening in the well-publicised destruction of Gaza, but also on the West Bank. Finally, world opinion has turned against the apartheid settler State of Israel.

Bewildered Americans and Europeans are wondering why so many immigrants are arriving in their countries. Right-wing Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni had it right when she attacked French President Emmanuel Macron:



“Disgusting is France that continues to exploit Africa by printing money to 14 African countries, charging them mint fees, and by children labour in the mines and by extracting raw material, as is happening in Niger.

“Where France extracts 30 per cent of the uranium it needs to run its nuclear reactors, while 90 per cent of Niger's population lives without electricity.

“Do not come to teach us lessons, Macron, the Africans are abandoning their continent because of you.”

The same applies to the destruction of Syria and of Afghanistan together with continuous destabilisation of Latin America. Right now the world is in a state of change — not yet socialist change, there are still many complications — but the old world order is dying.

Whether or not we see the development of a new form of imperialism or whether we begin the transition to socialism depends on the conscious organisation and activity of the Communist Parties and other progressive forces. The conditions under which the class struggle takes place are rapidly changing for the better.