

Journal Of The Anti-Bases Campaign

December 2025

Number 70

MASTERS OF WAR



In this issue: Aerospace Summit Protest; US, Gaza, Ukraine; Geopolitics & An Emerging Multipolar World; *Spooky Bits*; Australia's Role In Israel's War On Gaza; China & Taiwan; Trump's Administration; "Clown World" Review; Hannah Middleton Obituary

In this Issue ...

2 Aerospace Summit Protest 2025.
More Than 30 Arrested At Blockade
By Murray Horton

4 Masters of War
By Murray Horton

9 The Non-Lethal Lie. Australia's Role In
Israel's War On Gaza
By Joe Hendren

13 *Spooky Bits*
By Warren Thomson

19 Understanding China And Taiwan
By Greg Waite

21 Trump's Administration. Clowns,
Ideologues, Incompetents & The
Corrupt, Threaten To Turn World Upside
Down
By Warren Thomson

26 As The Western Alliance Fractures A
Multipolar World Dawns
By Kay Weir

38 *Review*—*By Greg Waite*
"Clown World. Four Years In
side Andrew Tate's Mano-
sphere" by Jamie Tahsin &
Matt Shea

40 *Obituary* by Murray Horton
Hannah Middleton

Cover: Graphic by Ian Dalziel

Published by
Anti-Bases Campaign
Box 2258, Christchurch, 8140, New
Zealand
abc@chch.planet.org.nz
www.converge.org.nz/abc
https://www.facebook.com/
AotearoaABC

Aerospace Summit Protest 2025

More Than 30 Arrested At Blockade

Murray Horton



The NZ Aerospace Summit has been held annually since 2022 at Te Pae (Christchurch's convention centre) and every year there has been a protest, starting with a very modest picket by the Anti-Bases Campaign (ABC) in 2022, and then just growing bigger and more militant as more people and groups have got involved – climate change activists, anti-Gaza War activists, and the recently founded Peace Action Ōtautahi.

The October 2025 protest was the biggest and most militant so far. Peace Action Ōtautahi announced in advance it was going to blockade the Summit on its second (and final) day and called for volunteers, including those prepared to get arrested. More than 100 people turned up, including ABC members, and large numbers of people blockaded the main entrance. The police response was a mixture of heavy handedness and non-violent tactics.

In all, more than 30 people were arrested, which is, by far, the biggest number of arrests at an anti-war protest for decades. Mass arrests always get major media coverage (as ABC knows well from our years of mass arrest actions at the Waihopai spy base in the 1980s and 90s) and the blockade succeeded spectacularly in that respect.

The protests (there was a non-arrestable one on the first day of the Summit) were aimed at several targets – Judith Collins, Minister of Defence, who attended in person; Rocket Lab and its CEO, Peter Beck (who spoke to the Summit by video link); and the rapidly growing ties between the military (local and overseas, principally the US) and the NZ aerospace industry. The Summit is always held in Christchurch because Canterbury is touting itself as "NZ's aerospace province". The following is from Peace Action Ōtautahi.

Why The Aerospace Summit?

Space is cool, we agree. But it's dangerous to think that's all the aerospace industry is. Nearly every company produces what's known as dual use tech - that's technology that has both civilian and military uses; though in reality has nearly sole military applications. And that's technology our Government and aerospace industry are more than happy to develop and launch - to the tune of billions of dollars.

For example, if a company develops aerial imaging technology that can attach to satellites, they can put a little bit of effort into tweaking it for the identification and



Joseph Bray, Peace Action Ōtautahi.

monitoring of wildfires - or for mapping changes in coastal erosion over time. But what they've really developed that technology for is selling to the US and Israeli militaries so they can monitor civilian populations in Gaza and inform missile strikes. Only one of those options gets that company the most money and the biggest contracts, while they still get to hide behind the pretence of dual use. Being the good guy doesn't pay, especially when your clients are the biggest militaries and defence companies in the world.

And that's not a fake example. It's not embellished or hyperbolic. That's exactly the technology that the company BlackSky makes. And that's exactly the technology that Rocket Lab launches from Mahia Peninsula in the North Island (and why they've been referred to the International Criminal Court). The technology that Israel uses to target civilians in Gaza, the technology that they use to target hospitals, schools, and universities - to commit genocide. Launched from New Zealand.

Our aerospace industry tries to take the moral position by ruling out launching tech with sole military use, but that's only a minor part of the sector. Our Government and domestic aerospace companies wholeheartedly embrace (and virulently defend) dual use technologies. But there is no balance to be found between that which saves and that which kills. There is no middle ground when one of those outcomes is genocide. Aotearoa must state in no uncertain terms that technology capable of death and mass destruction has no place on our shores. Our aerospace industry can't hide behind

the façade of "space exploration" and use dual use labels to justify war profiteering. We must end our complicity now...

So, What Are We Blockading?

The National Aerospace Summit 2025 is the largest aerospace conference in New Zealand - many of the most influential (and vile) characters come from around the country and the world to spend two days presenting, networking, peddling their "dual use technology". Each year it is hosted at Te Pae Convention Centre in Ōtautahi Christchurch, and each year the protest surrounding the event dramatically increases. The first day consists of focus sessions and general networking, but (the second day) is Summit Day where the main speakers and events take place.

The Aerospace Summit 2025 has the theme of "Open Skies, unlocking the future of aerospace, innovation, and sustainability". We anticipate much of the discussion will surround the NZ Defence Force's planned purchase of \$450 million of unmanned "killer drones", and who is going to get those contracts. The alarming increase in defence spending and the Minister for Defence's presence at the summit mean that military discussions aren't just on the table, they're the whole reason for it.

Who Are We Blockading?

... Minister of Defence/Minister for Space Judith Collins, and Rocket Lab CEO Peter Beck. Both have been referred to the International

Criminal Court for their complicity in and knowing support of Israel's genocide of Gaza through the launch of BlackSky satellites in Mahia. Also, there is Mark Rocket (President of Aerospace New Zealand), Isaac Henderson (Chair of UAVNZ, the uncrewed aircraft body), Wisk Aerospace (a Boeing subsidiary), Nova Systems (international defence contractor), Blue Origin (Jeff Bezos' space company), and NASA delegates.

Extract From ABC's Leaflet For The Protest

Rocket Lab is the poster child of NZ's burgeoning aerospace industry (and a major sponsor of the Summit). What started as a little Kiwi start up is now just the NZ subsidiary of a US company, one which is fully embedded into the American militarisation of space. It operates two rocket launch sites, in NZ (Mahia Peninsula) and the US, launching satellites for the US military and spy agencies. It is providing rockets for the US and UK to test hypersonic missiles.

And the NZ aerospace industry is no longer just Rocket Lab. Canterbury is aiming to be NZ's "aerospace province". The Tāwhaki National Aerospace Centre has a runway on Kaitorete Spit, on Banks Peninsula. Local company Dawn Aerospace has developed an uncrewed plane which can fly to the edge of space and has developed working relationships with the US and European militaries.

Masters Of War

Murray Horton

Trump

Fortunately for the world, the current Commander in Chief of the world's most powerful military has the attention span of Homer Simpson and hasn't got either the patience or the intelligence to be a real Grade A warmonger. He prides himself on being a deal maker and the adrenaline rush in that is the quick result (and usually a handsome profit). Laughably, he lusts after the Nobel Peace Prize. As a warmonger, he goes for the gesture, not for the agony of a drawn-out war. So, in his first term, he murdered the head of Iran's Revolutionary Guard and dropped the world's biggest conventional bomb on Afghanistan – and that was pretty much it.

In this term, he has killed a few unfortunates on Venezuelan speedboats; he has sent the US military to attack Yemen; and, most seriously, allowed himself to be suckered by Netanyahu into joining the unprovoked Israeli bombing of Iran in 2025. Trump would never have the stomach for the protracted war that Putin is, not very successfully, waging in Ukraine.

He was originally elected in 2016 on a promise of no more “forever wars”, such as Afghanistan and Iraq (or Vietnam), and he has stuck to that. Indeed, he deserves credit for brokering deals to end more than one war in 2025, such as the flare-up between India and Pakistan. His feeling of kinship with autocrats led to him being the US President who came the closest to actually making a deal with North Korea during his first term (but he didn't have the patience to continue working on a problem that dates back to World War 2).

But if Trump isn't actually using war to enforce the interests of the American Empire, he is certainly threatening to, openly, outrageously and menacingly. Evidence – the threat to use force, overt and/or covert against Venezuela; the threat to repossess the Panama Canal; the



NZ Herald 28.10.2025

threat to annex Greenland from America's NATO ally Denmark; and, most outrageously, the threat to annex Canada, the closest friend, neighbour and ally of the US (tellingly, none of these things has remotely looked like actually happening).

A Naked Imperialist

Actually, I don't want to think about Donald Trump naked – I'd go blind from all the orange. He is an imperialist from the world of business, not politics or ideology. His imperialism is strictly transactional – unlike Biden he won't supply weapons and intelligence to Ukraine, he'll sell them, and demand Ukraine's stock of rare earth minerals in exchange. He uses tariffs as a crude weapon in place of international trade negotiations and agreements.

Although Trump doesn't have the stamina or appetite for protracted war, he's quite happy to provide the wherewithal for others to do so. Exhibit A – Israel's genocide in Gaza, coupled with its ever expanding mini-imperialism in its neighbourhood and beyond. None of that would be possible without an endless flow of American weapons and the provision of diplomatic cover at international institutions such as the United Nations Security Council.

Trump has taken it to another level by musing about kicking out all the Palestinians from Gaza and turning the wretched place into a resort, no doubt to the profit of his family businesses. I'll discuss Gaza when writing about warmonger Netanyahu (see below). In fairness to Trump, all US Presidents, bar none, have provided unconditional support for Israel and armed it to the teeth. In relation to Israel, Biden was more of a warmonger than Trump and didn't even attempt a Gaza ceasefire deal (we'll see how Trump's one works out).

Trump is a bullshit artist, a blowhard and a bully. Like all bullies he likes to throw his weight around against those he perceives as easy pickings. So, he has sent troops and the National Guard into American cities (but only those governed by Democrats); he has weaponised immigration raids and mass deportations; he has attacked the media, universities, the courts and gutted the public service; his policies have targeted women, migrants, and the poor while making his robber baron cronies even richer.

His political philosophy, if he can be said to have one, is plutocracy, with him, his family and America's oligarchs at the top of the pyramid. It is gangster capitalism, a model which the Mafia would recognise.

He has directed the State to vilify, attack and prosecute his enemies, including erstwhile allies. As a would-be dictator, he understands that his greatest threat is not external.

It is not China, or Iran or Venezuela – they are just the useful enemies that the American Empire must have to justify its obscene military spending and permanent preparation for war (just the names of these enemies change from one decade to the next). No, Trump understands that his greatest threat is internal, it is the American people, they are the enemy who must be deceived and/or intimidated. Trump's real enemy is democracy, which is why he is ceaselessly waging war on it, on many fronts simultaneously.

Putin

Now this guy is a Grade A war-monger, just not a very successful one. Let's start with the obvious: Vladimir Putin is a would-be tyrant, who takes a ruthless approach to squashing any domestic opposition, intimidating, beating and imprisoning anyone who dares to speak up. More than that, he is a murderer,

firstly at the individual level with his choice of lethal nerve agents as the murder weapon.

And, secondly, at the international level, with missiles, rockets, bombs and shells. Plus, Putin threatens global mass murder by putting the nuclear card on the table. He has achieved Russian foreign policy aims by operating at arms' length in regions like north and west Africa, by using Russian mercenaries and private military companies.

Another Imperialist

Putin is an imperialist who, echoing his mate Trump, wants to Make Russia Great Again. Or, indeed, to bring the Soviet Union back from the dead. He has publicly said that the collapse of the Soviet Union was the greatest tragedy of the 20th Century. Unlike Trump (so far, anyway) Putin has actually followed through on his threats to build a Russian empire, namely by his invasion of Ukraine. Putin's Russia has previous form in flattening cities, bombing schools and hospitals, etc. The modus operandi of the Russian military seems to be that if they can't actually win any battles

or capture any territory, they'll destroy as much of their enemy's country as possible.

The Second Chechen War led to its capital, Grozny, having the unwanted title as the most destroyed city on Earth. Putin and his fellow mass murderer, Assad, flattened cities like Aleppo in Syria, including hospitals. Of course, the Syrian civil war spectacularly ended in 2024 with the stunning victory of the Islamic rebels, who now comprise the Government (on the global level, the defeat and ousting of the monstrous Assad regime of murderers, torturers and thieves was the highlight of 2024 for me).

Putin is a pragmatic practitioner of realpolitik. On the one hand, Russia provided a refuge for Assad and his family; on the other hand, it is cultivating a relationship with Syria's new rulers. Why? Because Russia has vital interests there, namely an air base and a naval base (which illustrates the Anti-Bases Campaign's point that foreign military bases play a key, destabilising, role in the internal affairs of their "host" nations).



NZ Herald, 19.3.22

But it is Ukraine which will be Putin's legacy war. And the verdict is not very favourable for him thus far. Europe is afraid of what he will do next but I think Europeans overrate him. I have no doubt he'd love to restore the Soviet Union, or even the Russian Empire but, on the evidence of Ukraine, he's not up to the job. I doubt that he could conquer Estonia, let alone Germany.

He is using very old tactics from bygone wars to fight a modern one – a combination of mass slaughter of his own troops a la WW1 trench warfare, tanks and artillery, plus terrorising cities, civilians (including lots of children) and infrastructure with the modern equivalents of V1 and V2 rockets a la WW2. Ukraine is the one waging modern war, particularly with cutting edge drones, aided by deep-pocketed Western help. NATO is happy to fight to the last Ukrainian, with no politically costly body bags coming home to European countries.

To give just one example of Ukrainian ingenuity - obliterating bombers parked up in Irkutsk, in Siberia. That's an impressively long way from Ukraine. It is perfectly achievable for small and nimble to defeat huge and lumbering. Ask the Americans how the Vietnam War worked out for them. David and Goliath and all that. Putin has the capacity to cause an awful lot of death, destruction and misery, but he's no conqueror. This is not WW2 with the Red Army sweeping through Germany to Berlin. The Russians couldn't even subjugate Afghanistan (and neither could the Americans, with all their NATO mates, plus little old NZ).

Godsend For Merchants Of Death

Ukraine is seen as a godsend by US arms manufacturers to lean on their European politician clients to massively increase military spending (i.e. buying US weapons), upping that to 5% of gross domestic product (GDP). Here in NZ, we are being fed a similar diet of bullshit, only the cry is "the Chinese are coming" (inconveniently, they are NZ's biggest trading partner) and the Government wants to double defence spending to 2% of GDP. It's the old Yellow Peril, all over again.

Putin made an attempt at a quick and painless victory by initially seeking to capture Kyiv within a few days

in 2022. That badly backfired because the Russians did not do the groundwork necessary to pull off Invasion 101 – have your supply lines and logistics all sorted out in advance. Obviously, Putin expected things to go as per the 1968 script when the Soviet Union sent the tanks into Warsaw Pact ally Czechoslovakia, encountered only non-violent resistance, very quickly overthrew the vaguely liberal Government and had the country's arrested leader flown to Moscow in handcuffs.

That scenario has very definitely not been repeated in Ukraine. The Russians ground to a halt, lost momentum and the Ukrainians, in their role as Western proxies, were able to successfully fight back and, indeed, take the fight back over the border into Russia. On the evidence so far, Vlad the Invader couldn't organise a pissup in a brewery. This has become a stalemate war that has already dragged on for years, with accompanying massive death and destruction (it reminds me of the 1980-88 Iran-Iraq War).

Trump fancies himself as a dealmaker and lusts for the accolade of peacemaker. But he can't achieve any leverage over Putin, who plays him like a fiddle. Putin is happy to be courted by Trump (who blithely ignores the International Criminal Court arrest warrant out for Putin; ditto for Netanyahu), including on American soil. But he gives the Americans nothing, because he's playing a game with different rules.

Ukraine is far from blameless in all of this sorry mess. Rather than go over it all again, I refer you to my earlier article "Ukraine War. Brute Strength And Ignorance" (*Peace Researcher* 63, June 2022) <https://www.converge.org.nz/abc/pr/pr-backissues/PR63.pdf> for the less attractive features of "heroic little Ukraine" that the Western media now finds it politic to ignore.

I don't seek to justify Putin's war of aggression and terrorism on Ukraine but to explain how we got to where we are now. When the Soviet Union and its ossified brand of so-called communism collapsed 30+ years ago, that was the perfect opportunity for the West to step in and lend a helping hand to build a functioning democratic capitalist

country - as the victorious Allies did with the Marshall Plan in Germany and Japan after WW2.

But, no, the "winner" West decided to humiliate the "loser" Russia, to rub its face in the shit and to join the systematic looting of the resulting gangster economy - which is where the "oligarchs" came from (funnily enough, the likes of Bezos, Musk and Gates are not called oligarchs. Their New Zealand counterparts are approvingly called "rich listers" by the corporate media here).

They hadn't learned from the past - after WW1, the victorious Allies bankrupted and humiliated Germany. The result? Hitler. 1990s' Russia morphed from being led by international laughing stock Boozie Boris Yeltsin to being taken very seriously indeed under Vladimir Putin, a KGB killer with a big chip on his shoulder. Nobody's laughing at Russia now.

NATO is front and centre in the Ukraine War. But it should have ceased to exist in the 1990s as the Warsaw Pact did, when "we won" the Cold War. There was no further reason for its existence. But, no, it kept going and it kept expanding, looking for wars to fight to justify its existence - the former Yugoslavia, Libya, Afghanistan. Getting further and further away from Europe and the "North Atlantic". It has set out to be a global geopolitical bloc - even NZ has some sort of non-NATO-member-but-ally status.

A Forever War

NATO relentlessly set out to confront, contain and provoke Russia, a country with traumatic memories of invasion from the West, pushing right up to its borders, poking and prodding the paranoid bear until it lashed out and Ukraine is paying the price. Politicians, generals and arms dealers need an enemy to justify their continued existence - Russia fits the bill admirably.

Occasionally the Western media now mentions in passing that the West broke its promise to Soviet leader, Mikhail Gorbachev, to not expand NATO eastwards by "one inch" - that was the terms on which he removed Russian troops from Germany, allowing its peaceful reunification, one of the highlights of 20th Century history. But Russia was lied to and betrayed, and Putin is not one to forget or let go of a grudge.

Ukraine has all the hallmarks of a forever war (its' opening shot was the 2014 Russian repossession of Crimea but it roared into a full-throated bloodbath in 2022). I fear that it will drag on for years and if a ceasefire is achieved, that won't solve the underlying causes. Korea has had a ceasefire since 1953 and there has been no attempt to take that one any further. Putin has a lot to answer for but equally so does the West and its Ukrainian proxy. To sort this out will require big picture vision and Putin and his numerous adversaries are not up to that task.

Netanyahu

He is the Big Daddy of warmongers, both in his own right and also in active connivance with the US. If Hamas is a terrorist organisation, then Israel is a terrorist state. If one has committed atrocities, the other is committing genocide. The keyword here is disproportionality. Yes, Israel is entitled to defend itself. But so is Palestine, specifically Gaza, which has been used as a real-world testing ground for Israeli weapons and surveillance systems ever since Hamas won the 2006 election that brought it to power in Gaza.

The West is fed a constant diet of soothing noises about "surgical strikes" and "smart bombs", which is all just so much bullshit. The world sees that the reality is massive death and destruction. If Israel really was "smart", then it might have won the allegiance of some of Gaza's people (there were never going to be cheering crowds throwing flowers onto Israel's conquering troops. The best Israel could do was to back and arm some local Gazan clans against Hamas, in an attempt to divide and conquer. When some of them were captured by Hamas, they suffered the fate of collaborators and traitors in all wars – they were shot).

Instead, Israel declared that its war was against all Gazans, that they are all the enemy, that they are sub-humans, and it is a war of annihilation. Despite their worst efforts, the Israeli military has still not won - whatever "won" means in this context. Hamas has neither surrendered nor been exterminated. I'd say Israel's methods have guaranteed a fresh supply of Hamas recruits and Hamas remains in control of Gaza. So much for Israeli/US fantasies of driving all the Palestinians out of Gaza, let alone the hallucina-

tion of turning it into a resort (what would they call it? Genocideland?).

Committing Genocide With Impunity

Because Israel can count on the unquestioning support of the US, other major Western governments, such as Germany and the UK and a supine Western media, it knows it can commit genocide with impunity. Mass murder in broad daylight and in plain sight. It got such a fright from the successful Hamas surprise attack in October 2023 that it reacted with an all-consuming blood lust, killing everyone in its path in Gaza. It has killed its own hostages, by accident or design; it has murdered record numbers of women and children; civilians; aid workers; health workers; journalists and UN staff.

It has weaponised the withholding of desperately needed humanitarian aid and deliberately induced mass starvation. It has systematically destroyed hospitals, schools, universities, mosques, homes, etc., etc; to make Gaza unliveable for the foreseeable future. In some cases, it tried to concoct a cover story - "Hamas had a control centre and/or tunnels under this hospital". It gave up on that because it realised it didn't have to pretend - it could do anything it liked without consequences, provoking only the feeblest of tut-tutting from its Western allies who bankroll and arm it, to the tune of billions of dollars per year. So much for "the international rules-based order" that they tirelessly, and lyingly, pontificate about.



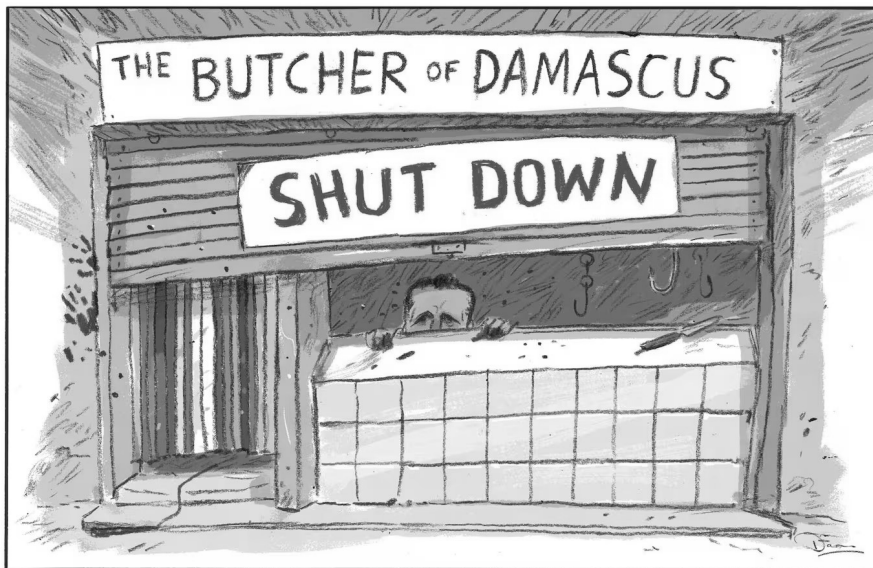
The Press , 23.11.24

It is plainly obvious that the Israeli military are mass murderers. They are also liars - they repeatedly ordered Gazans to relocate to "safe zones", which then made them easier to attack and murder. And their chosen method is to murder a defenceless civilian population from the air (a tactic favoured by their American accomplices in their various wars in recent decades). So, they are also cowards.

A War Of Obliteration & Annihilation

The West has always swooned with admiration at Israel's ingenuity at murder. The use of exploding paggers to kill or maim large numbers of Hezbollah members (and bystanders) in Lebanon is a perfect case in point. But this current war has been less about murderous ingenuity and a whole lot more about mass murder, a war of obliteration and annihilation (as an aside, the "ingenuity" argument is never applied when the murders are directed against "us". The Western media did not admiringly swoon at the murderously ingenious hijacking of several passenger jets full of innocent people to turn them into missiles against the US in September 2001).

Netanyahu has been responsible for the murder so many children in the Middle East that he deserves to be called the modern King Herod. He has the murderer's logic. Usually, murderers kill others present, including kids, to eliminate witnesses. Israel is not worried about witnesses, as it is committing genocide in broad daylight and with impunity. It wants the whole world to witness its' crimes. No, it wants to murder Palestinian kids to wipe out the next generation and to eliminate the



NZ Herald, 10.12.24

threat of that next generation of kids growing up seeking revenge for the mass murder of their parents and families. It is most brutally and succinctly expressed in a line from Bob Marley's "I Shot The Sheriff" – "kill them before they grow".

Israel is a bully, both domestically and regionally. A heavily militarised bully which wages continual war, both internally and regionally. Armed to the teeth and politically sheltered by the US superpower, it recklessly launched an unprovoked attack on Iran in 2025, in order to successfully draw in the US. It has waged war with impunity not just in Gaza and the Occupied West Bank but also in Lebanon, Syria, Iran and Yemen.

It functions as an imperial outpost of the West, specifically the US. But in 2025 it overreached itself by directly attacking Qatar, a key US ally in the Arab world, one which hosts the biggest US base in the region. To add insult to injury, the attack failed to kill the Hamas negotiating team that was its' target (it had previously systematically murdered Hamas leaders and negotiators in a number of countries). This proved too much for Trump, whose limitless ego did not take kindly to being portrayed as the dog being wagged by the tail). He set in motion the process to achieve the decidedly imperfect ceasefire, one which has been accurately described as Israel dictating "you cease, we fire".

Israel is a state governed by Zionism, an inherently racist and terrorist ideology, it is an apartheid state on the same model as the former white-

ruled South Africa. It is a state currently governed by the extreme Right and headed by a corrupt Prime Minister who is a literal criminal (in addition to being a war criminal wanted by the International Criminal Court), one who is keen to keep the Gaza War going indefinitely in order to postpone his various criminal trials. It is a lawless state which arms and protects vigilante settlers and lets them rob, starve, terrorise and murder Palestinians with impunity.

Yes, Israel has got a problem neighbour in Hamas. Any country is entitled to defend itself against being regularly attacked by barrages of low-grade rockets. But Israel's response has always been disproportionate and the most recent response is the most disproportionate of all. Just as Israel is entitled to defend itself, so is Palestine. Israel will not achieve peace by military means - it will have to be a political solution. Above all, Israel, the US and its' fellow accomplices and enablers of genocide (which includes New Zealand) have to recognise that old truism: no justice, no peace.

It's Not All Bad News

These three warmongers have undoubtedly wrought death and destruction on a colossal scale but they have not won. Trump has not tried to even start on any of his declared imperialist projects, nor has he succeeded in destroying American democracy. Indeed, he has succeeded in stirring up massive opposition among the American people.

Putin has quashed internal opposition but Russia has signally failed to conquer Ukraine. Despite his worst efforts, Netanyahu has not succeeded in exterminating, dispossessing or expelling Gaza's Palestinians. Hamas is still standing, and he faces major opposition on the streets of Israel (although it is wishful thinking that any successor Government will hand him over to the International Criminal Court).

Plenty To Be Hopeful About: Examples

We in the West view the world too much through an Americentric or Eurocentric lens. I can think of three very positive developments for democracy that happened in 2024. The politicians and public of South Korea heroically defeated an attempt by their lunatic President to impose martial law (something that country has suffered from before). What's more, they drove that President from office, put him before a court and then elected a new progressive President committed to democracy.

The students and public of Bangladesh defied bullets and terror to overthrow a long-entrenched dictatorship and replace it with a new model of government. And, most hopefully, the sudden and almost bloodless defeat of the vile genocidal Assad dictatorship and the building of a new political system and new society in Syria.

This was all done by people stigmatised by the West as "terrorists" (and all while Israel, the West's favourite terrorist state, goes about attacking Syria and stealing its land). In recent years there have been the "Gen Z protests" around the world, which in 2025 toppled governments in Nepal and Madagascar. So, it's not all about Trump and Putin and Netanyahu. That's plenty more to the world than those three criminals. And plenty to be hopeful about.

The Non-Lethal Lie

Australia's Role In Israel's War On Gaza

Joe Hendren

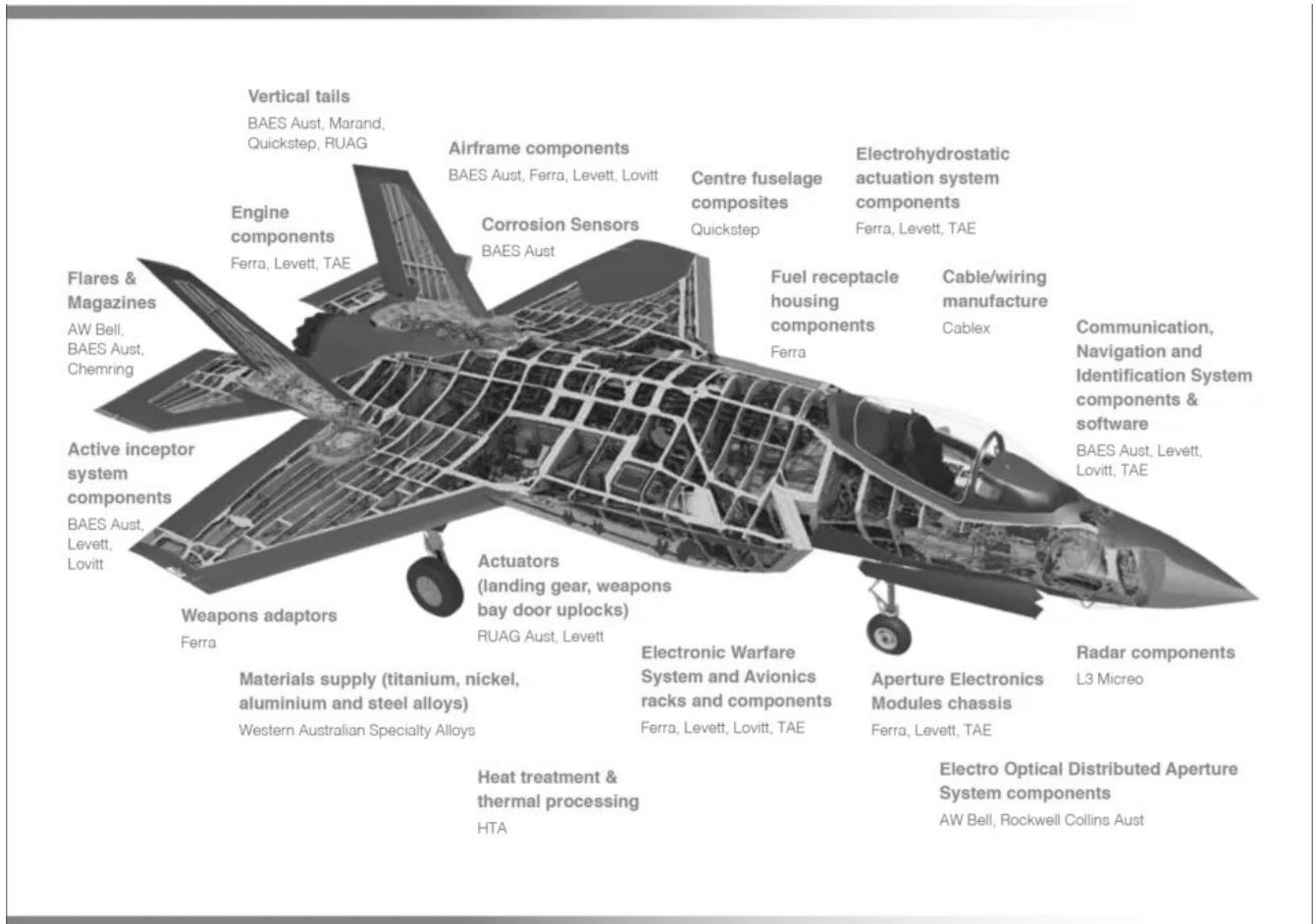
<http://joe hendren.substack.com>

In the previous issue of *Peace Researcher* (issue 69, July 2025, <https://www.converge.org.nz/abc/pr/pr-backissues/PR69.pdf>) I examined how the UK government is enabling genocide in Gaza. In this follow up article, I look at the contribution of Australia, alongside the September 2025 decision of the Albanese government to recognise the State of Palestine, to the fury of the Israeli government.

same hope that sustained generations of Jewish people”.

Nice-sounding words, Mr Albanese. One can imagine many Palestinians asking why so many Australian exports continue to fly over their homes, attached to Israeli F-35 jets that Israel uses to carry out a genocide. They might also point out that they had homes in Palestine for generations before 1948, when

“We should remember that they waited through two years of Israeli genocide, which has killed at least 65,000 Palestinians, before voting in favour of a Palestinian state. They were similarly oblivious to the Palestinian right to self-determination during the years of Israeli and Egyptian-imposed military siege in Gaza before October 7, 2023. They did nothing to quell the ever-expanding illegal settlement movement in the occupied West Bank or the sharp increase in



A 2018 diagram from an Australian Government Department of Defence publication, “F-35 Australian Industry Participation: The Journey To \$1 Billion”, showed parts supplied by Australian manufacturers. The document, cited by *Declassified Australia*, is now only available via the *Wayback Machine*

At the United Nations headquarters in New York, Australian Prime Minister, Anthony Albanese said: “In recognising Palestine, Australia recognises the legitimate and long-held aspirations of the Palestinian people. That means more than a seat, a voice, and a vote in the councils of the world. It means real hope for a place they can call home. This is the

Israel came into being. Prior to October 7, 2023, 138 of the 193 United Nations member states officially recognised Palestine. In September 2025, they were joined by the United Kingdom, Australia, Canada, France, Portugal, Malta and Belgium. However, as Somedeep Sen noted, these countries have no claim to the moral high ground.

settler violence. In fact, they have done nothing to support the Palestinian right to self-determination since 1948. So, why should this time be any different?”

"In fact, it is not different at all. As a scholar of international law, Noura Erakat recently told Al Jazeera, "It is way too little, far too late." And these declarations are only meant to distract from the fact that many of these countries have financially and militarily enabled Israel to carry out its genocide" – Somedee Sen.

While the growing number of countries recognising Palestinian statehood is welcome, one could also be forgiven for wondering whether this recognition also serves as a "weapon of mass distraction" as Western countries continue to supply weapons to Israel and steadfastly reject calls from civil society for meaningful sanctions.

Australia coordinated its official recognition of Palestine to coincide with similar declarations from Canada and the United Kingdom. It is worth recalling that these same countries refused to recognise Palestine for decades, and only began discussing recognition when their fabled "two-state solution" appeared to be at risk. Recognition then became a diplomatic device - both to punish Israel for refusing to agree to a ceasefire and to impose conditions on Palestinian recognition that effectively prioritised Israel's security.

Australia required the Palestinian Authority to restate its recognition of Israel's right to exist and undertake several reforms, including demilitarisation. The statement by Albanese and the Australian Minister of Foreign Affairs, Penny Wong, declared that Hamas could have no role in a future Palestinian state and called for the immediate, unconditional release of the Israeli hostages taken on October 7, 2023. There was no equivalent call for the release of the 3,544 detainees held by Israel without trial, the vast majority of whom are Palestinians. *Administrative detention* is hostage-taking in all but name.

"Non-Lethal" Weapons Are A Fiction

While Australia's recognition of Palestinian statehood is welcome, it is important to note that even this would not have occurred without community pressure. On 3 August

2025, nearly 100,000 people walked across the Sydney Harbour Bridge in a "March for Humanity", calling for an end to the genocide in Gaza. The previous week, Australia's Labor government faced scrutiny in the Senate over its reluctance to hold Israel to account.

On 28 July 2025, Foreign Minister Wong, faced questions concerning Labor's decision to continue supplying parts for the F-35 fighter jets Israel is using to bomb Gaza. This followed a report from *Declassified Australia* claiming that the Royal Australian Air Force exported F-35 parts directly to Israel. In response to a question in the Senate from the Australian Greens defence spokesperson, David Shoebridge, Wong attempted to deflect accusations that the Australian government is enabling genocide in Gaza by claiming that Australia only "contributes components and parts that are non-lethal in nature".

Wong's claim defies logic and undermines her credibility. Are weapons bay door uplocks, flares and magazines, active interceptor systems, electronic warfare systems and weapons adaptors "non-lethal parts"? Of course not. Any aircraft part that keeps an F-35 jet operational enables its use – and in Gaza, that means enabling genocide. Shahd Hammouri, from Al-Shabaka - The Palestinian Policy Network, highlights how Germany operates different legal regimes for lethal and non-lethal weapons, where components can be classed as "non-lethal". She notes that "Oxfam researchers have warned since 2005 such distinctions are flawed and do not align with international law".

Imagine you are selling sticks of dynamite but are warned that a customer may use them to carry out a terrorist act (for example, the *Rainbow Warrior* bombing). Would it be credible to sell only the fuse, arguing that it cannot go "boom" on its own? No. Following the use of the dynamite in a terrorist incident, most people would consider the supplier of the fuse morally - and potentially legally - culpable. Even if you refused to sell dynamite in its assembled form, knowing that the buyer could obtain the other components elsewhere would still leave you partially responsible. This is why most countries, including Australia, have laws restricting the export of weapons and associ-

ated technology. Multilateral treaties such as the UN Arms Trade Treaty (ATT), aim to establish international standards governing arms transfers.

"Under Article 6 of the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT), to which Australia is a party, States are prohibited from authorising arms transfers that would violate international obligations, including where the exporting state has knowledge that the arms would be used in genocide, crimes against humanity, or certain war crimes. Supplying components that facilitate such acts may result in legal liability for both States and corporations. F-35s have been repeatedly used by Israeli Forces in airstrikes on designated safe zones in Gaza, killing tens of thousands of civilians. They were also deployed in Israel's recent illegal airstrikes on Iran" - Amnesty International Australia.

Yet the Australian government continues to supply parts for the F-35 jet, a plane specifically designed for war. Lockheed Martin, the manufacturer, openly markets the aircraft as the most "lethal" fighter jet in the world. An Australian contractor, RUAG Australia, is listed as the sole supplier of the jet's "uplock actuator system", which "opens and closes the bay doors in seconds to enable the F-35 to drop its payload more quickly", according to the manufacturer. An actuator is a machine that causes a machine or other device to operate; in this context, they help make the F-35 more lethal.

Hiding The Evidence

In 2018 the Australian Department of Defence published a glossy booklet celebrating Australian involvement in the F-35 programme, "F-35 Australian Industry Participation: The Journey To \$1 Billion". An accompanying Website stated: "It is expected that as the F-35 programme moves towards a sustainment phase, Australian industry will also contribute to the global supply chain". A page on a Lockheed Martin Website (www.f35.com) con-

firmed: “Every F-35 built contains some Australian parts and components” and “in total, more than 70 Australian companies have been awarded export contracts valued at \$A4.13 billion”.

The booklet and the F-35 Webpage are no longer available on the Australian Department of Defence Website. This material appears to have been deleted sometime after 14 November 2024. The F-35.com Website has also been updated to a more stripped back version, omitting the two quotes given above. The quiet disappearance of these documents prompted Greens Senator Shoebridge to accuse the Government of trying to “pull the evidence” that demonstrated the extent of Australia’s F-35 involvement.

Is supplying arms and aircraft parts to Israel consistent with international and domestic laws? In January 2024, the International Court of Justice ordered Israel to halt potential genocidal acts in Gaza and ruled the case raised *plausible* grounds that genocide might occur. Under the Genocide Convention - which both Australia and the United Kingdom (UK) have ratified - states have a legal duty to prevent genocide when warned, regardless of whether they acknowledge that it is occurring.

Australian law requires that goods or technology listed under the Defence and Strategic Goods List must gain a signoff from the Minister of Defence before an export permit can be granted. The Minister must be satisfied that the export would not prejudice the security, defence or international relations of Australia, and the Customs (Prohibited Exports) Regulations 1958 outlines twelve specific criteria the Minister must consider before granting a permit. Regulation 13e(4) can be summarised as follows.

1. Risk the goods or technology may go to a country under UN or Australian sanctions
2. Risk they may go to a country where use would breach Australia’s international obligations or commitments
3. Risk they may be used to commit or facilitate serious human rights abuses
4. Whether the export may aggravate an international or regional conflict or insta-

bility

5. Whether the goods/technology may be used for conflict “within a country; or for international conflict by a country”; or aid “militarisation within a country”
6. Whether the export may compromise Australia’s defence/security interests, allied obligations or international commitments and responsibilities.
7. Risk they may go to a country whose policies or strategic interests are inconsistent with the policies or strategic interests of Australia or its allies
8. Risk they may adversely affect Australia’s military capability or boost that of a potential adversary
9. Risk they may go to a country developing, or is reasonably suspected of developing, weapons of mass destruction or supporting terrorism
10. Risk that another country might react, damaging Australia’s interests or relations with the other country or region.
11. Risk the goods/technology may be used for mercenary, terrorist or criminal activity
12. Whether denying export may adversely impact Australian research, industry, trade, or economic prosperity — to a degree that threatens Australia’s security, defence or international relations

Criteria 2-5 are particularly relevant to the situation in Israel/Gaza, especially regarding the supply of restricted items that may facilitate serious human rights abuses or breach Australia’s international obligations. Israel’s unprovoked attack on Iran in June 2025, using F-35 jets, is a clear example of Australian exports being used for “international conflict by a country”.

Given that Israel is “reasonably” believed to possess undeclared nuclear weapons, one could argue that Australia should not supply Israel with arms on the basis of criterion 9 alone. F-35s can be equipped with nuclear weapons. In June 2024, Israel signed a deal with the United States for an addi-

tional 25 F-35s, to be delivered from 2028. In continuing to supply F-35 parts, it appears that Ministers are placing greater importance on criterion 12 – maintaining good relations with the United States and Israel – than on legal or humanitarian obligations.

Ministerial Veto In Name Only

On 10 June 2024, the *Sydney Morning Herald* reported that Australian Defence Minister Richard Marles was “enforcing his veto” over every potential shipment to Israel, regardless of the value of the contract. However, it remains to be seen whether the Minister has actually vetoed any significant exports, especially as Australia continues to supply parts for the F-35. In response to questioning from Senator Shoebridge on 5 June 2024, Defence Deputy Secretary Hugh Jeffrey, offered a rather strange interpretation of the rules: “I think the question of whether or not the F-35 is being employed in the crisis in Israel is not material to the question of whether or not we grant an export permit”.

Both Australia and the UK claim the F-35 is essential to their own defence. One wonders if the US has warned its allies that a refusal to supply Israel could jeopardise their own access to the aircraft. Journalist Brian Toohey wrote in his 2019 book “Secret: The Making Of Australia’s Security State”: “The US requires almost all countries that buy its weapons systems, including Australia, to send sensitive components back to the US for repairs, maintenance and replacements without the owners being allowed access to critical information, including source codes, needed to keep these systems operating”.

While “interoperability” is a common buzz word associated with calls for greater defence spending and claims we should not “freeride” on the spending of our “allies”, Toohey’s explanation suggests that “interoperability” could also be used by the US to enforce inoperability – a form of strategic dependency. It is also important to note that the US Department of War claims legal ownership of all spare parts in the F-35 supply chain.

While proponents claim greater defence spending is required to safeguard national interests, the so called “purchase” of such defence

“products” risks undermining national sovereignty. It’s akin to buying Microsoft Office, only to discover it’s an annual subscription to Microsoft 365 – with terms that can change at any time. Even if the US claims ownership of the supply chain, this does not absolve Australia or the UK from their legal obligations to uphold human rights and prevent genocide.

In June 2024, a United Nations expert panel warned that states and companies risk complicity in international crimes, potentially including genocide, if they continue to supply arms to Israel. The panel emphasised: “An end to transfers must include indirect transfers that could ultimately be used by Israeli forces, particularly in the ongoing attacks on Gaza”. Senator Shoebridge raises another concern: “What we might be seeing here is the impact of what’s called AUKUS Pillar 2, the removal of any controls for the passage of weapons between Australia and the United States, and then Australia permitting the United States to send Australian weapons anywhere”.

This point is highly relevant to New Zealand as well. According to RNZ, New Zealand defence officials are reportedly promoting the benefits of joining AUKUS – a military alliance that currently includes Australia, the United Kingdom, and the United States. While Pillar 1 focuses on supplying nuclear-powered submarines to Canberra, Pillar 2 centres on developing and sharing non-nuclear military technologies. New Zealand Defence Minister Judith Collins told Australian media, “We are interested in being involved in Pillar 2. It’s not a secret.”

Australian Government Faces Increased Scrutiny

Since the start of Israel’s war on Gaza, the Australian Government has repeatedly denied sending arms or arms parts to Israel. But these denials have been repeatedly challenged. On June 16 2024, Penny Wong was forced to admit on the ABC’s *Insiders* programme that Australia was exporting parts into Lockheed Martin’s F-35 global supply chain.

In April 2025, *Declassified Australia* revealed that a Canberra-based company, Electro Optic Systems (EOS) sold multiple R400 weapons systems to Israel through its fully owned US subsidiary. A defence industry source told the ABC these

weapons included Australian-made components, shipped to EOS’s subsidiary in Alabama for assembly. The R400s were then shipped to Israel – without an export approval. In July 2025, *Declassified Australia* reported that parts for Israel’s F-35 jets were exported directly to Israel by the Royal Australian Air Force.

“Last Friday, 4 July, goods labelled as ‘Aircraft parts’ were loaded into the cargo hold of Thai Airways flight TG472 at Sydney’s International Airport. The flight departed at 2.50pm heading firstly to Bangkok to link with a connecting flight, Israeli El Al airline flight LY82, the ultimate destination being Tel Aviv, where it arrived last Sunday, 6 July. The aircraft parts were described as “Packing” and are marked “EAR99”. This reference to EAR99 is to the US Export Administration Regulation 99 which applies to goods that are dual-use military/commercial goods” – Peter Cronau & Kellie Tranter (*Declassified Australia*)

Senator Shoebridge put the issue to Wong in the Senate. “Senator SHOEBRIDGE (New South Wales) (14:21): Foreign Minister, noting those answers, recently leaked flight manifests reported in *Declassified Australia* have shown that the Royal Australian Air Force earlier this month facilitated the transfer of F-35 fighter jet parts to Israel. Will you, Minister, stop this from happening again?”

Senator WONG (South Australia—Minister for Foreign Affairs and Leader of the Government in the Senate) (14:22): Senator, I again say to you: I have said in this place – and so has the Prime Minister in the other place—that we are not supplying weapons or ammunition to Israel. We have not done so since the Hamas-Israel conflict began and for at least the past five years”.

After further bluster and evasion, Wong finally conceded: “Senator Wong: “I have explained to you multiple times – and yet, despite that, you continue to spread misinformation. We are part of the longstanding F-35 consortium. It is essential to our sovereign defence capability, and...As part of the global F-35 supply chain, we contribute components and parts that are non-lethal in nature (Time expired)”.

Declassified Australia has since examined a series of confidential shipping records that identify a total of 68 shipments of F-35 aircraft parts flown directly from Australia to Israel between October 2023 and September 2025. The commencement of Israel’s bombing campaign on the evening of 7 October 2023 led to a dramatic increase in shipments from Australia to Israel, with ten shipments in November 2023 alone. All of this leaves many unanswered questions. But it boils down to this. If the Australian government is continuing to supply Israel with aircraft parts and other weapons systems, why won’t they stop? How can they still claim they are not complicit in genocide?

Postscript

On September 27 2025, New Zealand Foreign Minister Winston Peters announced that New Zealand would not recognise the State of Palestine, “at this time”. The fact that New Zealand could not even manage a “conditional” recognition of Palestine, and instead chose to come to the diplomatic aid of Israel and the United States – with a genocide in progress – just makes its position all the more shameful. If New Zealand truly had an independent foreign policy, an alternative approach would have been to call out the cynicism underlying “conditional” recognition of Palestine which prioritises Israel’s security, and to demand measures to support a comprehensive global ban on arms sales to Israel, alongside other sanctions. But that cannot happen while Foreign Minister Winston Peters remains terrified of taking any action that might upset US President Donald Trump.

This article has 29 references. Available upon request to ABC at abc@chch.planet.org.nz Ed

Spooky Bits

Warren Thomson

Aotearoa/New Zealand

Washington-Wellington Rift?

Peace Researcher (PR) readers might be encouraged by recent indications that the Trump clown era is starting to worry this country's intelligence and military officials. Up until now the senior public servants have managed to operate behind a "business as usual" façade, but cracks are showing. *Newsroom* (30/10/25) reported that a Senior Fellow at the US Council on Foreign Relations says distrust of the Trump Administration is growing in Wellington and Canberra.

More significantly, he states that the American Director of National Intelligence, Tulsi Gabbard, has increasingly refused to share important information with Five Eyes partners. Those of us who are committed to independent military/intelligence policies for this country can only hope the trend accelerates (see my article on Trump's officials this elsewhere in this issue of *PR*).

NZ Defence Force Making Plans To Fight China

In 2024, on May 13-16, New Zealand military staff attended a Five Eyes Community Combined Digital Leaders Forum in the UK. The subject was new Five Eyes systems for integrating allied forces – including New Zealand – in high-tech wars. In August 2025 a shopper browsing through op shop goods discovered a trove of secret documents from the Portsmouth meetings had been accidentally donated to a Hutt Valley Salvation Army store.

This unlikely and fortuitous event has brought to light the secret role of New Zealand defence staff who have supported and assisted Five Eyes preparation for a potential war with China. A central part of the plan presented in Portsmouth, that was recorded in a 15 May 2024 session, was to "develop a credible and effective combined joint all-domain (command and control) capability for counter-People's Republic of China (PRC) Operations".

"In short: in the secret discussions of the Five Eyes officers overseeing ... new digital and artificial intelligence (AI) war-fighting systems at the meeting one year ago, a key objective was building the capability for confrontation with China". The above is a very brief summary of Nicky Hager's analysis of the documents in a *Newsroom* story (9/10/25). Read the full article to understand how defence personnel and Government officials are proceeding with plans that tie us into frontline Five Eyes operations while the public is kept entirely in the dark.

Government Hiding Terrorism Legislation Changes

On 22 July 2025, the NZCCL posted the following on its website: "The New Zealand Council for Civil Liberties has seen a copy of a Ministry of Justice consultation document on reforms to the Terrorism Suppression Act that are being considered by the Government. The changes proposed would give Ministers dangerous powers to designate groups as 'terrorist' and create offences of publishing information that could be seen as supporting such groups. We have seen from the UK the potential for abuse of these powers, and the likely misuse of them by the police".

PR notes that this Government has a penchant for rushing through its more radical and/or unpopular policies and the concern for where this is going. We also repeat our reminder that there have been several "reforms" of anti-terrorist legislation (by both major parties) and all have resulted in the expansion of spook powers and surveillance.

The civil liberties watchdog goes on to say: "The Council condemns the secrecy of this consultation. The Ministry of Justice is consulting only a few handpicked groups and the Council was not one of them, despite being a voice for civil liberties in Aotearoa New Zealand since the 1950s". RNZ announced (29/7/25): "The Government is eyeing an overhaul of the country's terrorism legislation, which is necessary, it says, to keep New Zealanders safe in a rapidly evolving world and keep pace with modern threats. However, critics are warning that the move could come at a steep price, specifically a loss of civil liberties".

"The proposed changes, still in the closed-door consultation phase with a handpicked selection of groups and experts, would give the police and intelligence agencies broader powers to intervene earlier, redefine what constitutes a 'terrorist act' and expand preventative detention powers, all in the name of public safety" (see *The Detail*, RNZ Website, 29/7/25). Present law allows Governments to formally designate people or groups as terrorist entities, freezing their assets and making it illegal to financially support, recruit for, or participate in a designated terrorist entity. At the time of *PR* being written, the current status of the proposed Bill is unclear.

Clark Sees "More Politicisation" Of SIS

In a *Morning Report* interview (RNZ, 4/9/25) former Prime Minister Helen Clark criticised the Security Intelligence Service for becoming more politicised. Asked about a recent SIS report which described China as a threat, Clark said she worried there was "more politicisation" of the spy agency. "I was its Minister for nine years. I've never known it to release reports like that in my time".

"I worry that we're getting more politicisation of the SIS. By their nature security services should stay in the background and advise," Clark said. She added that: "China happens to be our major trade partner. It is an emerging power. Do we want to engage with it? If we were only ever to talk to those countries which shared exactly the same political systems and values as we did, it would be a pretty small conversation".

More Criticism Of SIS Threat Report

Commenting on the same SIS report, The Federation of Islamic Associations (FIANZ) says the country's security network to combat extremism is far too fragmented. It also identified what it saw as big gaps in the SIS report. Spokesperson Abdur Razzaq said: "The report has revealed significant inconsistencies between the information presented by the NZSIS and other agencies which are also focused on violent extremism" (RNZ, 4/9/25). "There are now eight agencies which have varying degrees of focus on online violent extremism but there is no cohesive focus for national policy and planning," Razzaq said. "There

also seems to be no focus on emerging homegrown radicalisation and violent extremism".

FBI's Incompetent Director Gifts Illegal Guns

Kash Patel, Director of the US Federal Bureau of Investigation, presented Aotearoa/NZ's top security officials with guns which had to be destroyed when he visited Wellington in July 2025. Richard Chambers (Police), Andrew Hampton (SIS) and Andrew Clark (Government Communications Security Bureau – GCSB) received the "gifts" when Patel came to set up a new standalone FBI unit in Wellington (previous US agents worked under direction from Canberra). The presented pistols are illegal in this country.

"Public records disclosed to local news outlets this month revealed that Patel met with and dined with more than a dozen senior public servants and elected officials, including Cabinet Ministers, during his visit ... Patel had already provoked mild diplomatic discomfort in Wellington by suggesting in remarks supplied to reporters that the new FBI office aimed to counter China's influence in the South Pacific Ocean" (*Huffington Post*, 30/9/25).

Local officials claim the bolstered FBI presence is primarily to collaborate on child exploitation and drug smuggling crimes. It would be fascinating to know what they made of Patel who believes Washington is

run by sinister "deep state" officials and who has victimised FBI officers who are deemed to be anti-Trump (see my article on Trump's officials elsewhere in this issue of *PR*).

Expanded Police Surveillance

In the Court of Appeal in September 2025, lawyers for the Privacy Commissioner made "the most significant challenge yet" against the expansion of police use of technology. "A lawyer for the Privacy Commissioner has told the Court of Appeal that Europe would not allow the kind of police surveillance going on in New Zealand through a private number-plate spotting network" (Phil Pennington, RNZ, 18/9/25). The technology being challenged can call up any vehicle's movements caught on CCTV within the system over the previous 60 days. The Government argued that the police have been very careful in the use of automated number plate recognition and the system does not need a warrant.

The Crown is "... playing down the power of the system developed in what was for several years since 2015, an unpublicised partnership between police and the Auckland company Auror" (RNZ *ibid.*). But the appellants say there is a danger that the system will be also used by private entities, and also that some police consultants had expressed concern about its legality. At the time of writing the out-

come of the challenge has still to be resolved.

Collins Undermines Strikers

New legislation means civilian defence department staff, security guards and firefighters who are working to rule or striking can be replaced by military personnel. In August 2025, Defence Minister Judith Collins introduced new legislation to let the Chief of Defence Force sign off on having uniformed staff fill in for striking civilians. Now soldiers can be used to break strikes without the Government having to step in (RNZ, 28/8/25). Soldiers cannot themselves take strike action.

Neo-Nazi Soldier Convicted Of Espionage

A soldier with links to far-Right groups who thought he was spying on New Zealand has been sentenced to two years in military detention and dismissed from the Army. He admitted charges of attempted espionage, dishonestly accessing a computer system and possessing objectionable material. "You obtained the property of the Defence Force with the intent of handing the material on to someone you thought was an agent of a foreign power" declared the judge (RNZ, 20/8/25); the soldier was caught in a military sting operation in 2019.

"When police and military police raided his house on December 13,



Press, 2.8.25—Protest blockading US Pine Gap, warfighting & spy base, near Alice Springs, Australia

2019, they found a veritable shrine to fascism inside. The walls were draped in a dozen flags, but instead of displaying New Zealand's Southern Cross and Union Jack, they were adorned with swastikas and iron crosses" (*Newsroom*, 25/8/25). Prosecution of the case took nearly six years as the prosecution, defence and the court struggled to work out how to treat classified evidence in New Zealand's first ever case of espionage or attempted espionage.

Military Moves To Hide War Records

In September 2025 David Seymour, on behalf of Internal Affairs Minister Brooke van Velden, introduced a Bill to Parliament that will allow the NZ Defence Force (NZDF) to conceal records of incidents overseas. A change to the Public Records Act would let the NZDF seek an exemption from its legal duty to keep records if it is in multinational deployment. But historian Dr Aaron Fox told RNZ, 11/9/25) it would make war crimes harder to prove. "We need to know why our people are overseas, we need to know where they are, what they are doing, and have the ability to hold those people accountable for their actions should something go wrong."

The Government presented Operation Burnham, where there were serious deficiencies in recordkeeping of Special Air Service (SAS) operations in Afghanistan was given as an example of the need for a change in the law. But how lack of records can justify not keeping records is something that *PR* finds a little difficult to comprehend. The Bill containing the exemption passed its first reading in Parliament in August 2025.

NZ And UK Sign New Defence Agreement

New Zealand and the United Kingdom have "agreed to explore opportunities for closer defence cooperation in the face of a changing world" (RNZ, 12/9/25). Defence Minister Judith Collins signed the Joint Statement on De-

fence Cooperation in London but gave virtually no detail apart from general verbiage about "threats" and examples of the Kiwi and UK militaries working together.

Australia

Special Forces Killing

Former SAS trooper Oliver Schulz will go to trial in Australia after being charged in 2023 with shooting a civilian in Afghanistan in 2012. The killing was first revealed by ABC's *Four Corners* in 2020 and the judicial process long delayed by Government prosecutors. Australian Defence Force investigators cleared Schulz of wrongdoing on the grounds that the victim posed a direct threat to the soldiers. But the Afghani who was shot was lying on the ground at the time of the shooting, unarmed, and had a crippled leg. He also had two infant children (RNZ, 20/8/25, from ABC).

Canberra's Multi-Billion Dollar Coffins

Reports from China describe rapid developments in submarine detection technologies that are likely to make any hope of Australia's proposed nuclear-powered submarines hiding in the ocean a fantasy (*Guardian*, 3/9/25). Acutely sensitive sonar arrays, quantum sensing, satellite tracking able to pick up minute disturbances in the Earth's magnetic field and AI data analysis will likely have a huge impact on submarine warfare.

Canberra has committed almost \$NZ400 billion to this long-term strategy. But *PR* wonders if the

Australian Labor Party might start looking for some way out. Already there are some signs that putting Australian forces under the command of the lunatic Trump-Hegseth US defence bosses is causing considerable disquiet.

Protesters Highlight Pine Gap Link To Gaza

On 9 October 2025 two activists locked themselves to a concrete-filled barrel, blocking the main entrance to the biggest American spy base outside the USA, and preventing Pine Gap workers from accessing the base. "The action, one protester, Jorgen Doyle, argued, was legally justified because it prevented Pine Gap workers from taking part in the commission of genocide on the other side of the world" (*Guardian*, 26/10/25).

"We're here because Pine Gap is sharing surveillance data, including geolocation information from mobile phones, with the genocidal Israeli regime, who are targeting journalists and their families, children, teachers, doctors, patients and the entire population of Palestine," Doyle claimed. Dr Richard Tanter, an honorary professor of international relations at the University of Melbourne, has detailed to Australian courts Pine Gap's direct role in providing intelligence to the Israel Defense Forces via the US National Security Agency.

United Kingdom

Catastrophic Data Breach Names Spooks

Dozens of MI6 and SAS personnel could have been publicly identified when a data breach occurred in February 2022 but was not discovered by the UK government until August 2023. At that time, someone in Afghanistan who had obtained the data posted part of it on Facebook and indicated he could release the rest. The breach was kept secret until July 2025.

The BBC (17/7/25) described it as the worst leak of personnel data in the last 25 years. The Government had previously admitted the data of nearly 19,000 Afghans had also been leaked. Many had worked with the British government during the war in Afghanistan and were judged



to be at severe risk of retribution from the Taliban

“At least 49 family members and colleagues of Afghans affected by the Ministry of Defence’s mass data breach have been killed, according to research submitted to a Parliamentary committee. The first on-the-ground research into 350 affected people in Afghanistan, the UK or elsewhere has found that, of the 231 respondents who received notification from the British government that their data had been leaked, 49 responded that either a colleague or a family member had been killed as a result of the data breach” (*Guardian*, 27/10/25). 87% of those notified reported threats to them or their families.

UK Spy Flights Over Gaza

In August 2025 the RAF was running daily surveillance flights over Gaza. At the time the *Guardian* reported the flights (7/8/25), RAF Shadow aircraft had run more than 600 flights over the Palestinian territory from the Akrotiri airbase in Cyprus. The UK government has claimed the flights are to help locate hostages, but what information has been given to the Israeli military is kept secret.

UK Government Hides Climate Threat Warning

“The UK’s national security is under severe threat from the climate crisis and the looming collapse of vital natural ecosystems, with food shortages and economic disaster potentially just years away, a powerful report by the UK’s intelligence chiefs is due to warn. However, the report has been delayed, and concerns have been expressed to the *Guardian* that it may have been blocked by the Prime Minister” (*Guardian*, 8/10/25). A new report assessing climate threats to UK national security, from the Institute of Public Policy Research (IPPR), Chatham House, the University of Exeter, and the Strategic Climate Risks Initiative, has highlighted climate tipping points as a severely overlooked danger, according to the IPPR website.

The China Threat

Britain’s domestic spy agency MI5 issued a rare public warning to Members of Parliament in October 2025 that they are being targeted by

spies from China, Russia and Iran in an attempt to undermine the country’s democracy. MI5 warned politicians and their staff to look out for spies seeking to elicit information from them by blackmail or phishing attacks, cultivating long-term and deep relationships with them, or making donations to influence their decisions.

However, the warning comes a week after prosecutors said they had to abandon the trial of two British men charged with spying on Members of Parliament for China because the British government had not provided evidence showing China was a threat to its national security (Reuters, 14/10/25). Then again: The “significant threat” posed by Chinese and Russian hackers has contributed to a record number of serious online attacks, the UK’s cyber security agency has warned. The National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC), which is part of the Government Communications Headquarters (GCHQ) intelligence agency, recorded a 50% increase in “highly significant” incidents in the year to the end of August 2025 (*Independent*, 14/10/25).

More On The Dark Side Of The Met

In this country we are accustomed to gritty TV drama where the British police defeat the villains, but over many years The Met – the London police force – has been shown to be racist, sexist and an employer of unacceptable covert operations. Now new undercover BBC filming has exposed a hidden culture of misogyny and racism inside the London police.

Serving Metropolitan Police officers called for immigrants to be shot, revelled in the use of force and were dismissive of rape claims in footage captured by a *Panorama* undercover reporter. *Panorama*’s secret filming also shows officers making sexualised comments to colleagues and sharing racist views about immigrants and Muslims (BBC, 1/10/25).

More On MI5 Lies

In the previous *Spooky Bits* (PR 69, July 2025) I reported how MI5 tried to kill a story about a violent and abusive MI5 agent and lied in court to do so. The BBC then “revealed that MI5 had lied to three courts,

the Security Service apologised for giving false evidence - vowing to investigate and explain how such a serious failure had occurred”.

However, the High Court ruled that these inquiries were “deficient”, ordering a new “robust” investigation. Judges also said they would consider the issue of contempt of court proceedings against individuals (BBC, 6/7/25). This later BBC report detailed how “... over the past few months leading up to the judgment, MI5 continued to provide misleading evidence and tried to keep damning material secret. The material gives an unprecedented insight into the internal chaos at MI5 as it responded to what has become a major crisis and test of its credibility”.

Musk’s Grok AI Defends Right Wing Violence

Musk’s bot has distributed false information about neo-fascist violence in London, saying police used footage of events from 2020 to make the participants look bad. 26 police were injured during violent clashes with far-Right protestors (*Guardian*, 14/9/25). The AI data response shows how hard it is becoming to prevent false information from surging through social media. The fake information was quickly picked up and amplified by X users, including the *Daily Telegraph* columnist Allison Pearson

No Spy Backdoor To Apple Data?

US reports say the British Home Office is no longer demanding backdoor access to US Apple user data. American groups (including the Trumpist National Intelligence Director Tulsi Gabbard) complained it would have enabled access to the protected encrypted data of American citizens and encroached on American civil liberties (*Guardian*, 19/8/25). But given the GCHQ has been accessing virtually every form of communication it wants to for more than 30 years, it is hard to believe it has no way to alternatively hack Apple data.

United States

Conspiracy Theorist In Top Counter-Terrorism Job

Senate Republicans voted at the end of July 2025 to confirm Joe Kent, a conspiracy theorist with alarming ties to white nationalists and far-Right groups, as leader of the National Counterterrorism Center. Kent is a former Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) paramilitary officer who had white nationalist Nick Fuentes as an advisor in a failed Congressional bid. He falsely claimed that the Secret Service was part of 2024's assassination attempt against Trump and that the FBI was involved in the January 6, 2021, attack on Congress (*Huffington Post*, 31/7/25. For more on the nutters employed as top Trump officials, see my article elsewhere in this issue).

Boom In Pentagon Space War Toys

According to the business analyst group PitchBook (15/9/25) with basic funding and add-ons taken together, the Pentagon's 2026 budget totals roughly \$US1.012 trillion - an increase of more than \$US100 billion from 2024's roughly \$US904 billion. "Money is shifting toward homeland missile defence (such as the multi-layer missile shield known as the 'Golden Dome') [and] proliferated constellations of low Earth orbit satellites for missile warning/tracking", as well as increased funding for long-range conventional weapons, ship-building capacity, and the Pentagon's 'Pacific posture'. But the real growth story is in procurement and research & development (R&D), where the dollars align with the Pentagon's new priorities: missile defence, space, and long-range strikes (*ibid*)".

This enormous cash input emphasises space "Intelligence, Surveillance, Reconnaissance, and Target Acqui-

sition (ISTAR) assets". The Pitchbook analysts say: "Winners in the new defence budget include primes and suppliers tied to missile defence, space payloads and laser communications". Peter Beck (Rocket Lab CEO) must be ecstatic! The *Guardian* (17/7/25) says a trillion-dollar US defence budget will produce an additional 26 megatons (Mt) of planet-heating gases – on a par with the annual carbon equivalent (CO₂e) emissions generated by 68 gas power plants or the entire country of Croatia, new research reveals.

ICE Gets Super-Surveillance Software

The uncontrolled immigration thugs that Trump has tasked with evicting half a million "illegals" from the US "... will have access to one of the world's most sophisticated hacking tools after a decision by the Trump Administration to move ahead with

TRT comments: "It means that one of the most powerful stealth cyberweapons ever created – which was produced outside the US – is now in the hands of an agency that has repeatedly been accused by civil and human rights groups of violating people's due process rights". John Scott-Railton, a senior researcher at the Citizen Lab at the University of Toronto, who is one of the world's leading experts on cases in which spyware like Graphite has been abused by governments, said in a statement that such tools "were designed for dictatorships, not democracies built on liberty and protection of individual rights" (*Guardian*, 2/8/25).

Meta's Appalling Oversight Operations

The *Guardian* also reports (12/10/25) that a prominent anti-DEI (diversity, equity and inclusion) campaigner appointed by Meta in August 2025 as an adviser on AI bias has spent the weeks since his appointment spreading disinformation about shootings, transgender people, vaccines, crime, and protests.

"Robby Starbuck, 36, of Nashville, was appointed in August as an adviser by Meta – owner of Facebook, Instagram, WhatsApp, and other tech platforms – in an August lawsuit settlement. Since his appointment, Starbuck has baselessly claimed that individual shooters in the US were motivated by Leftist ideology, described faith-based protest groups as communists, and without evidence tied Democratic lawmakers to murders".

Microsoft Does Some Good

Microsoft has terminated a set of services for the Israeli military after an investigation suggested Israel was using the company's cloud computing technology for mass surveillance of Palestinians. Microsoft President Brad Smith said the company had "ceased and disabled a

SHENEMAN



a contract with Paragon Solutions, a company founded in Israel which makes spyware that can be used to hack into any mobile phone – including encrypted applications" (*TRT World*, 3/9/25).

Graphite software can infiltrate mobile phones, read encrypted messages, access cloud backups, and even turn devices into listening tools. The Department of Homeland Security first entered into a contract with Paragon, now owned by a US firm, under the Biden Administration, but because of concerns about Government use of spyware the programme was not available until September 2025.

set of services to a unit within the Israel Ministry of Defense”.

It was reported in early August 2025 that Israel's military intelligence unit, known as 8200, relied on Microsoft Azure to store millions of phone calls made by Palestinians in Gaza and the occupied West Bank (CNN, 25/9/25). In August dozens of the corporation's employees occupied the company's east campus in Redmond, Washington, to protest against the use of MS software by the Israeli military to carry out operations in Gaza and enable the surveillance of Palestinians.

Why US Spooks Cannot Be Trusted

Former CIA Director John Brennan made several statements under oath or otherwise before Congress that appear to contradict newly declassified intelligence documents, a *Washington Examiner* review of hundreds of pages of transcripts and other records found (28/7/25). The newspaper says in addition to his sworn statements, Brennan also made a multitude of claims to the public that clash with recently released documents.

CNN (9/7/25) reported current CIA Director John Ratcliffe as saying a new review of possible intervention in the 2016 election on behalf of Trump by Russia found that the original assessment “was conducted through an atypical & corrupt process under the politically charged environments of former Director Brennan & former FBI Director Comey”.

A new Congressional report suggests that Brennan violated intelligence community standards, laundered information and even excluded relevant evidence. But the accusations from Ratcliffe and current National Intelligence Director Tulsi Gabbard are similarly untrustworthy; they have similarly twisted the facts and selectively presented the evidence because they have been tasked with taking down Brennan and Comey by Trump, who has declared them his enemies.

It is clear that MAGA and pre-MAGA Government intelligence officials are engaged in a bitter political squabble and truth in spook analysis is the main victim. Why our Government Communications Security Bureau and Security Intelligence Service

continue to work closely with the perpetrators of such garbage is a complete mystery.

Washington's Covert Ops In Greenland

Denmark's main national broadcaster reported in late August 2025 that at least three people with connections to President Donald Trump have been carrying out covert influence operations in Greenland (*Stuff*, 28/8/25). One of those people allegedly compiled a list of US-friendly Greenlanders, collected names of people opposed to Trump and got locals to point out cases that could be used to cast Denmark in a bad light in American media. Two others have tried to nurture contacts with politicians, businesspeople and locals, according to the report.

Licence Plate Surveillance

While in this country legal action related to a vehicle number-plate spotting network is continuing in court, the *Guardian* (1/6/25) reported that a Texas police officer used Flock corporation software to carry out a nationwide search of more than 83,000 ALPR (automated licence plate reader) cameras while looking for a woman who had had an abortion.

Alarmingly, “law enforcement reportedly looked at cameras in states such as Washington and Illinois where abortion is legal” ... “There's no opting out of being tracked: if you drive, you should simply assume that these cameras, which are sometimes hidden in objects like traffic cones, are logging your movements. And you should assume that this license plate data can be combined with other surveillance data to paint a very detailed picture of your life” (*Guardian*, *ibid.*).

US Special Forces Killed North Korean Civilians

US Navy SEALs (Sea, Air and Land teams) shot and killed a number of North Korean civilians during a botched covert mission to plant a listening device in the nuclear-armed country during high-stakes diplomatic negotiations in 2019, the *New York Times* (NYT) reported (Reuters, 5/9/25). The newspaper stated that Trump approved the

operation during his first Administration, at the same time as he was involved in talks with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un.

Reuters said the covert op was designed to fix a “blind spot” in US intelligence that would allow the US to intercept the North Korean leader's communications, potentially giving Trump an advantage ahead of the 2019 summit between the two leaders. The civilians were diving for shellfish when they came across the detachment of SEALs. The American forces opened fire, killing all those aboard the small fishing vessel.

When the reports were made public in September 2025, Trump claimed to not know anything about the operation. A classified Pentagon review later concluded the killings were “justified under the rules of engagement”, the *NYT* said. Apparently, civilian murder by the American military is now just collateral damage.

Who Is Being Murdered?

As *PR* goes to print some reports are emerging that Washington spooks cannot actually identify who is being killed in American strikes on little boats in the Caribbean and Pacific claimed to be transporting drugs into the USA. More clarification on these extra-judicial executions needed.

Understanding China And Taiwan

Greg Waite

Around the world, conservatives are hyping the need for the United States to counter increasing economic and military threats from China, and the likelihood of an invasion of Taiwan initiated by China. Conservatives need an enemy, since their policies aim only to enrich the already rich, which isn't an easy sell. And since today's conservatives are making it very obvious in every outburst that they aren't a reliable source of truth, I headed to our well-stocked Whangarei Library to see if recent books could fill in the big gaps in my western-focused knowledge of Asia.

I found two books, which perfectly captured two sides of this three-nation triangle. First was the eye-catching "Plan Red: China's Project To Destroy America". This laughable excuse for a book is published by the same people who back Trump. It's full of sentences with tenuous links to some aspect of the real world, flipped on their head to promote more military spending.



For example, readers of *Peace Researcher* will be familiar with the hundreds of major military bases that the US maintains around the world. Readers of "Plan Red", however, are re-educated in the Trumpian truth:

"China is engaged in a whole-of-State effort to become the world's only superpower by any means necessary, so we need a whole-of-society response to China. Why should Americans ever allow, as they do now, China to maintain bases in America to attack the American homeland?"

In this book it is China which has "bases" inside the US! "Americans must deny Chinese wrongdoers the safe havens and support networks they now enjoy in America. China's principal safe heavens [sic] there are its diplomatic compounds. It's time, therefore, to strip the Embassy down to the Ambassador, family members, and personal staff and close the

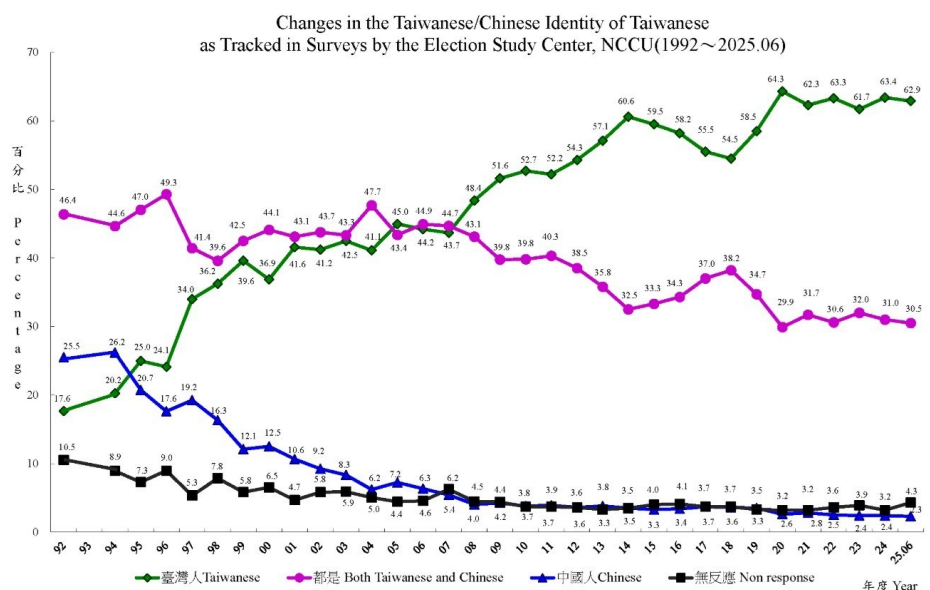
consulates outright. All other Chinese mechanisms of control, such as the Chinese Students and Scholar Association, must be disbanded".

This whole book could be described as a homage to the fictional Bizarro world featured in the early Superman comics of my misspent youth, where everything normal is turned to its opposite... The problem is, in America real people are reading books like this. US author Gordon G. Chan concludes: "Derisking is not enough. There must be a hard break from China". This key message from "Plan Red" is the opposite conclusion to my other reading, "The Taiwan Story: How A Small Island Will Dictate The Global Future" by academic and China expert Kerry Brown.

development; they also enforced the Japanese language, creating a strong underground resistance to external domination; and the abrupt US switch from early support for Taiwan to backing China and its cheap factory labour.

That history contributed to modern Taiwan's successful State-led development to become the world's leading producer of high-end computer chips; to the steady shift from party politics dominated by Nationalists to the homegrown Taiwanese Democratic Progressive Party and rise of youth-based third parties like the New Power Party; and the increase in popular identification with Taiwan rather than mainland China.

After laying out this backstory, Brown explains the dominant local



The Taiwan Story

Brown is also quite conservative, but his views are informed by historical and cultural studies. "The Taiwan Story" starts with just that, a history of Taiwan to (partly) fill in how regional history has shaped its modern culture and politics. That includes the social dislocation caused by abrupt changes from control by China to Japan to mainland Nationalists; how the Japanese built infrastructure to exploit their new possession, speeding up

view that Taiwan needs to tread carefully, avoiding public confrontations with China; that non-public negotiations hold the best hope for maintaining the status quo; and that the current status quo (with relative independence from mainland Chinese repression) is the best achievable outcome for their nation. Brown states bluntly: "For today, strenuous defence of the stalemate is all that we can meaningfully do".

The author's view raises many more questions. Is this a correct assessment? Is this just the view of the po-

litical elite? Brown describes citizens as wanting independence but holding back in public, recognising the risk of China's response. From the safety of overseas, activists have supported a succession of recent popular "revolutions" around the world, which then collapsed into repression. Whether to slowly build a deep movement or take the risk of going public without solid support is a big political question today.

In Defence Of Strategic Ambiguity

Brown explains his reasoning this way: "For the Americans and their alliance system, the greatest danger comes from regarding Taiwan as the great frontier where the final fight between authoritarianism and freedom will take place. In an article for *Foreign Affairs* in April 2024, US authors Gallagher and Pottinger asserted that "Xi is preparing his country for a war over Taiwan" and that "the only path to avoid this future is for Washington to immediately build and surge enough hard power to deny Xi a successful invasion".

"Defending Taiwan's right to the principle of self-determination is all well and good. But figuring it as the best opportunity for the US and the West's final showdown with China does not serve the interests of anyone, not least those who would receive the brunt of the inevitable repercussions – the people of Taiwan. It could be the fastest route to conflict, not the best strategy for global security". Brown concludes: "The policy framework of One China and strategic ambiguity" (i.e. not mentioning the reality gap between the One China concept and the real world) "offers the only viable way to manage this issue – at least for now. Patience is paramount".

Behind The Public Words

What you won't get from this book is the full picture of the shared economic interests between the two countries. That is the story which underpins the dynamic balance between China and Taiwan, and Taiwan's preference for "strategic ambiguity". I'm no expert, but I understand Taiwan was a key intermediary in establishing the early, and very exploitative, foreign-owned factories in China after its conversion to State capitalism.

The best book I've read on this was back in 2012. In "Is China Buying The World?", author Peter Nolan's title is just a tease. He provided extensive analysis of corporate ownership data to show that the vast majority of larger "Chinese" factories were foreign owned, while most locally owned companies were minor players.

How much has that changed and what form does the China-Taiwan economic relationship take today? As business partners in this era where the battle for tech and resource supremacy is intense, it seems likely that Taiwanese tech firms have a closer relationship with Chinese producers, which contributes to the trade-offs underpinning today's political balancing act.

At the political level, Brown also notes: "Dialogue in a context as sensitive as this, where the stakes if things go wrong are so high, is critical. The lack of top-level engagement between the island and China since 2016 is a serious problem". The new dynamic between the US and China is more public, if less talked about.

Contemporary American capitalism has shifted dramatically to be dominated by unregulated tech giants who extract profits across the world. US corporates now rely on their market domination - they are extractive, maximising prices rather than efficiency - so the US government has shifted to imposing America-first solutions on other nations, and particularly on China. This economic war is the real basis for the growing American preference for confrontation with China over Taiwan.

Recently, Taiwan's Vice Premier went public to make clear that Taiwan would not agree to US demands to shift half its semiconductor production to America (CNN, 3/10/25). The success of Taiwan's TSMC chipmaking is based on the high concentration of specialty industries in Taiwan, keeping its complex supply chain efficient.

Taiwan is currently negotiating a trade deal with the US while paying 20% tariffs on its exports to the US. And one more pointed quote: "The volatility of US internal politics is an increasing worry for everyone. Taiwan needs to be wary of engaging with adventurist politicians driven

more by their own domestic agenda than a sincere desire to contribute to the sustainable management of the island's situation".

In The News

Greg Waite

US, 1/10/25: US Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth told hundreds of generals and admirals summoned to the Quantico Marines base: "We're training warriors, not defenders. We fight wars to win. Today is another liberation day, the liberation of America's warriors". He urged them to turn back the clock to 1990, before "a softening, weakening, or gender-based pursuit of other priorities". The early 1990s saw routine abuse of women in the armed forces publicly exposed, leading to changes which limited the worst excesses. Hegseth himself faced allegations of sexual misconduct, financial mismanagement and excessive drinking in his appointment hearing; he now calls himself "Secretary of War".

Palestine, 3/10/25: When three New Zealanders in the Gaza flotilla were among those detained by Israel, Prime Minister Christopher Luxon's response was "That's why we say 'Do not travel to Gaza'". Times have changed since Prime Minister David Lange called the *Rainbow Warrior* bombing "a sordid act of international State-backed terrorism".

One of the three Kiwis detained by Israel is the son of ABC's old friend of many years standing, Adi Leason. Adi was one of the three Domebusters who deflated one of the Waihopai spy base's domes in 2008 (they were acquitted by a Wellington jury in 2010 and the Government later thought better of a threatened \$1 million civil damages suit and dropped the idea. The Key government confined itself to changing the law so that nobody else could use the same defence that got the Domebusters acquitted). Good to see the next generation of the Leason family following in Dad's footsteps. Ed.



Trump's Administration

Clowns, Ideologues, Incompetents & The Corrupt Threaten To Turn World Upside Down

Warren Thomson

In the *Guardian* (25/8/25) Robert Reich - a former Democrat Secretary of Labor - wrote: "Last week, Trump officials reportedly left behind documents describing confidential planning for the Trump-Putin meeting in a public area of an Alaskan hotel. That's nothing compared with the actions of Emil Bove, Trump's new nominee for the US Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit, who reportedly told subordinates at the Department of Justice that they should "consider telling the courts 'fuck you' and ignoring any court order blocking a planned deportation flight".

Then there's Billy Long, a former auctioneer and Republican Congressman who Trump nominated and was confirmed (very recently) to head the Internal Revenue Service, with "little background in tax policy beyond promoting a fraud-riddled tax credit. Long has already been fired after clashing with the Treasury Secretary, Scott Bessent. Long was the sixth person to head the IRS in 2025".

Even allowing for Reich's bias, his general categorisation of the current American Administration tellingly

illustrates a horrible truth. In his first term of office Trump appointed officials that (until he fired them) pointed out problems with his demands. This term Trump has carefully chosen personnel who carry out his capricious demands and tell him how clever he is while they do so. But not only are they obedient vassals, they also represent what is historically the most awful bunch of individuals to ever serve the White House. Here is an alphabetical description of key officials carrying out Trump's bidding.

Joseph Edlow

Director Of US Citizenship And Immigration Services

According to MSNBC (15/8/25) Edlow promoted white supremacist propaganda during an interview with the far-Right outlet *Breitbart*, alleging that Trump Administration policies come in response to liberals' attempts to alter the demographic makeup of the country for political gain. Edlow has claimed liberals are attempting to bring non-white immigrants into majority-white countries en masse, to try to change a nation's demographic

makeup and help liberals win elections. Note that this man is in charge of immigration policy!

Tulsi Gabbard

Director Of National Intelligence

Gabbard is a former Democratic Congresswoman who has transmogrified into one of the more dangerous reality-light officials facilitating Trump's power grab. She holds the most powerful of several executive intelligence agency positions in Washington. She served in the military but has almost no intelligence experience (unless you count serving in the Military Police in Kuwait!) After leaving the Democratic Party, Gabbard's MAGA positions on transgender rights, border security, and foreign policy became clear. Gabbard has claimed "Illegal immigrant criminals have raped, tortured, and murdered Americans..." [CNN, 6/5/25).

In August 2025 Gabbard announced that Trump had directed her office to revoke security clearances from 37 former intelligence officials for "politicising and manipulating intelli-

gence" (*USA Today*, 19/8/25). Gabbard stated these personnel had betrayed their oath to the Constitution and they "... undermine our national security, the safety and security of the American people and the foundational principles of our democratic republic" (in her announcement she made a bad blunder by mistakenly revealing the name of an undercover CIA agent when she revoked the security clearances [above]).

In July 2025, Gabbard claimed "... to have uncovered "overwhelming evidence" that former President Barack Obama and others in his Administration manipulated intelligence to 'lay the groundwork for what was essentially a years-long coup against President Trump" (*Huffington Post*). All evidence of a conspiracy to the contrary, Gabbard referred "all the documents that we have uncovered" to the Department of Justice and the Federal Bureau of Investigation to prosecute and indict those responsible" (*Fox News*, 20/7/25).

CNN reported (22/7/25) that Gabbard "...declassified and released new intelligence documents that she claimed were evidence of a 'treasonous conspiracy' by top Obama Administration officials to manufacture the notion that Russia interfered in the 2016 Presidential election". But the allegations conflate and misrepresent what the intelligence community actually concluded.

Pete Hegseth Secretary Of War

(Note: Trump signed an executive order changing the name of the department from Department of Defense to Department of War).

Hegseth fired several generals and admirals in the first months of his tenure, a disproportionate number of which were black, including the Chair of the Joint Chiefs, CQ Brown. The dismissed included the only two women with a four-star rank and a disproportionate number of other senior female officers. One of his first actions was to fire the head of the US Defense Intelligence Agency, Lt. Gen. Jeffrey Kruse, whose agency's intelligence assessment of damage from Iran strikes angered Trump. In April 2025 Hegseth cancelled a programme that sought to increase the role of women in na-

tional security sectors (first signed into law in 2017 by Trump).

Since taking charge of the Pentagon, Hegseth has fought a continual battle to keep unorthodox decisions and failure out of the public eye. In September 2025 he imposed new restrictions on the media by requiring journalists to sign a pledge not to report on information that has not been authorised for release, even if it is unclassified. Journalists who do not sign will not be permitted to enter the Pentagon.

At very short notice he called 800 senior military officers from their duties all around the world to listen to unprecedented harangues on what he saw as the militaries' shortcomings: women were not fit for combat duty, some generals were too fat, trainees should be treated more harshly and current soldiers did not have the necessary "warrior" machismo. Trump gave a rambling speech to follow – including how wonderful submarines are and his dream to bring back battle-ships - then said troops should be deployed to US cities as training exercises and to suppress "the enemy within".

Hegseth went to Princeton then served at Guantanamo Bay and in Iraq and Afghanistan as a National Guard officer. He became a contributor to Fox News in 2014 and an advisor to Trump in 2016 and follows ultra-conservative Christian nationalist ideas. Hegseth, on his personal media account, has reposted comments of the radical pastor of his church embracing "Christianity in every facet of society" (including Government) and contending that women should not have the right to vote (Associated Press). Since becoming Defense Secretary in January 2025, Hegseth has been holding Christian prayer services at the Pentagon. Hegseth ordered National Guard troops sent to Washington DC to carry weapons.

Tom Homan White House Executive Associate Director Of Enforcement And Removal Operations

Homan has been a US Border Patrol agent, investigator, and supervisor over a 30-year career. He served as Acting Director of US Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) from January 2017 to

June 2018. In November 2024 Trump designated Homan his "border czar". In an undercover operation in 2024 the FBI recorded Homan accepting \$US50,000 in cash after indicating he could help the agents - who were posing as business executives - win Government contracts in a second Trump Administration. Trump's Department of Justice at first delayed, then shut down the investigation into Homan's corruption.

In 2014 Homan began to argue that separating children from their caregivers would be an effective means of discouraging illegal border crossings during the Obama Administration. In February 2018 Homan stated that politicians who support sanctuary city policies should be charged with crimes. In April 2018 Homan advised Secretary of Homeland Security Kirstjen Nielsen to implement the Trump Administration's "zero tolerance" policy on immigration, including the prosecution of parents and the separation of children from their families.

Hatewatch reported In February 2025 that Homan met multiple times with Proud Boys associate Terry Newsome and in March 2025 he defied court orders and deported alleged Venezuelan gang members to appalling prisons in El Salvador. He publicly stated that the Administration completed the deportations despite the court order. Homan has decreed that ICE personnel have unrestricted capability to detain anyone they regard as a possible illegal immigrant, in clear violation of US legal norms. "People need to understand ICE officers and Border Patrol don't need probable cause to walk up to somebody, briefly detain them, and question them ... based on their physical appearance" (*Fox News* interview, 12/7/25).

Heather Honey

This little-known person will play a key role in Trump's campaign to keep political control in the US. *Pro Publica*, 24/8/25, "She Pushed To Overturn Trump's Loss In The 2020 Election. Now She'll Help Oversee US Election Security". Honey has been appointed Deputy Assistant Secretary *for election integrity* – a senior role in Trump's Department of Homeland Security.

Heather Honey is "a conspiracy theorist with absolutely zero knowledge

of how to actually run elections – aside from spreading completely fabricated lies about elections in the past – is currently in charge of helping to oversee our (US) election infrastructure...”. She is an “absolute election denier” and a “conspiracy theorist” (MSNBC, 27/8/25).

Spotlight Website (12/2/24): “This Pennsylvania activist is the source of false and flawed election claims ...” and she was “... paid as a subcontractor in Arizona for Cyber Ninjas, the company hired by that state’s Senate to investigate the 2020 election in Maricopa County...” (no election fraud was found). Trump’s public claim that in the 2020 election there were 205,000 more votes in Pennsylvania than there were voters emanated from Honey’s campaign to overturn the election.

Joseph Humire Senior Official In The Department Of War

A senior official appointed to the War Department, Humire led a thinktank that promoted fake news about the Venezuelan Tren de Aragua (TdA) gang (*InSight Crime Website*). Under Humire’s leadership, the Center for a Secure Free Society thinktank published the “TdA Activity Monitor”, tracking alleged crimes by accused members of the gang throughout the US. According to *InSight Crime*, at least five event entries in the tracker appeared to have been “completely fabricated”. The research group found zero basis for the false entries, with local police departments telling researchers the purported crimes were non-existent. Many of the 90 of the entries relied on unverified sources.

“Some incidents are included multiple times, inflating the gang’s perceived presence and activities”, researchers found. Humire has spoken publicly about alleged Tren de Aragua crimes on Fox News and other conservative outlets. He has also promoted the idea that the Venezuelan government is directing the gang’s crimes around the world, despite the intelligence community disputing this (*Guardian*, 13/8/25).

Eric Lendrum Speechwriter For Department Of Homeland Security

Eric Lendrum has compared the circumstances of American con-

servatives to that of enslaved people and Jewish people in Nazi Germany, and in a podcast claimed that the racist great replacement conspiracy theory was “real” (*Guardian*, 19/8/25). In a post in December 2021, Lendrum defended people who participated in the January 6 (2021) insurrection, claiming they faced “persecution for their patriotism”. In another post from 2023 he shared a video of thousands of people protesting against Israel’s war on Gaza. He commented: “Cars are bigger and heavier than any one of these freaks. All it takes is one brave driver to do what needs to be done, then others will follow”.

Lara Loomer Trump Confidant, No Official Position

Loomer is a far-Right activist who has claimed the 9/11 attack on the US was actually an inside job. She is widely credited with persuading Trump to fire a number of top National Security Council personnel who were on a list of people she wrote that could not be trusted to toe the MAGA line (CNN, 4/4/2). In April 2025, Trump fired numerous senior members of the National Security Council; an unnamed source told *Axios* the “bloodbath” came a day after Loomer met with the President in the Oval Office (*Huffington Post*, 21/8/25).

In August 2025 the Trump Administration stopped issuing visas on medical-humanitarian grounds after Loomer complained about seeing children from Gaza arriving in San Francisco and Houston for medical treatment. The conspiratorial podcast host has previously described herself as a “proud Islamophobe” and “pro-white nationalism” [*Huffington Post*, *ibid.*]. This article also reports Loomer as saying that women shouldn’t be given jobs in Government if they intend to get pregnant and have a family. In September 2025 she commented on a dinner photo featuring Trump and America’s top tech executives that: “There isn’t a single Trump supporter who is going to be happy to see this photo tonight”. Her reasoning was that executives like Mark Zuckerberg helped to steal the 2020 election from Trump (MSNBC, 23/8/25). “Joseph McCarthy was right,” according to Loomer “We need to make McCarthy great again” (BBC, 5 /4/25).

Even Marjory Taylor Greene has called Loomer, who frequently travels on Trump’s plane, “mentally unstable and a documented liar” (MSNBC, 22/8/25).

Stephen Miller White House Deputy Chief Of Staff And Homeland Security Advisor

“Stephen Miller delivered a venomous speech at Rightwing activist Charlie Kirk’s memorial service that bore a close resemblance to one given by a notorious Nazi leader at a similar event” (MSN, 23/9/25). “His politics have been described as far Right and anti-immigration. As a White House spokesman, Miller on multiple occasions made false and unsubstantiated claims regarding widespread electoral fraud”. In November 2019 leaked emails showed that Miller “promoted white nationalist articles and conspiracy theories” (*Wikipedia*).

The Southern Poverty Law Centre Website reports that in the emails Miller pushed racist immigration stories and obsessed over the loss of Confederate symbols. He reportedly set quotas for arrests of undocumented immigrants. Notably, he was a leading advocate of the family separation policy, in which children were taken from parents who had illegally crossed the US-Mexico border (*Britannica*). A previous Inspector-General at the Department of Health and Human Services said this policy caused “intense trauma” in children.

Kristi Noem Secretary Of Homeland Security

Surprisingly, most of the outcry against this archetypal MAGA hardliner came when she wrote in a book about shooting her 14-month-old dog Cricket, arguing that it was “untrainable”. But the former Governor of South Dakota is a danger to any decent democratic society in every way. Noem has co-sponsored legislation to stop abortion from conception, opposes gay marriage, and claims climate change “hasn’t been proven” (*Politico*, 13/11/24) and signed a law to outlaw protest against oil pipelines. She forced the resignation of an official who denied her daughter a real estate licence (*Wikipedia*) and the same source reports that she claimed Trump’s

2020 election loss was the result of widespread voter fraud.

After claiming that some of them had been infiltrated by drug cartels, Noem was banned from the lands of all nine of South Dakota's Native American tribes. She has proclaimed an imaginary diplomatic experience. While Noem was in Paris in November 2024 her claim of having been sent to meet President Macron was refuted by the Élysée Palace. Similarly, she wrote: "I remember when I met with North Korean dictator Kim Jong Un. I'm sure he underestimated me" (*New York Times*). After the account of their meeting was questioned the reference to the invented encounter was removed from her book.

Kash Patel Director Of FBI. Also Acting Director Of The Bureau Of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms And Explosives

Patel visited Wellington in 2025 to set up an independent Aotearoa/NZ branch of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (formerly, FBI officers here worked under direction from Australia). While doing so he gave out 3D-printed pistols as gifts; these weapons are not permitted in this country and had to be destroyed! The Directors of the Security Intelligence Service and Government Communications Security Bureau were recipients of the illegal guns.

It is horrendous to contemplate that Patel's policies and beliefs might get a foothold in this country! Patel was a prosecutor in the National Security Division of the Department of Justice and worked in the Counterterrorism Division in 2014. In 2020, he was named as an aide to the acting Director of National Intelligence (DNI) and became Deputy Director of DNI for a few months. Patel won Trump's trust thanks to his efforts to discredit investigations into links between the 2016 Trump campaign and the Kremlin. He founded The Kash Foundation, a charity to help participants in the January 6th 2021 attacks on Congress to pay legal costs.

It is difficult to comprehend how Patel was ever confirmed by the US Senate for his position. In September 2023 he published a book titled "Government Gangsters: The Deep State, The Truth, And The Battle For Our Democracy". Kindle summary of

this book: "The highest levels of Government have been infiltrated by an anti-democratic Deep State ... A sinister cabal of corrupt law enforcement personnel, intelligence agents, and military officials at the highest levels of Government plotted to overthrow a President. Even after they failed, they continue to secretly pull the levers of power without any accountability to the American people".

When Patel faced Senators during his confirmation hearings in January 2025, he got angry with suggestions his book contained an "enemies list". The list of 60 people in the appendix was "simply documentation of those who had 'weaponised' the Government". In a link from MSNBC (25/8/25), *Mother Jones* wrote that while appearing on a Steve Bannon podcast in 2024, Patel vowed:

"We will go and find the conspirators - not just in Government, but in the media. Yes, we're going to come after the people in the media who lied about American citizens to help Joe Biden rig Presidential elections. We're going to come after you, whether it's criminally or civilly". The Leftwing magazine also claimed that Patel sold pills that he claimed reverse the effects of Covid vaccines. *Wikipedia* states he has promoted vaccine and QAnon conspiracies.

In August 2025 former National Security Advisor John Bolton, an arch conservative who now condemns Trump's policies, became the target of a federal investigation. James Comey, former FBI Director, John Brennan, the former CIA Director, Miles Taylor, the ex-Homeland Security official and Lt Col Alexander Vindman, all Trump critics on Patel's list, have been subject to Federal investigations.

A number of FBI personnel fired by Patel have responded with lawsuits. In one case, *Huffington Post* (10/9/25) stated: "The complaint asserts that Director Kash Patel indicated directly to one of the ousted agents, Brian Driscoll, that he knew the firings were 'likely illegal' but was powerless to stop them because the White House and the Justice Department were determined to remove all agents who helped investigate President Trump".

Jeanine Pirro US Attorney For The District Of Columbia

Trump defied judicial norms and forced the appointment of this Fox News host as US Attorney for the District of Columbia in May 2025. Associated Press reported that court papers in a voting technology company's \$US2.7 billion defamation lawsuit against Fox News pointed to Maria Bartiromo, Lou Dobbs and **Jeanine Pirro** as leaders in spreading false stories about election fraud in the weeks after Democrat Joe Biden's victory over Trump in 2020 (21/8/25).

Pirro's current record as the person responsible for the capital's prosecutions [persecutions?] is appalling. More than 50 people were charged with federal offences in Washington, DC, during Trump's emergency law-and-order campaign in August/September 2025. Prosecutors almost immediately dropped at least 11 of those cases. Trump's "emergency surge" strategy produced an unprecedented flood of arrests but some of the most serious cases - from assaults on federal agents to gun charges - unravelled before they ever reached trial (Washington [AP] 18/9/25).

John Ratcliffe CIA Director

Former Republican Congressman but does have a CIA background. He is one of the very few Trump appointees to have any actual experience in the area they are responsible for. Ratcliffe has hardline conservative views and is very anti-China. According to NBC news (22/7/25) Ratcliffe has (like Gabbard) cited declassified emails to allege in social media posts and television appearances that Obama Administration officials manipulated intelligence and conspired to undermine the legitimacy of Trump's electoral victory in 2016.

Marco Rubio Secretary Of State (Responsible For Foreign Affairs) And Acting National Security Advisor

Rubio has a Doctorate in Law and is one of the more rational members of a very low calibre set of top officials. But his inclinations are heavily Rightist with parents who fled from

Cuba and a Catholic Church up-bringing. He is an anti-China and anti-Russia hawk, and in 2020 claimed “there was “irrefutable evidence of Russian meddling” in the US 2020 election (NBC, 22/7/25).

The former Florida Senator was initially opposed to Trump but he turned to defending Trump’s claims of election fraud and the attempts to challenge the results. In February 2021 Rubio voted to clear Trump for his role in causing the mob to storm the Capitol, and he voted against creating a commission to investigate the January 6, 2021, attack on the Capitol building.

Susie Wiles White House Chief Of Staff

The first woman to hold this key position, Wiles is a veteran of Florida politics, (including rows with Ron DeSantis’ campaign operations) and was Co-Chairperson of Trump’s 2024 campaign. She managed much of Trump’s post-Presidential activities, including his travel, fund-raising, and endorsements in 2023 and 2024. She keeps a low profile but operates as Trump’s fixer with a leading role in a number of problem resolutions. When Trump was embroiled in legal problems in 2023, Wiles was responsible for paying lawyers and for ensuring delegates would be loyal to Trump (*Wikipedia*).

She led a successful effort to eliminate Liz Cheney as a Republican rival to Trump. In 2025 she met Debra O’Connell, the president of

ABC News for dinner just days before the network announced it would settle a lawsuit with Trump. Wiles was involved in negotiating the prisoner exchange between a Russian entrepreneur and an American school teacher in February 2025. She has recently downed Laura Loomer (see above) in a battle over officials in Kennedy’s Food and Drug Administration.

Politico reported (20/1/25) that “she has four assistants, three of whom have served with her since before the campaign. Now, they’re angling to help her implement Trump’s agenda and ensure that the White House and the Republican committees are stocked with MAGA loyalists, according to four people familiar with the internal dynamics and granted anonymity to discuss them”.

Steve Witkoff Special Envoy To UK And Middle East

Witkoff has no diplomatic experience; he made heaps of money as a real estate lawyer and property tycoon. He is Trump’s front man on Ukraine and Gaza. He has sometimes expressed pro-Moscow views, especially after recent visits re Ukraine and some have expressed concerns about potential conflicts of interest given his business dealings in the region. *Bloomberg* (18/9/25) has reported that Witkoff has yet to divest his crypto assets, including a stake in the Trump family linked-World Liberty

Financial, potentially posing a conflict of interest for the President’s special envoy for peace missions.

“World Liberty Financial’s co-founders include President Donald Trump’s sons, Donald Jr., Eric and Barron, and his own sons, Zach Witkoff and Alex Witkoff. Witkoff’s ongoing ownership of those assets could pose potential legal and ethical problems as he serves as a key White House negotiator to broker peace deals in the Middle East and in the Ukraine-Russia conflict”. A longtime mate of Trump’s He was golfing with Trump when the latter was the target of an unsuccessful assassination attempt in September 2024.

Lee Zeldin Administrator Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

In February 2025 EPA Administrator Lee Zeldin launched the “Greatest Day of Deregulation in American History”; 31 deregulatory actions to “unleash America’s energy and revitalise the auto industry ...” (YouTube). Trump could not have picked a more anti-environment person than Zeldin to lead this agency. It is no exaggeration to say that this man is one of the most dangerous threats to a survivable climate in the world.

Zeldin has been an Army officer in Iraq and a Congressman (who voted against the Marriage Equality Act). Recently announced new policies include giving \$US625 million to utilities to extend the life of aging, coal-fired power plants and coordinated actions from the Departments of Interior, Energy and the Environmental Protection Agency seek to open as much as 13.1 million acres of federal land to coal mining at reduced royalty rates. In addition, the EPA would ease regulations on water and air pollution to allow for the extension of coal power plants’ lifetimes.

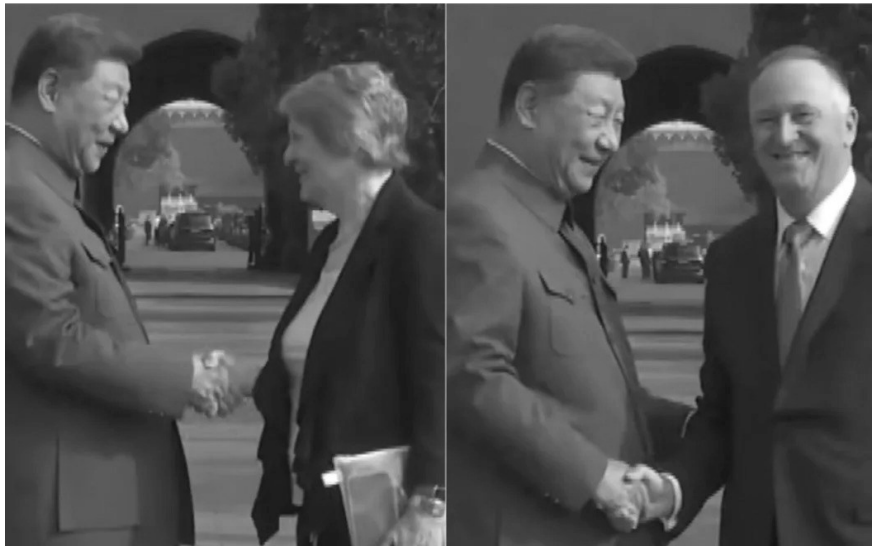
NOTE: The appalling anti-science policies of health director Robert F Kennedy are generally well-known and not listed here.



As The Western Alliance Fractures A Multipolar World Dawns

Kay Weir

(pirmeditor@gmail.com)



(Xi Jinping greets Helen Clark and John Key, Beijing, 2025, at 80th anniversary celebration of WW2 victory)

Human Costs Of World War 2

2025 was the 80th year since World War 2 ended, a war that devastated many countries, killing many millions of people. In May 2025, Xi Jinping, President of the People's Republic of China, paid a state visit to Russia, taking part in Russia's spectacular celebrations in Red Square, attended by many countries. It marked the 80th anniversary of victory for the Russian people against Nazi Germany's invasion of the former Soviet Union.

Two thirds of Nazi Germany's military was sent to Russia, hence the importance for the whole world of the former Soviet Union's role in defeating the scourge of Nazism. But this escaped commentary by Western governments and our media in 2025. Russia suffered 27 million dead in World War 2, far outnumbering the two to three million fatalities of all Western countries combined.

An example of mass deaths of Russian people in WW2 was the siege of the city of Leningrad by military blockade, enforced by Nazi Germany and its ally Finland. The siege, possibly the most deadly of the 20th Century, caused over 1.5 million deaths, from a prewar population of 3.2 million, due to systematic starvation of the civilian population.

China's stirring celebration, held in Beijing's Tiananmen Square in August 2025, was attended by Russia's President Putin and attracted leaders of most Asian nations, including North Korean leader, Kim Jong Un, Iranian President Masoud Pezesh-

kian, along with many from the Global South. China suffered the deaths of at least 20 million people in the invasion of fascist, militarist Japan into China.

Considering that Russia and China were the West's allies and played a key role in defeating Nazi Germany and militaristic Japan, why was our press so negative about China and Russia's commemorative events on the 80th anniversary of World War 2 ending? Our media reported the events as a "threatening, militaristic show of force". Criticisms appeared in New Zealand's media with China and Russia's leaders described as "authoritarian dictators," not "democratic," not having our "values."

Our Defence Minister, Judith Collins criticised former Prime Ministers, Helen Clark and John Key, for attending China's celebrations. Yet China is our main trading partner, as Helen Clark responded (RNZ, 3/9/25), <https://www.rnz.co.nz/news/world/571937/helen-clark-john-key-at-china-military-parade-along-with-putin-kim> The Western world owes a large debt of gratitude to Russia and China for their immense fortitude in World War 2.

UN Charter Adopted October 1945 To End Wars

At the end of World War 2, the Charter of the United Nations was adopted as its founding document. It was to provide a framework to end the scourge of wars and was signed on 26 June 1945, in San Francisco, at the conclusion of the United Nations Conference. It came

into force on 24 October 1945. <https://www.un.org/en/about-us/un-charter>

The original signatories were: the United States of America, the United Kingdom, the Soviet Union, the Republic of China (Taiwan), followed later by Australia, Belgium, Canada, Costa Rica, Cuba, Greece, Haiti, Czechoslovakia, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, India, Luxembourg, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Norway, Panama, Poland, South Africa, Yugoslavia. Subsequent adherents to the Declaration were (in order of signature): Mexico, Philippines, Ethiopia, Iraq, Brazil, Bolivia, Iran, Colombia, Liberia, France, Ecuador, Peru, Chile, Paraguay, Venezuela, Uruguay, Turkey, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Syria and Lebanon.

The preamble of the Charter begins:

WE THE PEOPLES OF THE UNITED NATIONS DETERMINED

"to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war, which twice in our lifetime has brought untold sorrow to mankind, and to reaffirm faith in fundamental human rights, in the dignity and worth of the human person, in the equal rights of men and women and of nations large and small, and to establish conditions under which justice and respect for the obligations arising from treaties and other sources of international law can be maintained, and to promote social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom".

1. The United Nations Charter is based on the principle of the sovereign equality of all of its' Members.

2. All Members, in order to ensure all of them the rights and benefits resulting from membership, shall fulfill in good faith the obligations assumed by them in accordance with the present Charter.
3. All Members shall settle their international disputes by peaceful means in such a manner that international peace and security, and justice, are not endangered.
4. All Members shall refrain in their international relations from the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any state, or in any other manner inconsistent with the Purposes of the United Nations.

Group Of Friends In Defence Of The UN Charter

It's interesting to note that today both China and Russia highly respect the United Nations Charter and attach special importance to the Group of Friends in Defence of the UN Charter, founded in 2021. <https://www.gof-uncharter.org/about-us> It's a mechanism for consolidating the Global South. Among its key achievements is the resolution Eradication of Colonialism in All Its Forms and Manifestations, adopted by the UN General Assembly on December 4, 2024. Russia and China support reform of the UN so it fully restores its authority and reflects modern realities. In particular, this includes advocating for making the Security Council more democratic by including states from Asia, Africa, and Latin America.

Questioning Western Values & Democracies

So why have Western countries persistently undermined the United Nations Charter they helped create, by attacking many countries in wars of aggression? They often used false pretexts, like claiming in 2001 that Iraq had weapons of mass destruction, when experts reported it did not. Why is it that the US-led allies have so often interfered in the sovereignty of countries, violating international law, as they did in 2025 when Israel and America attacked Iran? Israel also attacked Lebanon, Qatar, Syria and Yemen with America's blessing. And America continues to threaten Venezuela, which angered the West years ago by nationalising

its oil. Attacks on these countries are all linked to America's desire to control regions with oil resources.

America & NATO's Serial Wars

Alfred de Zayas, Professor of Law, wrote in an article in 2024: "NATO forces have committed aggression, war crimes, crimes against humanity in Yugoslavia, Afghanistan, Iraq, Libya, Syria, but the fake news that accompanied those wars by now have evolved into fake history, and many believe the apologetics of NATO's criminal actions".

"In a very real sense, NATO should be labelled a criminal organisation within the meaning of the Nuremberg Judgment of 1946 and articles 9 and 10 of the Statute of the International Military Tribunal (London Agreement of 8 August 1945, ironically adopted two days after America's nuclear bombing of Hiroshima and one day before the annihilation of Nagasaki) ... **we are now closer to annihilation than ever before since 1945. NATO is out of control** (my emphasis)"

"What we need is an immediate cease-fire and diplomatic negotiations to end the wars in Ukraine and in Israel, Palestine, Lebanon, Yemen, Syria. The Global Majority must reject the obsolete paradigms of exceptionalism and unilateralism and rediscover the spirituality of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Pax optima rerum (peace is the greatest good)" – <https://www.counterpunch.org/2024/09/25/exceptionalism-and-international-law/> 25/9/2024

China is dismissed by Western countries as an "authoritarian dictatorship," without our "democratic values" Yet China's humanitarian achievements in eradicating poverty have been acknowledged by the United Nations. In October 2021 UN Secretary-General António Guterres saluted China's poverty alleviation efforts. "I am pleased to join you as we mark 50 years since the General Assembly adopted resolution 2758 deciding to 'restore all its rights to the People's Republic of China and recognise representatives of its Government as the only legitimate representatives of China in the United Nations'. In the decades since, China has become an increasingly important contributor to the work of the Organisation and a

major pillar of international cooperation".

"I thank China for its role in shaping and implementing the Sustainable Development Goals, as evidenced by its strong commitment and significant progress to eradicate poverty in all forms and dimensions, one of the world's leading challenges. China's achievements provide valuable lessons in poverty alleviation that are being shared with other countries through South-South Cooperation". <https://press.un.org/en/2021/sgsm20988.doc.htm>

What do our cherished "democracies" and values mean, when the U.S. has 800 military bases worldwide, and along with its Western NATO allies, have attacked and destroyed many countries, killing millions, violating international law and the United Nations Charter repeatedly over the last 70 years? Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos in 1964, Yugoslavia in 1999, Afghanistan in 2001, Iraq, Libya, Syria, Somalia, Iran, Haiti, Venezuela, are all victims of Western countries' lawless inhumanity, under the rubric of the "rules-based order," which actually ignores international law and the UN Charter.

China's Support For A More Equitable World

We read nothing in our press about President Xi's proposal for a "Global Governance Initiative," to assist in achieving a more just, equitable world order. China's leader has announced a new Shanghai Cooperation Development Bank, with grants of two billion renminbi, (\$US280 million), to SCO members, and an additional ten billion renminbi, (\$US1.4 billion) in loans.

China's President Xi Jinping gave a speech on September 1, 2025, at the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Plus Meeting in the north China port city of Tianjin. Extracts from his talk: "This year marks the 80th anniversary of the victory of the World Anti-Fascist War and the founding of the United Nations. It is a milestone prompting us to remember the past and create a better future together".

"Eighty years later, while historical trends of peace, development, cooperation and mutual benefit remain unchanged, the Cold War mentality, hegemonism and protectionism still haunt the world. New threats and challenges have been increasing.

The world has found itself in a new period of turbulence and transformation. Global governance has come to a new crossroads”.

“History tells us that at difficult times, we must uphold our original commitment to peaceful coexistence, strengthen our confidence in win-win cooperation. To this end, I wish to propose the Global Governance Initiative (GGI). I look forward to working with all countries for a more just and equitable global governance system and advancing toward a community with a shared future for humanity. First, we should adhere to sovereign equality. We should maintain that all countries, regardless of size, strength and wealth, are equal participants, decision-makers and beneficiaries in global governance”.

“We should promote greater democracy in international relations and increase the representation and voice of developing countries. Second, we should abide by international rule of law. The purposes and principles of the UN Charter and other universally recognised basic norms of international relations must be observed comprehensively, fully and in their entirety. International law and rules should be applied equally and uniformly. There should be no double standards, and the house rules of a few countries must not be imposed upon others”.

“Third, we should practice multilateralism. We should uphold the vision of global governance featuring extensive consultation and joint contribution for shared benefit, strengthen solidarity and coordination, and oppose unilateralism. We should firmly safeguard the status and authority of the UN, and ensure its irreplaceable, key role in global governance. Fourth, we should advocate the people-centred approach. We should reform and improve the global governance system to ensure that people of every nation are the actors in and beneficiaries of global governance, so as to better tackle the common challenges for mankind, better narrow the North-South gap, and better safeguard the common interests of all countries”.

“The founding declaration and the Charter of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation made it clear that we should promote a more democratic, just and equitable international political and economic order. Over the past 24 years, the SCO has adhered faithfully to the Shanghai Spir-

it of mutual trust, mutual benefit, equality, consultation, respect for diversity of civilisations, and pursuit of common development. We have discussed regional affairs together, built platforms and mechanisms together, and benefited from cooperation together. We have also initiated many new global governance concepts and put them into practice. The SCO has increasingly become a catalyst for reform of the global governance system”.

Safeguarding World Peace & Stability

“We should contribute to safeguarding world peace and stability. With a vision for common security, SCO member states have signed the Treaty on Long-Term Good-Neighbourliness, Friendship and Cooperation, conducted effective security cooperation, and maintained overall stability in the region. We should continue to uphold the principles of non-alliance, non-confrontation and not targeting any third party”.

“We should combine our efforts in addressing various threats and challenges, give full play to the newly established SCO Universal Center for Countering Security Challenges and Threats and the SCO Anti-drug Centre, and build a community of common security in the region. We should remain a force for stability in this volatile world”.

“We should step up to take responsibility for open cooperation across the globe. SCO member states have rich energy resources, big markets and strong internal driving forces, and we are contributing a rising share to world economic growth. We should continue to dismantle walls, not erect them; we should seek integration, not decoupling”.

“We should advance high-quality Belt and Road cooperation, and push for a universally beneficial and inclusive economic globalisation. China will readily share the opportunities of its vast market, and continue to implement the action plan for high-quality development of economic and trade cooperation within the SCO family”.

“China will establish three major platforms for China-SCO cooperation in energy, green industry, and the digital economy, and will set up

three major cooperation centres for scientific and technological innovation, higher education, and vocational and technical education. We will work with fellow SCO countries to increase installed capacity of photovoltaic and wind power each by ten million kilowatts in the next five years”. For Xi’s full speech see https://english.www.gov.cn/news/202509/01/con-tent_WS68-b584acc6d0868f4e8f53c8.html

Perhaps Aotearoa/New Zealand could learn from Austria. In September 2025, Austrian President Alexander Van der Bellen met in Vienna with China’s Foreign Minister Wang Yi, a member of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China’s Central Committee. Austria is willing to work with China to jointly safeguard multilateralism and promote world peace and development.

The Austrian President also firmly supports the one-China policy. <https://news.cgtn.com/news/2025-09-13/Austrian-president-meets-Chinese-FM-says-to-uphold-multilateralism-1GCPCqs2R8c/p.html> (13/9/2025) Another example of the emerging multipolar world, supported by the majority of people and countries in the world, is this statement from a BRICS summit held in Kazan, Russia, 21/10/24 (BRICS – originally Brazil, Russia, India, and China. More recently several other countries have joined).

A Manifesto For A Rational World Order:

The BRICS Summit, by Alfred de Zayas, 31/10/24 (abridged)

The Kazan Declaration of 23 October 2024, was adopted at the 16th BRICS Summit hosted by Russia in the city of Kazan from 22 to 24 October 2024 and attended by 36 countries. Former UN Rapporteur, Professor Alfred De Zayas, reported that it was a pivotal moment for humanity and hope was in the air. “There’s a certain optimism that we can gradually change the paradigm, marshal the world disorder, move away from bloc-mentality, abandon confrontational politics, phase out dependence on the US dollar, and craft a coherent policy to enhance trade, social and cultural exchange in tandem with the Purposes and Principles of the UN Charter and in the spirit of the UNESCO Constitution”.



(BRICS Summit 2024. From left, leaders of Egypt, South Africa, China, Russia, India, UAE, Iran)

"While tensions will persist for years, the very existence of BRICS and the future-oriented Kazan Summit offer an alternative to Western nihilism. BRICS has just added 13 new members, and there are dozens more who want to join. The Kazan Declaration with its 134 paragraphs is a major step in developing a multipolar world order and reaffirms the will of the Global Majority to strengthen international peace and security through multilateralism. It is worth highlighting some concrete achievements and proposals of the Kazan Summit, which show a new willingness to go forward in solidarity and abandon the confrontational approach of the US and European states".

"The comprehensive agenda of the Kazan Declaration covers a broad range of activities in peace-making and peace maintenance, climate change and the environment, global health and pandemics, fighting international drugs and terrorism, supporting women's participation, people-to-people exchanges, energy security, digitalisation, financial co-operation and the need for de-dollarisation".

"Meanwhile BRICS has established a commission to study these proposals and is looking at alternatives to the US-run SWIFT international banking communications and wire payment system, as well as for insurance for international commerce, that were hijacked by weaponisation

of the dollar. But, even without operational non-dollar and non-SWIFT alternatives, bilateral trade in other national currencies is growing fast. SWIFT reports that use of the US dollar in international trade is down to 49%. Russia and China are conducting most of their trade in rubles and yuan". The 134 paragraphs fall under eight headings with paragraphs from each. Below is an abridgement of Professor de Zayas article.

Strengthening Multilateralism

Paragraph 6 of the declaration stipulates, inter alia: "We note the emergence of new centres of power, policy decision-making and economic growth, which can pave the way for a more equitable, just, democratic and balanced multipolar world order. ... we reaffirm our commitment to multilateralism and upholding international law, including the Purposes and Principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations as its indispensable cornerstone, and the central role of the UN in the international system...."

Rejection Of Unilateralism In Particular Unilateral Coercive Measures

Paragraph 10 stipulates: "We are deeply concerned about the disruptive effect of unlawful unilateral coercive measures, including illegal sanctions, on the world economy, international trade, and achieve-

ment of sustainable development goals. Such measures undermine the UN Charter, the multilateral trading system, sustainable development and environmental agreements".

Paragraph 13 stresses "... the universal and inclusive nature of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals, and that implementation should take into account different national circumstances, capacities and levels of development ... We condemn the attempts to subject development to discriminatory politically motivated practices, including but not limited to unilateral coercive measures that are incompatible with principles of the UN Charter, explicit or implied political conditionality of development assistance, activities, aiming at compromising the multiplicity of international development assistance providers".

International Peace And Security

Paragraph 25 expresses concern over "... the rise of violence and continuing armed conflicts in different parts of the world, including those that have significant impact at both regional and international levels. We reiterate our commitment to peaceful resolution of disputes through diplomacy, mediation, inclusive dialogue and consultations in a coordinated and cooperative manner and support all efforts conducive to the peaceful settlement of crises.

We stress the need to engage in conflict prevention efforts, including through addressing their root causes. We acknowledge the legitimate and reasonable security concerns of all countries”.

Fostering Economic And Financial Cooperation

Paragraph 57 reiterates “... strong belief that multilateral cooperation is essential to limit the risks stemming from geopolitical and geo-economic fragmentation and commit to intensify efforts in areas of mutual interest, including but not limited to, trade, poverty and hunger reduction, sustainable development, including access to energy, water and food, fuel, fertilisers as well as mitigating and adapting to the impact of climate change, education, and health, including pandemic prevention, preparedness and response”.

Paragraph 61 deals with the Sustainable Development Goals and BRICS’ public-private partnerships. Paragraph 62 recognises the key role of the New Development Bank in promoting infrastructure and sustainable development of its member countries, as well as expanding local currency financing. Paragraph 63 welcomes “the BRICS Interbank Cooperation Mechanism (ICM) focus on facilitating and expanding innovative financial practices and approaches for projects and programmes, including finding acceptable mechanisms of financing in local currencies. We welcome a continued dialogue between the ICM and the NDB”.

Illicit Financial Flows, Money-Laundering And Drugs

Paragraph 49 commits BRICS members “...to preventing and combating illicit financial flows, money laundering, terrorism financing, drug trafficking, corruption and the misuse of new technologies, including cryptocurrencies, for illegal and terrorist purposes. We reaffirm our commitment to the principles of technical and nonpoliticised nature of international anti-criminal cooperation”.

Paragraph 50 calls for an enhanced dialogue within BRICS on “money-laundering and countering the financing of terrorism with participation of relevant stakeholders.” Paragraph 51 focuses on “...illicit drug production, trafficking and abuse

worldwide, (which)... threatens public security and international and regional stability, health, safety and well-being of humankind and as well as undermines the sustainable development of States”.

Climate Change

Paragraph 14 underscores “...the Global Alliance against Hunger and Poverty and the work of the Task Force for a Global Mobilisation against Climate Change, as well as the landmark Rio de Janeiro Declaration on International Tax Cooperation. We reaffirm our willingness to coordinate our positions to enhance inclusiveness and amplify the voice of the Global South and further integrate their priorities in the G20 agenda through the consecutive G20 presidencies of BRICS member states – India, Brazil and South Africa – during 2023-2025 and beyond...”

Paragraph 86 welcomes the establishment of the Contact Group on Climate Change and Sustainable Development by BRICS Environment Ministers on 28 June 2024, as well as the adoption of the Framework on Climate Change and Sustainable Development. A BRICS Climate Research Platform is being established to enhance the scientific and expert exchange of views and best practices. Paragraph 90 refers to the critical importance of the oceans for sustainable development and climate stability.

Global Health

Paragraph 93 reiterates BRICS support “...to the central coordinating role of the World Health Organisation in the implementation of multilateral international efforts to protect public health from infectious diseases and epidemics and commit to reform and strengthen the international pandemic prevention, preparedness and response system.

Paragraph 96 recalls the significant potential of BRICS countries “...in the field of nuclear medicine, we welcome the decision to establish a BRICS Working Group on Nuclear Medicine. We note the successful holding of the First BRICS Nuclear Medicine Forum on 20-21 June 2024 in St. Petersburg and the publication of the BRICS Review of Best Practices in Nuclear Medicine”.

People To People Exchanges

Paragraph 119 reaffirms the importance of “...BRICS people-to-people exchanges in enhancing mutual understanding, friendship and cooperation. Paragraph 123 emphasises further “...that all BRICS countries have rich traditional sport culture and agree to support each other in the promotion of traditional and indigenous sports among BRICS countries and around the world”.

Concluding Thoughts

Economic dynamism and gross domestic product (GDP) expansion have shifted from the West to countries in Africa, Asia, and Latin America including Brazil, China, India and South Africa. As a consequence, the U.S.-led international system devised at Bretton Woods in 1944 appears obsolete and has been so aggressively weaponised by the US to the detriment of the Global Majority, that many countries have decided to test other options. It is impressive that numerous new institutions are emerging to better reflect economic realities of the 21st Century, which can no longer be unipolar. BRICS is the leading example.

In a certain sense, BRICS represents a “new dawn” of multipolarity and, hopefully, peace, based on the UN Charter and respect for the sovereign equality of states and the self-determination of peoples. As one observer noted: “BRICS intends to position itself as a multitasking laboratory of global governance, where new algorithms of multilateral cooperation and innovative models for solving the world’s major economic and political problems can be tested”. These are exciting times. Let the West remain in denial about BRICS. While some dogs may bark, the caravan moves on.

America’s Toxic Exceptionalism & “Full Spectrum Dominance” Foreign Policy

Instead of seeking to avoid wars and make a peaceful world as set out in the UN Charter it helped create in 1945, America did the opposite. It devised an aggressive policy of full spectrum dominance to dominate the world. America had far fewer deaths in World War 2. It wasn’t invaded, bombed or devastated as were Europe, Russia and China.

America was actually in a good economic position at the end of WW2.

American industry was actually revitalised by the war. Many sectors were by 1945 either sharply oriented to defence production (for example, aerospace and electronics) or completely dependent on it (atomic energy). The organised labour movement, strengthened by the war, became a major counterbalance to both the Government and private industry. The war's global scale severely damaged every major economy in the world except for the United States, which thus enjoyed unprecedented economic and political power after 1945. <https://eh.net/encyclopedia/the-american-economy-during-world-war-ii/>

Military force is a way of life for America. Bill Astore reported on 1/10/25 in an article titled: "Fat Generals": "America's 'national security' state has kept our country in a state of permanent war since 1947. Trump and Hegseth are just ripping the facade of 'security' away and replacing it with 'war'. Peace is the word that dare not speak its name. And 'war,' of course, has now come to the streets of America, with troops deployed to Portland next. Add that to the many police who got their initial training in the military and the rapid expansion of ICE along with detention centers and it's obvious how the war on terror has truly become global since now the focus is on terror in America. We are reaping what we sowed".

America has repeatedly violated United Nations directives for a world at peace. Military force, and vicious coercive sanctions that are collective punishment, have been used, even when America refused Palestinians visas to attend the United

Nations 80th meeting in September 2025. The meeting had an understandable focus on Israel's appalling genocide against Palestinians, which was, and is still, fuelled with American planes and weapons.

UN Urges Countries To Recognise Palestine: Stop Israel's Genocide

UN Secretary-General António Guterres opened the 80th session of the annual General Assembly in September 2025, calling for peace and urging member states to uphold international law and implement the International Court of Justice's binding measures on Israel's genocide in Gaza. "The measures must be implemented, fully and immediately", with recognition of the Palestinian state, Guterres said. What are Western values when Israel and its ally America are perpetrating genocide against Palestinians? <https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2025/09/israel-has-committed-genocide-gaza-strip-un-commission-finds> full report at <https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/documents/hrbodies/hrcouncil/sessions-regular/session60/advance-version/a-hrc-60-crp-3.pdf>

The report of the UN's Independent International Commission of Inquiry on occupied Palestinian territory, including East Jerusalem, and Israel was published on 16 September, 2025, four days before the annual UN General Assembly. It's a long harrowing report, the product of two years of "painstaking," fact-gathering and legal analysis, It leaves no doubt that Israel's deliberate actions in Gaza have brought about genocide, as listed in the foundational and binding 1948

Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of Genocide (<https://ihl-databases.icrc.org/en/ihl-treaties/genocide-conv-1948>) as well as the 1998 Rome Statute (<https://www.icc-cpi.int/sites/default/files/2024-05/Rome-Statute-eng.pdf>):

Killing members of the group, causing serious bodily or mental harm to members of the group, deliberately inflicting on the group conditions of life calculated to bring about its physical destruction in whole or in part, and imposing measures intended to prevent births within the group. Under international law, even one of these actions is sufficient to be charged with genocide.

Siege, Starvation, Bombing & Blocking Humanitarian Aid

Navi Pillay, leader of the report said: "The international community cannot stay silent on the genocidal campaign launched by Israel against Palestinian people in Gaza. When clear signs and evidence of genocide emerge, the absence of action to stop it amounts to complicity. Every day of inaction costs lives and erodes the credibility of the international community. **All States are under a legal obligation to use all means reasonably available to them to stop the genocide in Gaza** (my emphasis).

NZ's Shameful Silence On Israel's Genocide: Legal Issues

How is it that Australia, the UK, and Canada recognised Palestine as a state, before the UN meeting, but New Zealand did not? Was our Government unable to speed read the report, released three days before the UN meeting, or was it distracted by other matters it considered more important, like getting migrants to improve our economic performance? It's deeply shameful that Foreign Minister Winston Peters attended the UN meeting without committing to a long overdue recognition of Palestine.

Peters said he would not be rushed into committing New Zealand to recognising Palestine. So, he made himself and New Zealand irrelevant at the 80th UN meeting. Currently, the State of Palestine is recognised as a sovereign nation by 157 of the 193 UN member states, representing 81% of the international community.



But more than being irrelevant, by refusing to acknowledge Palestine as a state, our Government is contravening the Genocide Convention, leaving itself open to being held responsible for supporting genocide. What will future generations of New Zealanders think about this?

Israel's horrific genocide of Palestinians continues its gruesome trail of death and destruction, visible for all to see. The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights recently pointed out that in the West Bank and East Jerusalem killings, attacks and harassment of Palestinians by Israeli soldiers and settlers, demolition of homes and forced displacements contribute to the ongoing consolidation of illegally annexing West Bank territory, in violation of international law. Most states are signatories of the Genocide Convention and have an obligation to prevent and punish genocide. Will our government finally see the light and join the vast majority of countries supporting the state of Palestine?

Hamas Atrocity Claims Debunked

Many people and our Government, believe Israel's story that Hamas, the Palestinian defence unit, committed atrocities in October 2023. But it was because NZ and other countries did not act over 40 years on the advice of hundreds of UN resolutions to restrain Israel's illegal occupation and apartheid practices in Palestinian territory that Hamas was impelled, in 2023, to take action to draw attention to the deprivation that Israel was inflicting on Palestinians.

In a March 2022 report, UN expert Michael Lynk called on the international community to end Israel's illegal practice of apartheid in occupied Palestinian territory since 1967. "The 1998 Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, that came into law after collapse of the old South Africa, prohibits apartheid as a crime against humanity today and into the future, wherever it may exist. For more than 40 years, the UN Security Council and General Assembly have stated in hundreds of resolutions that Israel's annexation of occupied territory is unlawful, its construction of hundreds of Jewish settlements is illegal, its denial of Palestinian self-determination breaches international law. But no accountability has ever followed".

Reports of the October 2023 Hamas attack on Israel, claiming they raped women and killed babies are false Israeli propaganda. Max Blumenthal reported in February 2024: "The contents of the Israeli Association of Rape Crisis Center's paper alleging 'systematic' Hamas rape derive largely from discredited second-hand testimonies and debunked media reports. Among its most heavily cited sources is a dubious *NY Times* article that triggered a staff revolt at the paper".

<https://just-international.org/articles/new-israeli-report-alleging-systematic-and-intentional-rape-by-hamas-relies-on-debunked-western-media-reports/>. See also <https://institute.aljazeera.net/en/ajr/article/2489> & https://www.democracynow.org/2024/3/1/nyt_anat_schwartz/ (1/3/24) & <https://theintercept.com/2024/02/28/new-york-times-anat-schwartz-october-7/> (28/2/2024)

Hostages

All living Israeli hostages were released from Gaza in 2025, along with the bodies of dead ones. But Israel continues bombing, shooting and starving Palestinians, destroying Gaza in the process. The region is also deprived of food, water and medicine. Meanwhile 2.3 million Palestinians are held hostage by Israel's regime illegally bombing apartments, hospitals, schools, and shooting Palestinians, even when they try to get food. Palestinians have been starved of food and medicine for many months.

As New Zealand has not denounced Israel for its illegal apartheid policies on Palestinians from 1967, it was all the more important for our Government to take on board the UN findings in its 2025 report (<https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2025/09/israel-has-committed-genocide-gaza-strip-un-commission-finds>) and denounce Israel for its horrifying genocide. What will future generations in New Zealand think about our country being complicit in this well documented genocide?

Excerpts From UN Report On Israel's Genocide Summary Of Factual Findings

"The Commission reported that, in May 2024, the number of Palestinians physically injured in Gaza was estimated at 77,908. As of 30 July 2025, the number of persons injured, according to the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), stands at 146,269. According to the World Health Organisation (WHO) in July 2024, it was reasonable to estimate between 3,105 and 4,050 limb amputations between January and May 2024. According to UN Children's Fund (UNICEF), at least 609 children were injured in two weeks after the ceasefire broke down, between 18 and 31 March 2025, bringing the total number of children injured since 7 October 2023 to 34,000, as of 31 March 2025".

"In June 2024, the Commissioner General of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) stated that ten children lost one or both legs in the war **every day** and, in October 2024, an OCHA representative reported: 'Gaza is home to the largest cohort of child amputees in modern history'. In a statement to Anadolu Agency in January 2025, the head of the Health Information Unit at the Health Ministry in Gaza said they have recorded '4,500 amputation cases by the end of 2024, as a result of continuous Israeli airstrikes and ground attacks on Gaza' since October 2023, of whom an estimated 800 were children, and 540 were women".

"Palestinians in Gaza were attacked by Israeli security forces in their homes, hospitals, in shelters (including schools, religious sites, and shelters for displaced Palestinians), during evacuations and in designated safe zones. At times, civilians, journalists, healthcare professionals, humanitarian workers and other protected persons were directly targeted and killed".

"According to the Ministry of Health in Gaza, as of 15 April 2025, 1,400 healthcare workers were killed. On 31 March 2025, UNRWA's Commissioner-General said a total of 408 aid workers were killed in Gaza since 7 October 2023. From 7 October 2023 to 23 July 2025, over 330 UNRWA team members have been

confirmed killed. Reportedly, as of 3 March 2025, at least 170 journalists and media worker had been killed due to Israeli military operations. The killings even occurred during ceasefire periods, contrary to terms of the ceasefire and without warning”.

“On 25 March 2024, the UN Security Council passed a binding resolution demanding an immediate ceasefire for the month of Ramadan. The International Court of Justice (ICJ) issued its first order on provisional measures on 26 January 2024 in *South Africa v. Israel*; on 28 March 2024, it issued a second order on provisional measures, warning that ‘catastrophic living conditions’ in the Gaza Strip had deteriorated further, particularly in view of the prolonged and widespread deprivation of food and basic necessities”.

“On 24 May 2024, it issued a third order on provisional measures, ordering Israel to immediately stop its military operations in Rafah Governorate, ensure humanitarian assistance and provide access to Gaza for UN mandated commissions of inquiry. **These International Court of Justice orders are binding on Israel** (my emphasis). As early as 26 January 2024 the International Court of Justice considered the ‘catastrophic humanitarian situation in the Gaza Strip is seriously at risk of deteriorating further before the Court renders its final judgment’. The ICJ ordered Israel to ‘take immediate and effective measures to enable provision of urgently needed basic services and humanitarian assistance’ in Gaza”.

“Strict limitations and interference with entry of humanitarian assistance and attacks on humanitarian convoys continued after the order. Some attacks resulted in casualties or destruction of aid. For example, in an incident reported by UNRWA on 5 February 2024, an UNRWA food convoy of ten trucks traveling along al Rashid Road from south to northern Gaza was hit by Israeli security forces naval gunfire”.

“On 28 March 2024, the International Court of Justice issued a second order on provisional measures. The ICJ observed that, since it had issued the first order on provisional measures on 26 January 2024, the ‘catastrophic living conditions’ in Gaza had deteriorated further, particularly prolonged and widespread dep-

rivation of food and basic necessities. The ICJ observed that Palestinians in Gaza were no longer facing only a risk of famine but that ‘famine is settling in’”.

“The ICJ ordered Israel to take all necessary, effective measures to ‘ensure’ without delay, in full cooperation with the United Nations, the unhindered provision of urgently needed basic services and humanitarian assistance, as well as medical supplies and medical care. This is a much stronger order than the first provisional measures, which only ordered Israel to ‘enable’ provision of these services”.

“Far from cooperating with the United Nations, however, Israel responded by proscribing and excluding the principal UN agency providing aid and humanitarian assistance, UNRWA. The International Court of Justice also ordered Israel’s military ‘not to commit acts which constitute a violation of any rights of Palestinians in Gaza as a protected group under the Genocide Convention’, including by preventing delivery of urgently needed humanitarian assistance”.

“On 24 May 2024, the International Court of Justice issued a third order on provisional measures. The ICJ noted the catastrophic humanitarian situation in the Gaza Strip had deteriorated and ‘is now to be characterised as disastrous’. The ICJ ordered Israel to ‘immediately halt its military offensive, and any other action in the Rafah Governorate, which may inflict on the Palestinian group in Gaza conditions of life that could bring about its physical destruction in whole or in part’”.

“The ICJ also ordered Israel to take effective measures to ensure unimpeded access to the Gaza Strip of ‘any commission of inquiry, fact-finding mission or other investigative body mandated by competent organs of the United Nations to investigate allegations of genocide’. The Commission notes that it is an UN-mandated investigative body to which this order applied. However, to date, Israel has not responded to the Commission’s request to access Gaza to conduct investigations therein. As the pattern of conduct shows, Israel has had no intention of alleviating Palestinians’ suffering, instead it implemented a total and partial siege of Gaza”.

“Despite numerous warnings, including from the International Court of Justice through its provisional measures, orders that are binding on Israel, Israeli authorities have not only failed to facilitate unimpeded access of humanitarian aid into Gaza, but have continued restrictions or a total blockade of humanitarian aid, including food and water, fuel and power, medical supplies and equipment and other essential items and services from entering into Gaza. While they have permitted some humanitarian aid to enter Gaza at some stages, intermittently, it was short-lived, insufficient and often severely restricted through stringent security checks”.

Targeted & Killed When Trying To Get Food

“Palestinians have been targeted and killed when trying to obtain humanitarian assistance from aid trucks. Tellingly, from 2 March 2025 to 19 May 2025, Israel did not permit any food, water, fuel, medicine or any commercial supplies into Gaza, despite repeated calls to allow humanitarian aid into Gaza, including by the UN Secretary-General and several Member States. On 19 May 2025, after 11 weeks of complete blockade, Israel eventually permitted a few aid trucks to enter Gaza. This was merely a drop in the ocean of what is urgently needed’, according to the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator”.

The intention of Israeli authorities to continuously impose starvation and unliveable conditions of life for Palestinians in Gaza is also evident through establishing and use of the Gaza Humanitarian Foundation (GHF) to maintain total control over aid distribution in Gaza. Notably, the GHF does not distribute any essential items other than food, and all four distribution sites are in militarised zones, none of which is situated in northern Gaza, making it extremely difficult, and at times, impossible, for many Palestinians to access food”.

“Notably, on 29 July 2025, the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) warned that the worst-case scenario of famine is currently playing out in the Gaza Strip, and on 22 August 2025, the IPC Famine Review Committee (FRC) stated that a man-made famine is currently occurring in Gaza Governorate, and

projected that famine thresholds would be crossed in Deir al-Balah and Khan Younis Governorates “in coming weeks. Furthermore, since the Gaza Humanitarian Foundation took over aid distribution in Gaza, at least 859 Palestinians were killed, mostly by Israel’s military, in the vicinity of GHF distribution sites as of 31 July 2025”.

“The Commission notes its investigation into incidents at GHF sites is ongoing. Importantly, the Commission finds a connection between laws voted by the Knesset in October 2024 intended to cripple UNRWA’s operations in Gaza, and establishment of the GHF in 2025 intended to control distribution of food aid in Gaza. Both represent interconnected political and politicised measures of Israeli authorities undertaken to block and obstruct trusted aid agencies and maintain Israeli dominance over Palestinians’ access to essential and lifesaving aid and, ultimately, bring about physical destruction of the Palestinians in Gaza through unliveable conditions of life in the Gaza Strip”.

“Far from enabling and ensuring provision of aid, Israeli security forces have continued to prevent entry of all humanitarian assistance to Gaza and to target humanitarian aid convoys and aid workers inside Gaza, in flagrant disregard of the International Court of Justice’s orders. Furthermore, Israeli authorities are aware that Palestinians in Gaza, almost 80% of whom are from families previously forced to flee to Gaza as refugees, are now trapped in Gaza and have nowhere to flee outside Gaza, even if they wanted to do so. Entrapment of the Palestinian population in Gaza has had increasingly severe consequences as the fighting continues and is now more destructive than ever”.

“On 5 May 2025, Israel’s Security Cabinet decided on ‘an intense operation’ in Gaza, allegedly to defeat Hamas and return Israeli hostages. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Defence Minister Israel Katz stated the operation will involve ‘moving the population for its protection’ to southern Gaza and Israel’s security forces will not leave areas which it will take over.

“Between 5 and 21 May 2025, Israel’s security forces carried out hundreds of airstrikes in Gaza, purportedly against ‘terror targets.’ Their ground operations escalated greatly on 18 May 2025. As a result, approximately 161,000 Palestinians were displaced between 15 and 21 May 2025. UNRWA noted that, as of 1 August 2025, at least 1.9 million people have been internally displaced since October 2023, which represents about 90% of the 2.1 million people in Gaza. This includes 767,000 people displaced since 18 March 2025. As of July

ther inside Gaza or by crossing an international border”.

“Israel’s military has prevented them escaping from the violence into Israel, from where most of their families fled, or Egypt. They can only remain, facing death and increasingly deteriorating conditions of life. **This situation infers a clear intent on the part of Israel’s authorities to trap Palestinians in Gaza, creating conditions that would prohibit them from escaping and ultimately lead to their destruction**” (my emphasis).



Becky Horton, Gaza protest, Christchurch, 11.2025

2025, 87.7 % of the Gaza Strip is within Israeli-militarised zones and/or placed under displacement orders”.

“Creation Of Unbearable Conditions Of Life”

“The Commission highlights that, since the start of Israel’s military operations in October 2023, attacks against Palestinians and creation of unbearable conditions of life in Gaza were imposed by Israeli authorities on the population with the knowledge and awareness that Palestinians were trapped there and unable to escape. This makes Gaza unique among war zones this century. Mass killing, bombing, shelling and other violence have continued and Palestinians in Gaza have had no way to escape it, ei-

“The Gaza Strip has experienced the most intense, daily bombardment on civilians and civilian infrastructure since World War II. There are no army bases or airfields in Gaza, only an under-armed small guerrilla force hiding in tunnels, facing a super-modern military backed by super-modern US military weapons and other Biden/Trump assistance. American doctors and other health workers back from Gaza say almost all survivors are either sick, injured, or dying. Without insulin, medicines for cancer, asthma, and heart disease for many months, with no shelters, with dense/deadly air pollutants, from incessant bombings, their observations are not surprising”.

“The Commission finds that in relation to the total siege, the following factors indicate Israel’s authorities’ intention to impose conditions of life calculated to bring about physical destruction of the Palestinian group in Gaza:

(i) the nature of the siege imposed, its duration and the vulnerability of Palestinians in Gaza who are dependent on the humanitarian aid blocked by Israel; (ii) the awareness of the objective probability that their conduct would lead to destruction of Palestinians in Gaza as a group”.

“(iii) The continuation of blockade despite warnings, including flagrant disregard of binding orders of the International Court of Justice; and (iv) entrapment of Palestinians in Gaza, ensuring they cannot escape violence and eventual destruction of the group. Based on the above, the Commission concludes that the conduct of Israel’s authorities indicates the intention to destroy the Palestinian group in Gaza through starvation and blocking humanitarian aid into Gaza”.

Targeting Healthcare System

"Israel has implemented a concerted policy to destroy the healthcare system of Gaza. Israeli security forces have attacked healthcare facilities and units in Gaza and deliberately killed, wounded, arrested, detained, mistreated and tortured medical personnel since October 2023. Eventually, the healthcare system in Gaza collapsed".

"As of 24 June 2025, only 36% of health facilities remain functional (all partially except one field hospital that is fully functional). As of 7 May 2025, 180 ambulances had been attacked. Attacks against the healthcare system in Gaza persisted after the ceasefire, and hospitals continued to be attacked by Israeli security forces. Israel's concerted policy to systematically destroy healthcare facilities and its attacks against healthcare professionals have forced Palestinians to live without access to crucial medical care, therefore killing many Palestinians, causing further irreparable harm, both physical and mental, to many others".

"Israeli authorities continued their chokehold on Palestinians in Gaza by blocking medical equipment, supplies and medicine from entering Gaza and, at the same time, prevented Palestinians in need of medical assistance from leaving Gaza. Many doctors and healthcare professionals have told the Commission that patients have died due to collapse of the healthcare system in Gaza".

"For example, cancer patients have died due to lack of adequate treatment, and at times, it was impossible to perform surgeries since 7 October 2023 due to lack of proper facilities. The hardship faced by Palestinians was further compounded by Israel's authorities' refusal to grant Palestinians in Gaza permits to leave for medical treatment in West Bank hospitals, including East Jerusalem, or elsewhere. As a result, many Palestinians, including those already requiring medical care prior to the current conflict could not obtain medical assistance".

"The Commission highlights reproductive violence inflicted on Palestinian women in Gaza. Specifically, the Commission notes destruction of the al-Basma in vitro fertilisation (IVF) clinic, the largest fertility centre

in Gaza. This facility was intentionally targeted and destroyed by the Israeli security forces, knowing the result of such conduct would prevent in part the reproduction of Palestinians".

"The Commission finds that Israel's authorities were aware that by destroying the healthcare system throughout Gaza, their actions would lead to destruction of Palestinians as a group. Not only did Israeli security forces destroy the healthcare system, but Israeli security forces continued to kill and harm Palestinians while intentionally obstructing them from trying to access much needed medical assistance and facilities".

"Therefore, the Commission concludes that the systematic and complete destruction of the healthcare system in Gaza, the siege-induced deprivation of medical necessities to Palestinians and denial of medical exit visas to Palestinians who were most in medical need were part of the intent to destroy Palestinians in Gaza by preventing their capacity and possibility to heal, recover and live".

Yet on September 18, 2025, America again vetoed a crucial United Nations Security Council resolution demanding a ceasefire in Gaza, as Israel expanded its scorched-earth offensive on Gaza City <https://www.aljazeera.com/video/newsfeed/2025/9/17/palestinians-under-relentless-attack-as-israel-steps-up-gaza-city-assault>

The resolution was approved by 14 of the 15 members of the Council calling for an "immediate, unconditional and permanent ceasefire in Gaza respected by all parties and the lifting restrictions on humanitarian aid. Drafted by the Council's ten elected members, the resolution went further than previous resolutions, highlighting what diplomats called a "catastrophic" humanitarian situation in Gaza after nearly two years of war in the Gaza Strip. <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2025/9/18/us-vetoes-un-security-council-demand-for-gaza-ceasefire-for-sixth-time>

America Ignores UN: Continues Aiding Genocide

The United Nations called on countries to sanction Israel and stop supporting its genocide. Instead,

the United States recently sanctioned three prominent Palestinian rights groups, Al-Haq, Palestinian Centre for Human Rights (PCHR) and Al-Mezan Center for Human Rights for supporting the International Criminal Court's investigation into Israel's genocide. The groups were added to the Department of the Treasury's "Specially Designated Nationals and Blocked Persons List". US Secretary of State Marco Rubio said the rights groups were targeted for having "directly engaged in efforts by the International Criminal Court (ICC) to investigate, arrest, detain, or prosecute Israeli nationals, without Israel's consent".

Trump's Administration previously sanctioned the ICC over investigations and subsequent arrest warrants issued for Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and former Israeli Defence Minister Yoav Gallant for alleged war crimes committed in Gaza (<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2025/8/20/us-expands-sanctions-targeting-international-criminal-court>). All three groups provided evidence on Israeli abuses in the case. <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2025/9/4/us-sanctions-palestinian-rights-groups-for-supporting-icc-israel-probe> (4/8/25).

America faces increasing isolation and criticism over its continuing support for Israel's genocidal war, and violation of United Nations directives. People around the world are continually demonstrating against the war. Currently, the State of Palestine is recognised as a sovereign nation by 157 of the 193 UN member states, representing 81% of the international community. But America clearly intends the genocide to continue. On September 19, 2025, it was reported America plans a \$US6 billion arms sale package for Israel, including attack helicopters and military vehicles.

The new weapons will begin arriving in Israel in two to three years. "The huge sales came as US plans to broker an end to the nearly two-year war between Israel and Hamas stalled after Israel's strike on Hamas leaders in Doha, Qatar, drew widespread condemnation among US allies in the Middle East. The US has kept up its support despite growing international pressure on Israel and attempts from a growing number of US Senate Democrats to block the sale of

offensive weapons to Israel. <https://www.defensenews.com/global/mideast-africa/2025/09/19/trump-administration-plans-nearly-6b-in-arms-sales-to-israel-report/>

Ukraine War Continues: Dangers Increase

The conflict in Ukraine would not exist if America and NATO countries had not grossly and illegally interfered in Ukraine's sovereignty, aiding an illegally, violent coup, using neo-Nazi militias in 2014. US "diplomats" deposed a democratically elected Government, replacing it with an anti-Russia regime, whose leader was chosen by US "diplomat," Victoria Nuland, famous for her words insulting the European Union – "Fuck the EU!" The neo-Nazi regime's first order was to ban the Russian language and depose militia to fire on people who naturally objected to an imposed Government they didn't vote for.

Professor of Law in Geneva Alfred de Zayas, former UN Human Rights Rapporteur, reported in January 2022: "There would be no conflict in Ukraine today if American politicians, Barack Obama, Victoria Nuland and several European leaders had not destabilised the democratically elected Government of Viktor Yanukovich and organised a vulgar *coup d'état* to install Western puppets. Bottom line: Western interference in internal affairs of other states can backfire, and the culture of cheating and deceit that we continue to practice renders it impossible to reach sustainable solutions".

"The UN Charter, the only existing 'rules-based international order', has the necessary mechanisms to resolve our differences on the basis of principles of sovereign equality of states and self-determination of peoples.... Until the anti-Russian *coup d'état* of February 2014, Ukrainians and Russian-Ukrainians lived side by side in relative harmony. The Maidan 2014 coup brought with it Russophobic elements, exacerbated by systematic war propaganda and incitement to hatred against Russians, both prohibited by article 20 of the International Covenant of Civil and Political Rights. <https://www.counterpunch.org/2022/01/28/a-culture-of-cheating-on-the-origins-of-the-crisis-in-ukraine/>

Also, NATO's efforts, supported by America, to expand military bases

onto Russia's border was a direct threat to Russia's often expressed security concerns about this. America would not accept a Chinese or Russian military base in Mexico on its border, so it's easy to understand why Russia will not accept NATO military bases on its border. While it should be obvious that no one is going to survive a nuclear confrontation, the US, UK and some NATO countries continue playing with fire and irresponsibly escalating the Ukraine War, instead of looking for ways to end the conflict by diplomacy and negotiation.

Ukraine's Neo-Nazis Supported By US/NATO Countries

It's horrifying that today, 80 years after the end of World War 2, there's support from the US, Europe, and UK for a fascist/neo-Nazi regime in Ukraine, when Russia's former Soviet Union, and Western countries fought together in World War 2 to defeat Nazi Germany's invasion of Russia, and Europe. Jacques Baud, former NATO military analyst and Colonel of Swiss General Staff, specialist in Eastern European countries, reported in April 2022:

"These militias, (in Ukraine) stemming from far-Right groups that led the Euromaidan revolution in 2014, are made up of fanatical, brutal individuals. The best known of these is the Azov regiment, whose emblem is reminiscent of that of the 2nd SS Das Reich Panzer Division... the West supports and continues to arm militias that have been guilty of numerous crimes against civilian populations since 2014: rape, torture and massacres". <https://www.thepostil.com/the-military-situation-in-the-ukraine/> 1/4/22.

Horrifying torture took place in Ukraine after the orchestrated US-EU coup in 2014, facilitated by US "diplomats," notably Victoria Nuland and Geoffrey Pyatt. Here are links to two reports from 2014 and 2015. "Ukraine: Abuses And War Crimes By The Aidar Volunteer Battalion In The North Luhansk Region"

<https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/eur50/040/2014/en/>

"War Crimes Of The Armed Forces And Security Forces Of Ukraine: Torture And Inhumane Treat-

ment", The Foundation for the Study of Democracy, 2015, Second Report <https://www.osce.org/files/f/documents/e/7/233896.pdf> <https://www.osce.org/files/f/documents/e/7/233896.pdf> (OSCE - Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe).

Excerpt: "The prisoners were electrocuted, beaten cruelly and for multiple days in a row with different objects (iron bars, baseball bats, sticks, rifle butts, bayonet knives, rubber batons). Techniques widely used by the Ukrainian armed forces and security forces include waterboarding, strangling with a 'Banderist garrotte' and other types of strangling".

"In some cases, prisoners, for the purposes of intimidation, were sent to minefields and run over with military vehicles, which led to their death. Other torture methods used by Ukrainian armed forces and security forces include bone-crushing, stabbing and cutting with a knife, branding with red-hot objects, shooting different body parts with small arms".

"The prisoners taken captive by the Ukrainian armed forces and security forces are kept for days at freezing temperatures, with no access to food or medical assistance, and are often forced to take psychotropic substances that cause agony. An absolute majority of prisoners are put through mock firing squads and suffer death and rape threats to their families. Many of those tortured are not members of the self-defence forces of the Donetsk and Luhansk People's Republics".

"The armed forces and security forces of Ukraine explicitly state, there can be no derogation from Article 3 within the Convention. Article 3 of the European Convention on Human Rights reads: 'No one shall be subjected to torture or to inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.' The extent to which torture is being used and the fact this is done systematically prove that torture is an intentional strategy of the said institutions, authorised by their leadership".

Russia's Much Provoked Intervention In Ukraine's Slaughter

None of these shocking facts on the legitimate reasons for Russia's

much provoked intervention in Ukraine in February 2022 are reported by Western governments or in mainstream western media. Instead, we hear with mind-numbing frequency the false phrase: "Russia's unprovoked war in Ukraine". Nor do they report that the war could have ended on terms acceptable to both countries shortly after it started in February 2022. What prevented it ending then was that then UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson, supported by America, intervened and offered more weapons and money to Ukraine for the war to continue.

Kyiv's shelling and killing of Russian civilians continued regularly with new weapons from America and EU countries, adding to the violence suffered by civilians in the Donbass region since the US-supported illegal coup in Kyiv in 2014. The Western allies have supplied supply Kyiv with advisers and weapons that can reach Russia. However, their stocks of weapons are running low, while Russia's are constantly replenished, as it's fighting for its security against the entire Western bloc. Western populations are also taught by Western propaganda to hate Russians. All this prevents rational discussion and peaceful settlement of the war and increases risks of nuclear exchanges by accident or deliberately.

President Trump's Peace Plan

President Trump has told the Europeans they must not rely on America to fund their security. His efforts met with outrage from Ukraine, and America's allies in Britain and in Europe, Germany and France, the NATO military alliance countries. The allies claim they support freedom and democracy in Ukraine against "Russia's aggression". But as Germany and France aided an illegal coup against a democratically elected Ukraine government in 2014, their claims are dishonest.

According to many geostrategists, U.S. Vice President JD Vance has also suggested withdrawing American troops from Germany. As you might expect, the British and the French are losing their minds, wondering how to appease Trump or drive a wedge between America and Russia. It's no secret that France's Macron is behind this lunacy. The French President has suggested this nuclear-sharing move for over a decade now. But there's a huge problem.

President Trump, to his credit, opened a dialogue with Russia, in 2025, to end the Ukraine War, though his later efforts were erratic, contradicting this. The latest news in October 2025 is that the US will provide Ukraine with intelligence for long-range strikes inside Russia. <https://news.antiwar.com/2025/10/02/us-to-provide-ukraine-with-intelligence-for-long-range-missile-strikes-inside-russia/>

Trump's special envoy to Ukraine, Keith Kellogg, insists Ukraine can win the war, despite Russia advancing on the front in all directions, and having the clear advantage when it comes to manpower and industrial capacity to produce weapons. However, because the US Congress failed to pass a budget in 2025, Government agencies have been shut down, so delivery of American weapons may be affected. <https://tass.com/world/2024823>

Russia's Requirements For A Peace Deal With Ukraine

Formal recognition of Russian territorial sovereignty over the Crimea and the oblasts of Donetsk, Kherson, Luhansk, and Zaporizhzhia, where a majority of people speak the Russian language, which is outlawed by Ukraine's regime. **Withdrawal of applications by Ukraine to join NATO or the EU**, along with a guarantee by the United States not to expand NATO into any additional territories that formed the Russian Empire as of 1917 or the Soviet Union as of 1990.

NATO should not have expanded into Finland, Poland, or the Baltic States, but it is too late to do much about that at the present time, but it is crucial to prevent further NATO expansion into Armenia, Georgia, or Azerbaijan, or anywhere else in the sphere of influence of core Russian interests. Recent allegations from Poland and Estonia that Russian drones violated their airspace were not backed up with evidence.

Destruction of a house in the Lublin Voivodeship actually turned out to be the result of a missile fired by a NATO F-16 fighter <https://tass.com/politics/2020927> 24/9/25. According to Gallup's latest study on Ukraine, 69% of

Ukrainians support ending the war as soon as possible through negotiations. <https://zn.ua/eng/gallup-data-reveal-ukrainians-shift-from-euphoria-to-realism-not-optimism-to-pessimism.html> (12/8/25)

Europe Panics: Nuclear Threats In Europe

Responding to America's plan to withdraw support for Europe in the Ukraine War, that they actually provoked, France and Germany are talking about nuclear weapons. As you might expect, the British and French are losing their minds, wondering how to appease Trump. It's no secret that France's Macron is behind this lunacy. The French President has suggested this nuclear-sharing move for over a decade now.

Macron said (6/3/25) that Russia had become a "threat" to France and Europe, therefore, it was necessary to open discussion on using France's nuclear weapons to defend the entire European Union. France is the only country with nuclear weapons in the EU. "The United States of America, our ally, has changed its position, supporting Ukraine less, leaving doubt about what comes next".

He emphasised the need for continued support for Kyiv and stronger European military capabilities." He questioned whether Putin's Russia would stop after Ukraine. "I want to believe the US will stand by our side, but we have to be ready if that is the case". <https://www.euronews.com/my-europe/2025/03/05/french-president-emmanuel-macron-says-russia-is-a-threat-to-france-and-to-europe>

German leaders have sent tanks and other weapons, plus billions, to prop up a Ukraine regime that rose to prominence on the back of Banderites (Nazis) and NATO machinations aimed at pushing Russia into a corner. *Politico.eu* quoted German President Merz saying: "We need to have discussions with both the British and the French - the two European nuclear powers - about whether nuclear sharing, or at least nuclear security from the UK and France, could also apply to us". <https://journal-neo.su/2025/02/24/of-all-the-genius-plans-arming-germany-with-nukes-is-the-nuttier/> (Phil Butler, 24/2/25).

Ukraine has problems on the battlefield. According to reliable reports from Glenn Diesen in September 2025: 1. they are outnumbered overall 3:1 and 6:1 in certain key places, according to Ukraine's General Syrski; 2) there are not enough troops to cover the front lines; and 3) combat brigades are manned at about 50% strength. Europe, captured by its war narratives, has committed itself to suicidal policies. Glenn Diesen is a Norwegian political scientist, commentator and Professor at the University of South-Eastern Norway.

Conclusion

False narratives and dangerous misleading reports, e.g. the "Russia drone threat "over Poland/ Estonia," but no evidence, try to push Trump/US to continue funding the Ukraine War. But the US/Trump now want to focus on the China "threat" over Taiwan. Neither the US nor EU countries have enough weapons to continue funding their Ukraine War. They spent so much but now have few weapons left. Both American and EU countries have economic difficulties with failing economies.

European countries threatening annihilatory nuclear weapons against Russia, are a crazy alternative to making peace with Russia. Europe is showing its moral and intellectual weakness. But history shows Europe was the centre of two horrendous world wars. Why support them now? It's in New Zealand's interests not to see the world through the US lens of "full spectrum dominance".

Instead, we should have an independent foreign policy to help steer our country and the world out of the constant conflict, wars, threats, and sanctions mode of the US-led Western alliance. NZ should follow Austria's example and adopt a neutral, non-aligned foreign policy. In the polarised political climate, where recklessly dangerous nuclear threats are levelled at Russia and China, it's vital to adopt a non-aligned policy, similar to our anti-nuclear policy. It's also in our security interests to support a multipolar world and join BRICS.

Review

Greg Waite

Clown World Four Years Inside Andrew Tate's Manosphere

Jamie Tahsin and Matt Shea,
Quercus, London (2025)

Andrew Tate's war on women supports toxic masculinity in all its forms, including in the military. I don't want to give his world too much space here, because it's so disgusting. But the simple basics need to be talked about, because he has been so deeply influential, and there are big political consequences for that. Tate has ten million followers on X in 2025 (BBC) and his videos on TikTok have been viewed billions of times. In a 2023 US survey 23% of teenage US boys aged 15-16 and 56% of young dads had a favourable view of Tate. In 2025 BBC researchers found one third of UK teachers reported misogynistic behaviour from students in the previous week.

In brief, Tate the kickboxer and his brother Tristan banded together with a bunch of low-level marketers, notably Iggy Semmelweis. Iggy claimed many titles – Master of Spells & Shadows, Order of the King Cobra, Keeper of the Scarlet Citadel – but his real name was Miles Sonkin. He had pushed a marketing method called high probability selling in the 1990s, then adapted those techniques to run courses for PUAs in Osaka, 'pick-up artists' who travelled from the US to target Japanese women for casual sex by promising love and marriage.

Disaffected Young Boys

A typical technique is to ask women to meet them for a date and bring along an unusual brand of chocolates. sensible women don't turn up, vulnerable women do. This is success, as you've eliminated those most likely to spot your dishonest intentions. They developed a tiered marketing model, where lower levels recruited new believers, right up to an inner circle called the "War Room". The distinguishing

feature of their method was its layers of calculated lies. At the lowest level, disaffected young boys are targeted by offering facile explanations for their lack of success in the world.

Telling them their problems are due to the hidden power of women sets the groundwork to justify their own manipulative behaviour later. The upper levels train young men to explicitly target vulnerable young women in low paying jobs; to hold out the carrot of easy money as you isolate them, cutting off their social supports; then lure them into online sex work. 80% of the profits go to the man, of course. Joking language helps to gloss over the obvious exploitation. Seminar courses are now rebranded The Real World, from the earlier and too-obvious Hustler's University PhD (pimping hoes degree). A hacking leak in 2024 revealed Tate's subscription service had over 800,000 paying users. How did that happen?!

We live in a world of deepening inequality and precarious employment, yet this wildly overblown celebrity culture dominates social media. These people have the money to make more money; and social media is their toolkit. Tate's car collection includes Ferraris and Bugattis. He says things like: "I don't obey covid rules. They're not enforceable. Only sheep obey. I'll lie through the border and ignore all quarantines and testing..."

And what is the end result for all these men? One member explained the effect on his mind this way: "You're going to be stuck in your home, thinking you're a victim, thinking people are out there to get everything from you", he said. "You're gonna hate women and hold them responsible for everything wrong in your life. You're working all the time because you think it will get you women. And then if it does, you're just going to treat her like property".

In four years reporting on Tate fans and encountering them in public, the authors say they never met a single one who seemed happy. And politically, the chief data reporter for the *Financial Times* published a graph in 2024 showing the growing ideological divide emerging in many countries around the world. Young women were becoming more progressive and young men more conservative.



Andrew Tate & cars. A dickhead and his phallic symbols

So, enough about the very ugly Tate. The book's authors followed and participated in his world over four years, and a recurring theme throughout is his pathological lying. He gives whatever denial seems credible in the moment and just moves on to the next deception when caught out. It's all very reminiscent of Roy Cohn's three rules of success, passed on to Trump: always attack, never admit wrongdoing, and always claim victory (see the brilliant 2024 movie *"The Apprentice"*, which examines in forensic detail the relationship between Cohn and the young Donald Trump [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Apprentice_\(2024_film\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Apprentice_(2024_film)) Ed.).

Social Media Is The Engine Of Misogyny And Misinformation

The authors put it this way: "Social media platforms claim that they, unlike traditional media, do not create content and therefore aren't responsible for what viewers see. But they absolutely are responsible – they control what we, as viewers, see through algorithms they have designed to feed us the content they have decided we should see (to maximise 'advertiser' income). Andrew Tate, by essentially conning millions of young men into misogyny, has shown just how easily manipulated these algorithms are".

The scariest part about Tate's rise to fame is that these nobodies were able to build such a wide-reaching vehicle for extracting money, built on damaging the lives of both men and women. This is the real power of today's Internet, the power to mislead; these are the tools to sell ideology if you have the money to make more money. Now think about how much hidden impact the tech titans and super-rich are already having on our personal attitudes, declines in political participation, and the rise of Rightwing activism; and how much worse it could get if this mass manipulation (pardon the pun) continues.

Trump, Tate And Misogyny

And of course, there's a Trump connection. Tate got caught up with local mafia money laundering through a casino in his last base in Romania and was under investigation for rape, sex with a minor, people trafficking and money laundering. No problem. Donald Trump Junior described his detention as "absolute insanity", Vice-President JD Vance appeared on a pro-Tate podcast, and Romania's Foreign Minister confirmed that Trump's special envoy, Richard Grenell, had spoken to him about the ban on the Tate brothers' travel. Surprise, they were released and returned to the

US (they returned to Romania later in 2025 and undertook to return to the UK to face charges. Ed.)

And to conclude, from "Clown World's" authors: "Tate's message is potent because it taps into the young male appetite for rebellion, conquest, self-improvement and brotherhood which, whether biological or conditioned, seems to exist in spades. Imagine if these concepts could be channelled differently: rebellion that fights against systems of oppression instead of creating them; conquest that adds value to the world; self-improvement that doesn't eschew intellectual pursuits like studying; and a brotherhood that stands up for all people. Maybe then we would have something that looked like positive masculinity".

Obituary

Written by Murray Horton

OBITUARY

Hannah Middleton

Came To 2003 Waihopai Protest

Hannah, along with her husband Denis Doherty, was the leading figure in the Australian Anti-Bases Campaign Coalition (AABCC). In 2003 they came to Anti-Bases Campaign's Waihopai spy base protest. Here is the relevant extract from my 2003 Organiser's Report: "... we were joined by Denis Doherty and Hannah Middleton, the two leading figures of the Australian Anti-Bases Campaign Coalition, who flew to New Zealand for just a few days, especially to join us at Waihopai".

"They both spoke and added a whole international dimension to the protest (they were amazed that we could get right up to the gate of 'our' spy base – the huge US spy base at Pine Gap, near Alice Springs, is surrounded by kilometres of no-go areas and is guarded by a variety of police and security forces, who use violence against any protesters. Denis and Hannah were speechless – so were we actually – when the cops came to our camp as we were packing up and voluntarily undertook to dispose of our rubbish for us. Maybe they wanted to search it for vital information)".

From: "Waihopai 2003: War Is Good For Business" by Bob Leonard (*PR* 27, August 2003), <https://www.converge.org.nz/abc/pr/pr-backissues/pr27.pdf> "It was a great boost to our efforts and morale to have the Australian delegation with us this year. As a van driver on the long haul along the coast between Blenheim and Christchurch I've never had time pass so quickly with Denis and Hannah spinning out tale after graphic tale of Aussie anti-bases demos to make your hair curl. Australian police are just not very nice guys apparently, especially in the Northern Territory where Pine Gap is located, and under a

broiling outback sun. I was just ever so slightly embarrassed to have the Aussies find out just how pleasant it can be at a demo in Aotearoa".

I first met Denis when Owen Wilkes and I were the Kiwi contingent on the 1988 protest at what was then the US Navy communications base at North West Cape, in Western Australia (it is now a joint US/Australia base). You can read about that in *PR* 65, June 2023, in my article "Owen Wilkes And The Anti-Bases Campaign", subsection "Australian Adventures: Liberated Trophy & A Jandal Held Hostage" <https://www.converge.org.nz/abc/pr/pr-backissues/PR65.pdf>

I last met Denis and Hannah in September 2017 when I was invited to speak at the national conference of the Independent and Peaceful Australia Network (IPAN), in Melbourne. Hannah had a long and fascinating life (she was 82 when she died in June 2025), with several online obituaries and tributes reflecting her involvement in a whole raft of campaigns and issues at the local, national and international levels.

Communist Party Of Australia Tribute

"Dr Hannah Middleton served as President of the Communist Party of Australia (CPA) 1993-2009, and in 2009, after the death of the long-time General Secretary, was elected as the Party's first female General Secretary. Hannah was born in Preston, England in 1942, and

grew up in the very austere surroundings of London after World War II, which developed her early, strong socio-political acumen. As a child of eight or nine she accompanied her mother collecting signatures for the Stockholm Peace Appeal, and aged 16 was arrested during the Committee of 100 civil disobedience campaigns as well as participating in the Aldermaston peace marches".

"When her mother became Mayor of Greenwich in 1960, Hannah acted as Mayoress. While completing her studies at the School of Oriental and African Studies at the University of London, she joined the Communist Party of Great Britain in 1962, and worked in the Party's international section. As part of her course, she spent three months in northern Nigeria, practising the Hausa language and studying the impact of colonialism on the language".

"After graduating in African Studies (BA Hons) in 1964, one of her jobs was with the African Section of the British Broadcasting Corporation. She also organised fundraising concerts for medical aid to Vietnam. Later she moved to the German Democratic Republic (GDR), working there for three years to 1968 as a lecturer in English language whilst studying as a postgraduate in social anthropology at the Humboldt University, (East) Berlin".

"Between 1970 and 71, Hannah carried out fieldwork in Australia, living for 11 months with the Gurindji people of the Northern Territory, and in



1972 presented her doctoral thesis, "The Land Rights And Civil Rights Campaign Of The Gurindji At Wattie Creek", emigrating to Australia permanently two years later. She joined the Communist Party of Australia (CPA) in 1974, and worked as a lecturer (later senior lecturer) in Sociology and Social Anthropology, in the School of Sociology at the University of New South Wales until 1980".

Founder & Leader Of AABCC

"Hannah left the University to become an active member of the CPA that year, when asked to become a full-time journalist on its newspaper, *Guardian*, *The Workers' Weekly*. She was *Guardian* Editor from 1985-88. During this time, she served as Party Education Officer. She was a founding member of the Australian Anti-Bases Campaign Coalition in 1986 and its national spokesperson from 1988 onwards. The AABCC is a national coalition of Australian organisations researching and producing information and campaigning against the foreign military installations (primarily the 30 United States bases) on Australian soil".

"A protest at the US military facility at Nurrungar in South Australia in 1991 saw her arrested for breach of the peace. She faced the same charge when arrested during the 1991 Stop AIDEX campaign against Australian involvement in the arms trade. Her work with the AABCC sought to develop relations between peace groups across the Asia-Pacific region, working with groups in Fiji, the Philippines, South Korea, Japan and Kanaky. Hannah was active in the formation (2007) of the International Network against Foreign Military Bases, embracing 40 countries".

"Hannah was also involved in the Bring The Frigates Home coalition in 1991 as a founder member and

full-time worker, campaigning against the Gulf War. She worked tirelessly on the campaign against US sanctions on Iraq and, during the actual invasion, was active in the leadership of the Walk Against The War coalition, becoming Co-Convenor of the Sydney Peace and Justice Coalition".

"Hannah was again arrested in 1996 for occupying Prime Minister Keating's office in an East Timor

Want Our Land Back', 'Fighting For The Future', and 'Flowers To Make Daguragu Pretty: The Gurindji 1966-2016' are in the Party bookshop now. She wrote a bi-monthly newsletter distributed in Sydney's inner west, in support and defence of public housing. Especially relevant is her article "Racism In Australia", written for the *Australian Marxist Review* (issue 37) in April 1997, epitomising her attitude towards the racism and inequality perpetuated in Australia up to the present day":

"Racism makes it possible for capitalism to sustain and continue its exploitation of the multi-national working class in Australia and its original theft of the main means of production, the land, from its Aboriginal owners. The appeal of the corporate rich to the public to accept greater sacrifices is accompanied by a sharp increase in the use of racism as a

weapon to divide and rule'. Hannah had an unerring finger on the political pulse of this country for half a century and in her own words, believed: "It is not sufficient to state the aim of establishing a socialist Australia. It will not just fall into our laps – it will have to be argued for, popularised, and fought for".

"Hannah worked tirelessly in the suburb of Glebe and in the inner-city area of Sydney as an advocate of community action for a better urban environment and against overdevelopment. She was active in the fight to save public housing from demolition and gentrification. She was a foundation member of the community group Hands Off Glebe and Action For Public Housing which sought to combine community groups across the inner city of Sydney. Rest in power, comrade Hannah". See also the September 2025 official City of Sydney Decision honouring Hannah <https://meetings.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/ieDecisionDetails.aspx?ID=6253> MH.



(Hannah Middleton and Denis Doherty with AABCC banner, Waihopai Protest 2003)

protest. In 2007 she organised for activists from Hawaii to come to Australia for the Talisman Sabre war games protests. In 2008 she was awarded the Quakers' Donald Groom Fellowship for her submission to bring two indigenous Chamoru from Guam to Australia for a speaking tour".

"Hannah worked as campaign manager for the Asbestos Diseases Foundation and was campaign officer for the Australian Lawyers Alliance for a number of years before becoming Executive Officer of the University of Sydney's Sydney Peace Foundation from 2006 to 2012, when she retired from paid employment – but not political activity. The Foundation awards the Sydney Peace Prize, Australia's only international prize for peace".

Fought Racism & Capitalism

"Hannah's concern for the working class never abated and saw many articles and books written over the years. Her books 'But Now We

PEACE RESEARCHER

WELCOMES YOUR FEEDBACK

Peace Researcher is published by the Anti-Bases Campaign. The Editor is Murray Horton; the Layout Editor is Leigh Cookson. It covers a range of peace issues with emphasis on foreign military bases and intelligence topics. Contributed articles will be considered for publication based on subject matter and space requirements. We are particularly interested in reports of original research on peace topics in Aotearoa and the wider region of Australasia and the Pacific. We welcome your feedback and constructive suggestions on how we can improve.

Our address is –

Peace Researcher

Box 2258

Christchurch 8140

Aotearoa/New Zealand

e-mail: abc@chch.planet.org.nz

You can read *Peace Researcher* online at:

<http://www.converge.org.nz/abc/peace-researcher-home.html>

JOIN ABC AND GET *PEACE RESEARCHER*

Peace Researcher is the newsletter and journal of the Anti-Bases Campaign, Box 2258, Christchurch 8140, New Zealand. If you would like to join ABC, the details are below. All ABC members receive *Peace Researcher*.

Membership is \$20 per year (ABC is not registered for GST)

Donations welcome.

Our bank account details are:

ABC

Kiwibank

389000 0619007 00

Please include your name and "Sub" as references so that we can identify your payment, and please e-mail abc@chch.planet.org.nz when the deposit has been made so that we know to look out for it.

You can also personally deposit cash into ABC's account at any Kiwibank branch. If you do that, make sure that you include your name as the reference.

If you're a new member, please e-mail us your name, postal address, e-mail address and phone number/s.