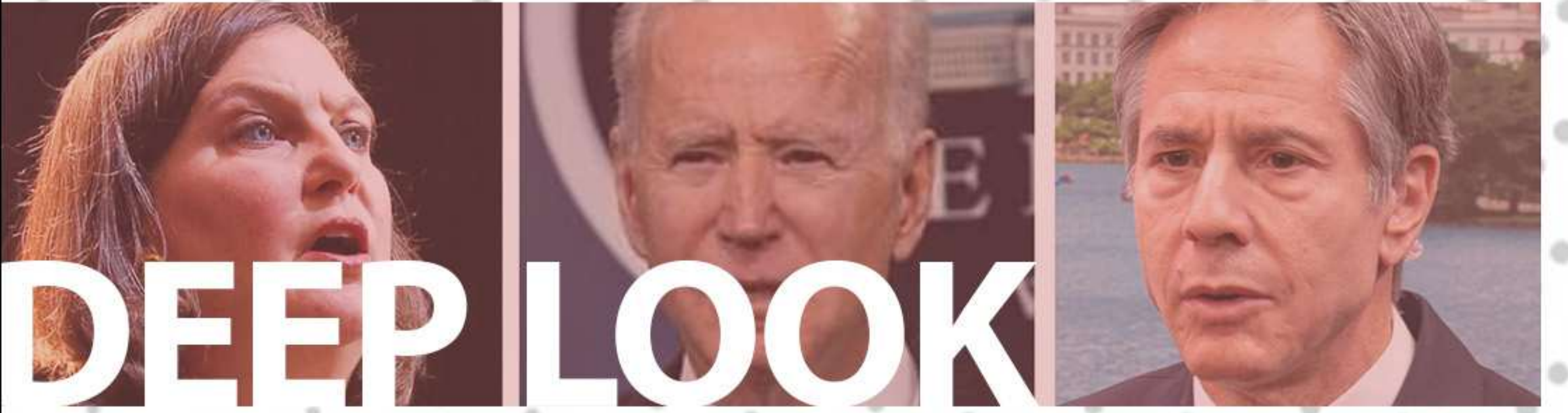


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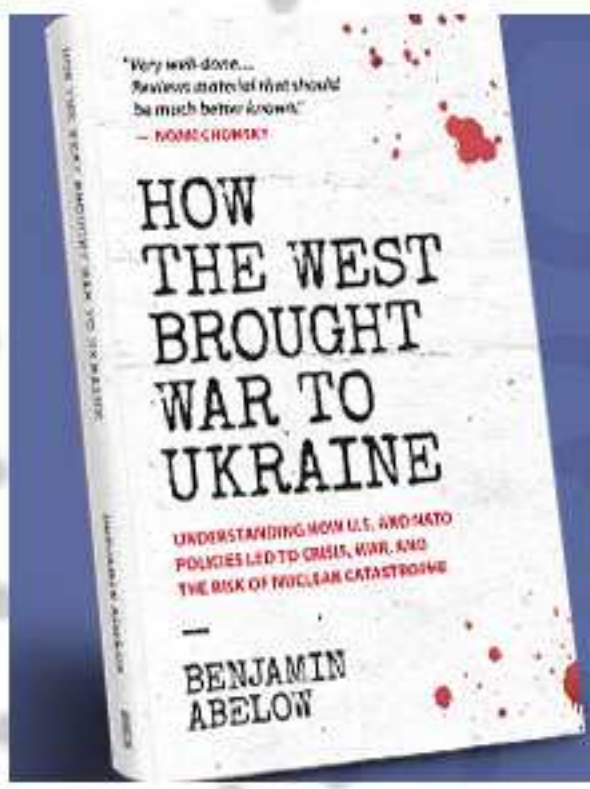
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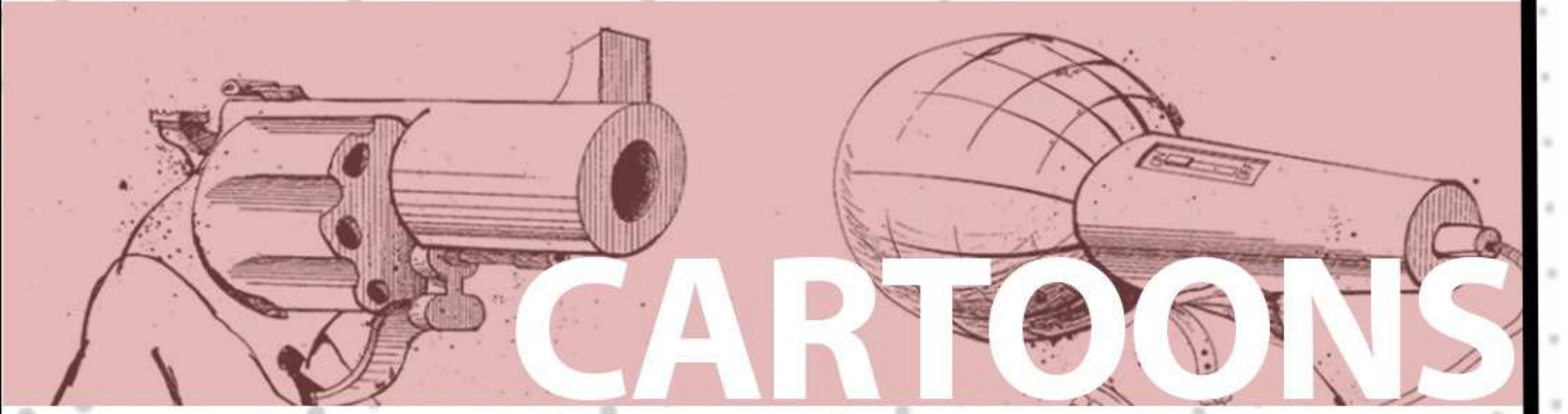
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US to Arm Ukraine With Toxic Depleted Uranium Ammunition

The munitions will be used with US-made Abrams tanks

SEPTEMBER 3

The US is set to arm Ukraine with controversial depleted uranium (DU) ammunition as part of an upcoming arms package for use with US-made Abrams tanks, Reuters reported on Friday.



In Taiwan, Rep. Wittman Vows 'Resolute Reaction' If China Attacks

Wittman led a congressional delegation to Taipei

SEPTEMBER 3

Taiwan should expect a "resolute reaction" from the US if China attacks the island, Rep. Rob Wittman (R-VA) vowed on Friday while leading a congressional delegation in Taipei.



North Korea Simulates Tactical Nuke Attack in Response to US Drills

The US and South Korea just concluded major war games

SEPTEMBER 3

North Korea on Saturday simulated a tactical nuclear weapon attack in response to another round of massive military exercises held by the US and South Korea.



IAEA Report Shows Iran Slows 60%

Iran started 60% uranium enrichment in 2021 in response to an Israeli attack on its Natanz nuclear facility

SEPTEMBER 4

A report from the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) shows Iran has slowed its enrichment of uranium at 60% purity, The Associated Press reported on Monday.



US, Philippines Conduct Joint Naval Patrol in the South China Sea

It marked the first joint patrol west of the Philippine province of Palawan

SEPTEMBER 4

The US and Philippine navies conducted a joint patrol in the disputed South China Sea on Monday, a step that increases the chance of a dangerous encounter between US and Chinese vessels.



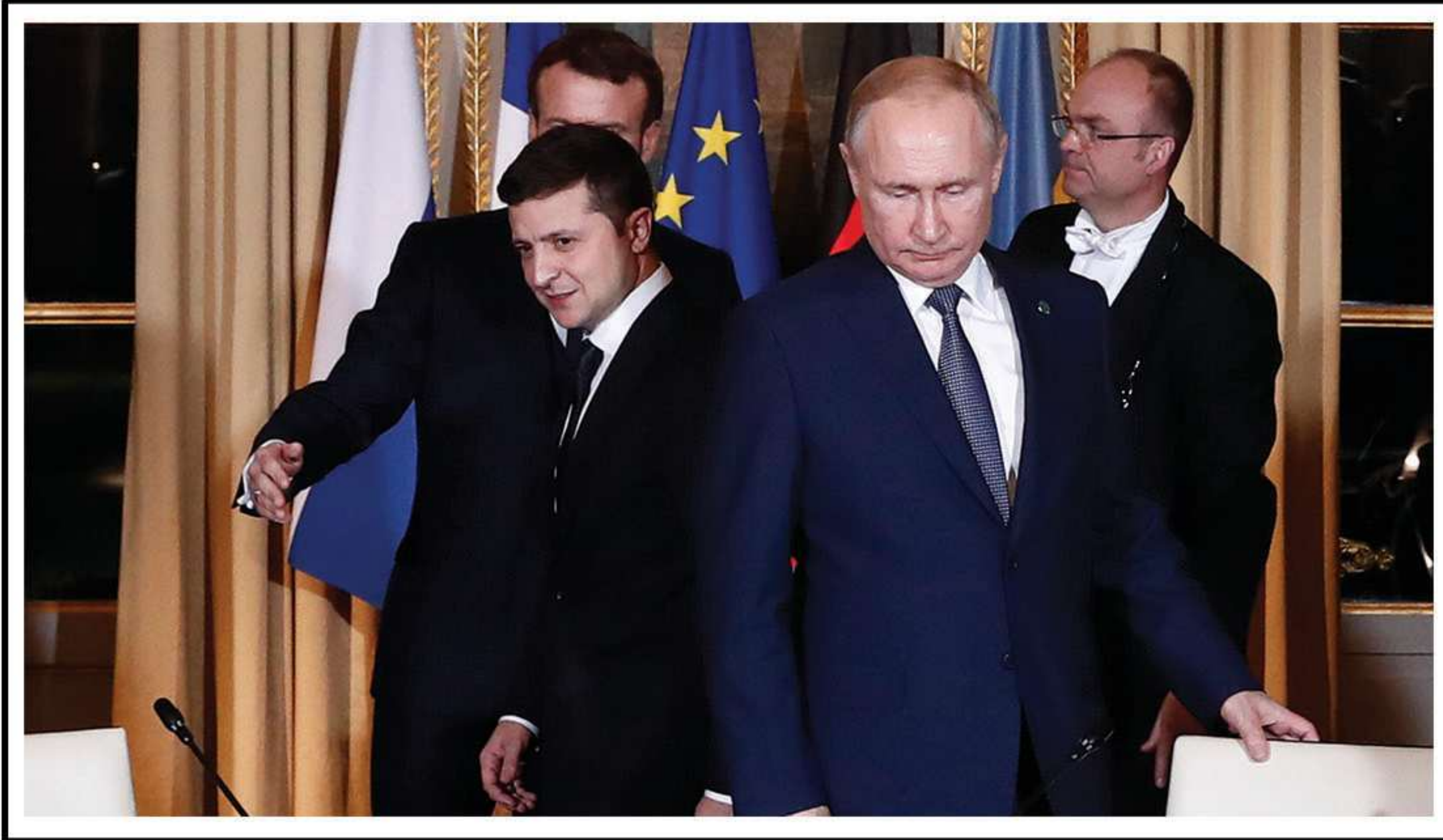
Australian Lawmakers to Visit Washington to Lobby for Julian Assange's Freedom

The delegation includes MPs across the political spectrum who all agree the US needs to drop its case against Assange

SEPTEMBER 5

A delegation of Australian lawmakers will visit Washington later this

month to lobby for the freedom of WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange, who faces up to 175 years in prison if extradited to the US and convicted for exposing US war crimes.



Eastern European NATO Countries Fear Peace Talks Between Ukraine and Russia

Poland and the Baltic states are worried growing opposition to the proxy war inside the US could lead to negotiations

SEPTEMBER 5

NATO members that border Russia and Belarus are afraid that growing opposition to the proxy war in Ukraine inside the United States will put pressure on the Ukrainians to pursue peace talks with Russian President Vladimir Putin, The Hill reported on Tuesday.



France Holding Talks on Withdrawal of 'Certain Military Elements' from Niger

Niger is hoping it will reach a deal with ECOWAS to avoid war

SEPTEMBER 5

A French source told AFP on Tuesday that France is holding talks with Niger's post-coup government on the withdrawal of "certain military elements" from the West African country.



Blinken Announces \$1 Billion More for Ukraine, Including Depleted Uranium

Washington will send \$275 million in military aid, including additional air defense and artillery from American stockpiles to Kyiv

SEPTEMBER 6

Secretary of State Antony Blinken announced Washington would send over \$1 billion in additional aid to Ukraine. The funds include \$275 million for the military, \$300 million for the police, and over \$200 million in humanitarian assistance. The arms package includes depleted uranium, known to have grave health and environmental consequences.



Pentagon Developing AI Drone Swarms to 'Deter' China

A top US admiral said the weapon could create a "hellscape" for Chinese forces

SEPTEMBER 7

The US military is devising a new system designed to field thousands of drones controlled by artificial intelligence, deputy Pentagon chief Kathleen Hicks said on Wednesday, voicing hopes the tech would help to overcome Beijing's "advantage in mass."



US Intel Official: Media Misleading Americans About Ukraine's Battlefield Success

The official told Seymour Hersh that Russian President Vladimir Putin was behind the assassination of PMC Wagner chief Yevgeny Prigozhin

SEPTEMBER 7

In an interview with renowned reporter Seymour Hersh, a US intelligence official scolded the media for misleading the American public about Ukraine's battlefield failures during the Spring counteroffensive. The unnamed official additionally told Hersh he believes that Russian President Vladimir Putin ordered the assassination of PMC Wagner chief Yevgeny Prigozhin to deescalate tensions with NATO.



NATO Begins War Games in Baltic Sea, Simulate Attack on Russia

The military drills will be some of the largest ever held in the Baltic Sea

SEPTEMBER 10

The North Atlantic Treaty Organization has launched major war games taking place off the coasts of Latvia and Estonia. A Western official said the drills are intended to be a clear message to Russia.



Sweden Considers Arming Ukraine With Gripen Fighter Jets

Gripen's are made by the Swedish firm Saab AB

SEPTEMBER 12

Swedish public radio reported Tuesday that Sweden is considering arming Ukraine with Gripen fighter jets, which are made by the



US Air Force Clearing Out Jungles in Pacific for New Airfields

The US Air Force is increasing its number of bases in the Pacific to prepare for a future war with China

SEPTEMBER 13

The head of US Pacific Air Forces said Monday that the Air Force was clearing out jungles in the Pacific to build new airfields and restore old ones as part of the branch's preparation for war with China in the region.



Israeli Airstrikes Target Syria and Kill Two Syrian Soldiers

The strikes hit targets near the western port city of Tartous

SEPTEMBER 13

Israeli airstrikes hit targets near Syria's Mediterranean Sea port city of Tartous on Wednesday, killing two Syrian soldiers, Syria's SANA news agency reported.



CND's Kate Hudson: The Government's Secret Agreement To Host American Nuclear Weapons On British Soil Is Reckless And Undemocratic

There's been clear evidence for over a year that the US is planning to return its nuclear weapons to Britain. They intend to locate them at Lakenheath in Suffolk — nominally an RAF base but in fact wholly controlled and run by the US. If this is allowed to take place, Britain will once again be a forward nuclear base for the US in Europe.

1 Increasing Evidence that the US Air Force's Nuclear Mission May Be Returning to UK Soil

08.28.23

by Matt Korda & Hans Kristensen



Lid of underground nuclear Weapons Storage and Security System (WS3) vault for B61 nuclear bombs

A US Air Force Photo From A Ceremony At RAF Lakenheath in 2016 Shows The Speaker Podium On Top Of The Lid To The Nuclear Weapons Storage Vault

Image: April 14, 2016, US Air Force

Hans Kristensen & Matt Korda, Federation of American Scientists, 2023



Matt Korda

SENIOR RESEARCH FELLOW,
NUCLEAR INFORMATION
PROJECT



Hans Kristensen

DIRECTOR,
NUCLEAR INFORMATION
PROJECT



RAF Lakenheath Upgrades

Coordinates: 52.4083, 0.5586
Image: June 12, 2023 (Airbus via Google Earth)

Hans Kristensen & Matt Korda, Federation of American Scientists, 2023

Upgrade of aircraft shelter infrastructure

Addition of infrastructure for F-35As (two visible)

New U.S. Air Force budgetary documents strongly imply that the United States Air Force is in the process of re-establishing its nuclear weapons mission on UK soil.

The Air Force's FY 2024 budgetary justification package, dated March 2023, notes the planned construction of a "surety dormitory" at RAF Lakenheath, approximately 100 kilometers northeast of London. The "surety dormitory" was also briefly mentioned in the Department of Defense's testimony to Congress in March 2023, but with no accompanying explanation. "Surety" is a term commonly used within the Department of Defense and Department of Energy to refer to the capability to keep nuclear weapons safe, secure, and under positive control.

Significant modernization is underway at RAF Lakenheath for F-35A aircraft, a planned "surety dormitory," and other infrastructure indicating that the nuclear weapons mission may be returning after a hiatus of 15 years.

The justification documents note the new requirement to "Construct a 144-bed dormitory to house the increase in enlisted personnel as the result of the potential Surety Mission" [emphasis added]. To justify the new construction, the documents note, "With the influx of airmen due to the arrival of the potential Surety mission and the bed down of the two F-35 squadrons there is a significant deficiency in the amount of unaccompanied housing available for E4s and below at Royal Air Force Lakenheath" [emphasis added].




Construction of the facility is scheduled to begin in June 2024 and end in February 2026.

We previously documented the UK's addition to the Department of Defense's FY2023 budgetary documentary for the NATO Security Investment Program, in which it was written that "NATO is wrapping up a thirteen-year, \$384 million infrastructure investment program at storage sites in Belgium, Germany, the Netherlands, the UK, and Turkey to upgrade security measures, communication systems, and facilities" [emphasis added]. An explicit mention of the UK had not been included in the previous year's budgetary documents, and it was removed in this year's documents after we reported on its inclusion the previous year.

1. COMPONENT AIR FORCE	FY 2024 MILITARY CONSTRUCTION PROJECT DATA		2. DATE MARCH 2023
3. INSTALLATION AND LOCATION RAF LAKENHEATH UNITED KINGDOM		4. PROJECT TITLE: SURETY DORMITORY	
5. PROGRAM ELEMENT 91211F	6. CATEGORY CODE 721-312	7. PROJECT NUMBER MSET193001	8. PROJECT COST (\$000) 50,000
<p>objective provides unaccompanied enlisted personnel with housing conducive to their proper rest, relaxation, and personal well-being. Properly designed and furnished quarters providing some degree of individual privacy are essential to the successful accomplishment of increasingly complicated and important jobs these airmen perform. The retention of these highly trained airmen is essential to our readiness posture and continuing worldwide presence. The dormitory should also include appropriate sound attenuation to reduce noise to required levels. This is not a tenant or supported service requirement.</p> <p>CURRENT SITUATION: With the influx of airmen due to the arrival of the potential Surety mission and the bed down of the two F-35 squadrons there is a significant deficiency in the amount of unaccompanied housing available for E-4s and below at Royal Air Force Lakenheath.</p> <p>IMPACT IF NOT PROVIDED: Adequate living quarters which provide a level of privacy required for today's airmen will not be available, resulting in degradation of morale, productivity, and career satisfaction for unaccompanied enlisted personnel. If adequate quarters are not available, young, enlisted personnel could be required to move off the installation living miles away due to the base's remote location. The off-base living will also result in an amplified addition to cost of Overseas Housing Allowance.</p> <p>ADDITIONAL: This project meets applicable criteria/scope identified in Air Force Manual 32-1084, Facility Requirements. All work associated with this project shall comply with United States Air Force and Host Nation regulations and agreements. The country-to-country agreement precludes the use of International Competitive Bidding proceedings in the United Kingdom. Work will comply with all relevant Unified Facilities Criteria, Air Force Instructions, and Royal Air Force Lakenheath Base Standards. All reasonable alternatives were considered during the development of this project to include status quo, add/alter, and new construction. New construction is the only viable option to meet this requirement. Sustainable principles, to include life-cycle cost-effective practices will be integrated into the design, development, and construction of the project in accordance with Unified Facility Criteria 1-200-02, High Performance and Sustainable Building Requirements. This includes preparation of a life-cycle cost analysis</p>			

Annotations: Korda/Kristensen, Federation of American Scientists, 2023

The U.S. Air Force's FY 2024 budgetary justification package describes the proposed construction of a "surety dormitory" at RAF Lakenheath.

 <p>Military Construction Program FY 2022 BUDGET North Atlantic Treaty Organization Security Investment Program</p>	<p>In addition, NATO funds infrastructure required to store special weapons within secure sites and facilities. Since the year 2000, NATO has invested over \$80 million in infrastructure improvements in storage sites in <u>Belgium, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, and Turkey</u>. Another \$154 million in upgrades is underway at these sites to meet stringent new U.S. security standards. In late 2017, NATO agreed to program another \$150 million for further upgrades for security measures, firefighting, and infrastructure, which will bring the total planned NATO investment to \$384 million.</p>
 <p>Military Construction Program FY 2023 BUDGET North Atlantic Treaty Organization Security Investment Program</p>	<p>In addition, NATO funds infrastructure required to store special weapons within secure sites and facilities. NATO is wrapping up a thirteen-year, \$384 million infrastructure investment program at storage sites in <u>Belgium, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, the UK, and Turkey</u> to upgrade security measures, communication systems, and facilities.</p>
 <p>Military Construction Program Fiscal Year 2024 BUDGET North Atlantic Treaty Organization Security Investment Program</p>	<p>In addition, NATO funds infrastructure and security systems for the store and maintenance of U.S. special weapons within secure sites and facilities. NATO agreed to fund \$385 million for upgrades to the storage sites in Europe to improve security measures, communication systems, and facilities to meet the stringent US standards.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Country mentions removed in FY 2024.</p>

Annotations: Kristensen/Korda, Federation of American Scientists, 2023

The removal of country names from the Pentagon's latest list of nuclear base upgrades is yet another example of the United States reducing the nuclear transparency of its own nuclear posture while criticizing nuclear secrecy in other nuclear-armed countries.

The removal of country names from the Pentagon's Military Construction Program budget request follows the denial of a recent FAS declassification request of previously available nuclear warhead numbers. These decisions contradict and undermine



the Biden administration's appeal for nuclear transparency in other nuclear-armed states. The past two years of budgetary evidence strongly suggests that the United States is taking steps to re-establish its nuclear mission on UK soil. The United States has not stored nuclear weapons in the United Kingdom for the past 15 years, since we reported in 2008 that nuclear weapons had been withdrawn from RAF Lakenheath.



The removal of country names from the Pentagon's latest list of nuclear base upgrades is yet another example of the United States reducing the nuclear transparency of its own nuclear posture while criticizing nuclear secrecy in other nuclear-armed countries.

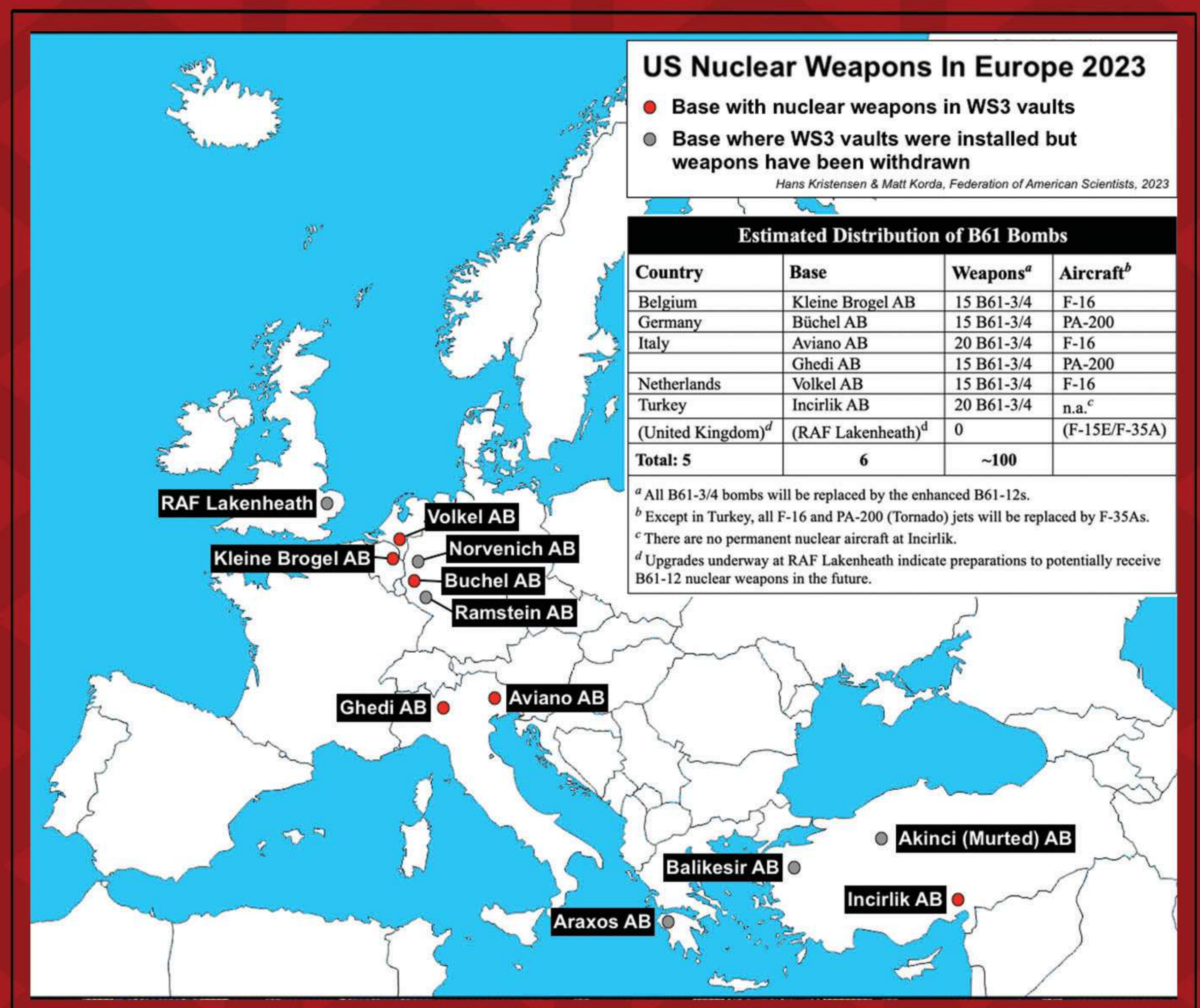
The Weapons Storage and Security Systems (known as WS3) at RAF Lakenheath are contained within Protective Aircraft Shelters; the WS3s include an elevator-drive vault that can be lowered into the concrete floor, as well as the associated command, control, and communications software needed to unlock the weapons. A total of 33 WS3 vaults were installed at RAF Lakenheath in the 1990s, each of which can hold up to four B61 bombs, for a maximum capacity of 132 warheads. Whenever nuclear weapons have been withdrawn from European air bases in the past, their vaults have been put into "caretaker" status, but as Harold Smith, the former U.S. Assistant Secretary of Defense for Nuclear, Chemical, and Biological Defense Programs stated at the time, these vaults were "mothballed in such a way that if we chose to go back into those bases we can do it."

The nuclear-related upgrades to RAF Lakenheath are taking place as the new 495th Fighter Squadron (hosted at RAF Lakenheath) prepares to become the first U.S. Air Force squadron in Europe to be equipped with the nuclear-capable F-35A Lightning II. The upgrades coincide with the long-planned delivery of the new B61-12 gravity bombs to Europe, which will replace the approximately 100 legacy B61-3s and -4s currently estimated to be deployed in Europe.

In December 2021, in response to a media question about potentially stationing nuclear weapons in Poland, NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg announced that “we have no plans of stationing any nuclear weapons in any other countries than we already have...” However, it is difficult to square his statement with the planned “arrival of the potential Surety mission” at RAF Lakenheath, as well as the addition of the base to the list of sites receiving nuclear upgrades.

One possible explanation is that the United States is currently preparing the infrastructure at RAF Lakenheath to allow the base to potentially receive nuclear weapons in the future or in the midst of a crisis, without necessarily having already decided to permanently station them there or increase the number of weapons currently stored in Europe. The budget language of a “potential Surety mission” indicates that a formal deployment decision has not yet been made.

This would be consistent with construction at other known nuclear storage bases across Europe, where new upgrades are taking place that are designed to facilitate the rapid movement of weapons on- and off-base to increase operational flexibility. In the midst of a genuine nuclear crisis with Russia, for example, a portion of U.S. nuclear weapons could be redistributed from more vulnerable eastern bases to RAF Lakenheath.



There are an estimated 100 B61 nuclear bombs deployed at six bases in five European countries, with preparations underway at RAF Lakenheath to potentially receive nuclear weapons as well.

This research was carried out with generous contributions from the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, the New-Land Foundation, the Ploughshares Fund, the Prospect Hill Foundation, Longview Philanthropy, the Stewart R. Mott Foundation, the Future of Life Institute, Open Philanthropy, and individual donors.

2 Thanks to Biden, the War Party is back

The president's policies reflect his appointments: ideologues who should have retired after previous foreign policy debacles

SEP 05

BY Katrina Vanden Heuvel



Katrina Vanden Heuvel

Katrina Vanden Heuvel is editorial director and publisher of The Nation. She served as editor of the magazine from 1995 to 2019. She writes a weekly column for The Washington Post and is President of the American Committee for U.S.

President Joe Biden recently appointed Victoria Nuland, Dick Cheney's point person on Iraq, acting deputy secretary of State, the department's number two official. He named Elliott Abrams, convicted perjurer and grim apologist for Central American torturers under Ronald Reagan, to his Advisory Commission on Public Diplomacy.

Meanwhile, Bill Kristol, perfervid lobbyist for the Iraq War, cadged \$2 million to pay for TV ads urging Republicans to stay the course in Ukraine. War may or may not be the health of the state, but surely it is a tonic for neo-conservative armchair warriors.

In the White House, while Biden has touted a new "foreign policy for the middle class," his

policies have largely been a reversion to the ruinous policies of the foreign policy establishment and its belief in America's benevolent hegemony.

Once more America is described as the indispensable nation. Once more officials preach about a "rules-based order" that they invoke and violate at will. Once more we're summoned to a global struggle between democracy and authoritarianism. We're waging a proxy war with Russia in Ukraine while simultaneously gearing up for a Cold War with China, imposing economic sanctions on 26 countries, maintaining over 750 bases in 80 countries, and dispatching forces to over 100 countries and across the seven seas.

His appointments reflect the policy. The leaders of his foreign policy team — Secretary of State Antony Blinken and national security advisor Jake Sullivan — are veterans implicated in the failures of the past. The hawkish Blinken was an ardent champion of the Iraq War, surely the most disastrous adventure since Vietnam. Sullivan, Hillary Clinton's favorite strategist, was instrumental in the Libyan debacle, which he exuberantly framed as an example of the "Clinton doctrine" before it left Libya in violent chaos. And now, even the most rabid neocons are back in the saddle.

After the Iraq debacle, one would have thought these ideologues had, in James Fallows' words, "earned the right not to be listened to." They would be retired in disgrace, left to write their memoirs and apologies in deserved obscurity. Two phenomena enabled their return to establishment graces. The first, of course, was Trump — and the accompanying Trump derangement syndrome. The neo-conservatives in particular were welcomed back into the establishment embrace when, with few exceptions, such as Abrams who served as Trump's point in the madcap effort to bring down the Venezuelan government, they broke with Trump and issued furious denunciations of his "isolationist" America first rhetoric.

The second salve for their fortunes was Russia's invasion of Ukraine. All of their Cold War tropes were given new life: Putin was evil; if not stopped in Ukraine, he would move on to Poland or the Baltics; only military defeat could deter him. American responsibility for the events that led up to the war — the extension of NATO to Russia's borders, the scornful dismissal of Russian warnings (across the political spectrum) against including Ukraine in the bloc, the meddling in Ukrainian politics (most notably by the egregious Nuland) — was immediately forgotten or dismissed as irrelevant.

The perils of this resuscitation of the U.S. war party are apparent in Ukraine.

Neo-conservatives like Max Boot and Eliot Cohen now assail the administration for its caution in arming the Ukrainians, arguing that Putin's red lines can be safely ignored and that we should supply Ukraine with the arms needed to bomb Russia and Crimea directly. Russia must be not merely defeated but routed. As Cohen put it in the Atlantic, "we need to see masses of Russians fleeing, deserting, shooting their officers, taken captive, or dead. The Russian defeat must be an unmistakably big, bloody shambles." As the Ukraine war has fallen into a brutal and bloody stalemate, the administration has slowly acceded to the calls for escalation — sending tanks, then cluster bombs, then approving F-16s via allies, with longer range missiles soon to follow. It is a course that bets much on the restraint of a leader we're told is a madman. The broader implications are even more ominous. Biden has revived the rhetoric and the ambitions of American exceptionalism. The U.S. will sit at the head of every table; we will define the rules — and police them across the world. As Robert Kagan, Nuland's husband and leading neo-conservative pundit, puts it, "Superpowers don't get to retire." Kagan asserts baldly what this crew believes: "The time has come to tell Americans that there is no escape from global responsibility...the task of maintaining a world order is unending and fraught with costs but preferable to the alternative." In reality, the time has come for a brutally honest assessment of the growing costs and increasing perils that come from the militarization of our foreign policy and the relentless effort to police the world. As the Quincy Institute's Andrew Bachevich puts it, "Our actual predicament derives from the less than honest claim that history obliges the United States to pursue a policy of militarized hegemony until the end of time. Alternatives do exist." Unfortunately the Biden administration appears committed to the war party's failed playbook of the past, and the rising costs of a global policy we neither need nor can afford.

Chris Nineham: No-one Should Take The Warmonger's Rhetoric At Face Value



Chris Nineham

Chris Nineham is a founder member of Stop the War and Counterfire, speaking regularly around the country on behalf of both. He is author of *The People Versus Tony Blair and Capitalism* and *Class Consciousness: the ideas of Georg Lukacs*.

There is no higher aspiration than freedom... Democracies of the world will stand guard over freedom today, tomorrow, and forever. For that's what's at stake here: freedom'.

Joe Biden's speech at the Royal Castle in Warsaw one year after the war in Ukraine recalled something Noam Chomsky wrote about war propaganda back in the 1990s:

'You want to create a slogan that nobody's going to be against, and everyone is going to be for. Nobody knows what it means, because it doesn't mean anything. Its crucial value is that it diverts your attention from a question that does mean something: Do you support our policy? That's the one you're not allowed to talk about.'

For this reason, 'freedom' is a favoured war cause for the Western powers. Who would possibly be against it? 'Defending the free world' was central to US messaging during the Cold War. The so-called War on Terror began with 'Operation Enduring Freedom' – the 2001 invasion which kicked off the disastrous twenty-year occupation of Afghanistan. As the civilian death toll soared seven months into the 2003 invasion of Iraq – 'Operation Iraqi Freedom' – US President George Bush still had the nerve to claim that the occupation was being conducted in the pursuit of Iraqis own freedom. 'We're working closely with Iraqi citizens' he said, 'as they prepare a constitution, as they move toward free elections and take increasing responsibility for their own affairs.'

'Freedom' is back front and centre as the Western war aim in Ukraine. The war there is pitched as part of a continuing global struggle between freedom and autocracy. According to US President Joe Biden, freedom is winning out, 'The democracies of the world have grown stronger, not weaker. But the autocrats of the world have grown weaker, not stronger.'

A War Alliance

The moment you start to examine the claim that the West's war effort in Ukraine is part of a 'forever' struggle for freedom, it begins to fall apart. To start with, NATO is anything but an alliance of freedom loving countries. Even the EU recognises that NATO member Hungary is 'no longer a full democracy'. Victor Orban's government there has suppressed freedom of speech, rigged elections and harassed political opponents. Long term NATO member Turkey is a deeply coercive state that jails regime critics including journalists and opposition politicians and is regarded as a 'competitive authoritarian' regime even by the US Council on Foreign Relations. The moment you start to examine the claim that the West's war effort in Ukraine is part of a 'forever' struggle for freedom, it begins to fall apart. To start with, NATO is anything but an alliance of freedom loving countries. Even the EU recognises that NATO member Hungary is 'no longer a full democracy'. Victor Orban's government there has suppressed freedom of speech, rigged elections and harassed political opponents. Long term NATO member Turkey is a deeply coercive state that jails regime critics including journalists and opposition politicians and is regarded as a 'competitive authoritarian' regime even by the US Council on Foreign Relations. Militarism and war in fact favour authoritarian politics. Spiralling militarisation and tension in Eastern Europe are strengthening existing autocratic trends. Poland, the country in which Biden made his 'freedom' speech, has been sliding away from democracy for years.

Now President Andrzej Duda is using anti-Russian sentiment associated with the war in Ukraine to introduce draconian powers to attack political opponents. The French newspaper Le Monde has called these moves 'the final blow to the country's democracy'. The truth is democracy has never been remotely a priority for NATO. Greece, Portugal and Turkey were all members in good standing during their various periods of military rule in the Cold War. NATO's more recent out of area interventions in Serbia, Afghanistan and Libya have of course done nothing to spread freedom but have accelerated national crisis and deepened reaction in all the target countries. Glance outside of Europe for a moment and the idea that the US is heading up an alliance for freedom against autocracy looks laughable. The big democracies in the global south including Brazil, India and South Africa are refusing to back Western warmongering in Ukraine while the US counts some of the most repressive regimes in the world amongst its closest military allies. The West is so isolated on their Ukraine policy that even many of these countries including the Gulf States and Israel, which have loyally backed the West's recent military adventures, are not signing up this time around.



The Real Deal

The talk about freedom is used as cover for the relentless pursuit of Western foreign policy interests. In diplomatic documents the Western powers make no bones about the fact that priority number one is weakening Russia and drawing more and more of Eastern Europe into the US orbit. The association agreement which the EU began negotiating with Ukraine in 2008 called for the "gradual convergence on foreign and security matters with the aim of Ukraine's ever deeper involvement in the European security area,".

In 2014, NATO began training roughly ten thousand Ukrainian troops annually, kickstarting Washington's program of arming, training, and rebuilding Kyiv's military. The State Department's 2021 U.S.-Ukraine Charter on Strategic Partnership is open that this effort was always about Ukraine's "full integration into European and Euro-Atlantic institutions." All this is of course accompanied by the growing involvement of Western big business in the region, on full show at the London Ukraine Recovery Conference in June this year where hundreds of international investors met up to discuss business opportunities in the war torn country.

The second, connected priority, has been to forcibly break Germany's relative foreign policy independence from the US and to end its deepening ties with Russia. The US has been pressuring Germany for years to replace Russian natural gas with American liquid natural gas, and expressing deep hostility to the NordStream 2 pipeline between Russia and Germany. The war in Ukraine has provided the opportunity to move decisively and successfully against Germany's eastward orientation. In Wolfgang Streeck's words:

"Before one's eyes, an apparently democratically governed mid-sized regional power is being turned, and is actively turning itself, into a transatlantic dependency of the Great American War Machines, from NATO to the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the Pentagon to the NSA, and the CIA to the National Security Council."

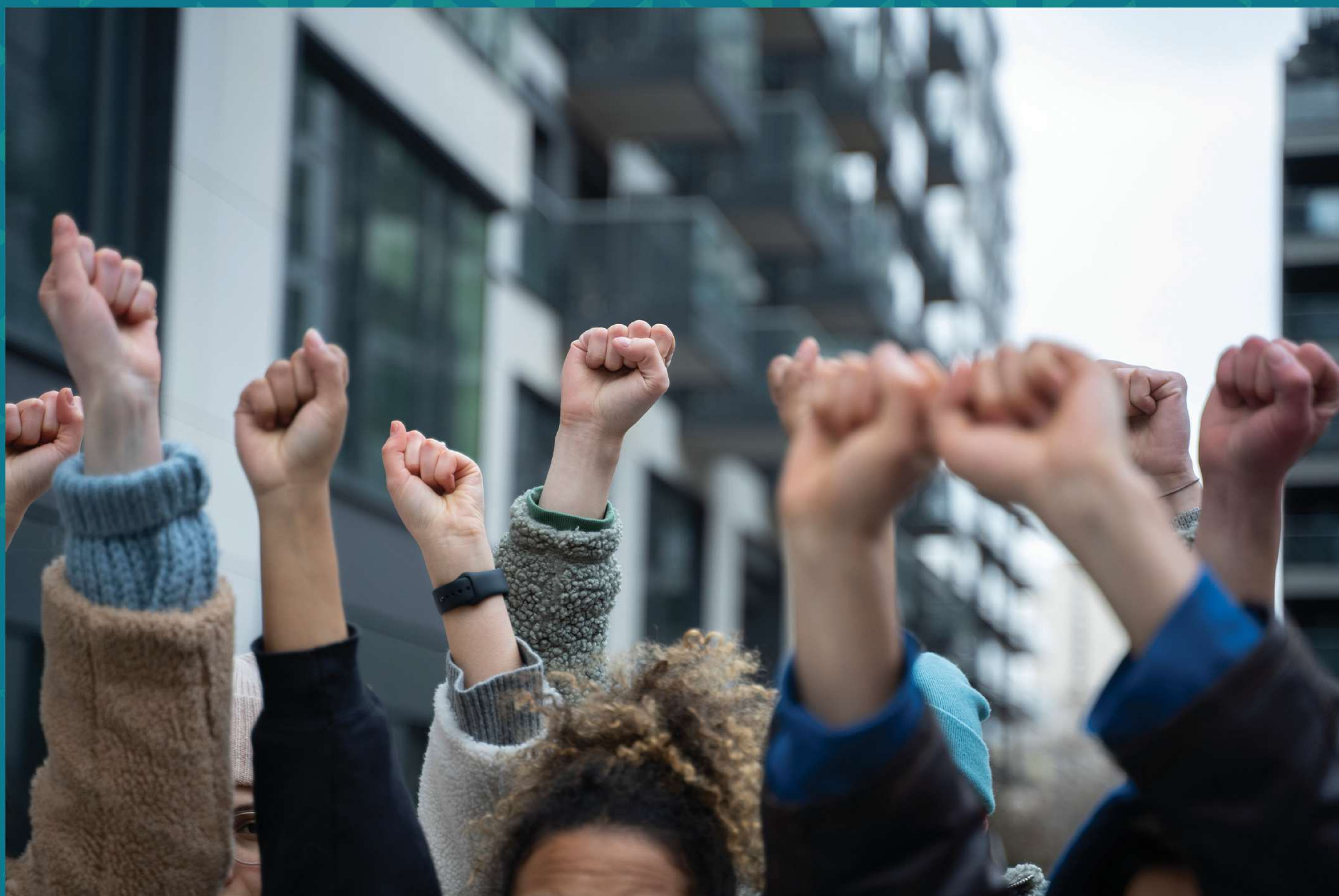
Whose Freedom?

The counter-argument of course is that whatever the actual aims of the West, its massive military intervention in the region has helped protect the liberty of Ukraine itself. Motivation, however, shapes outcomes. As argued in a previous installment of this series, Ukraine is hardly being empowered by the West.

Washington is in the driving seat when it comes to the political dynamics of the conflict too. There have been moments during the war for example when even President Zelensky has been keen to pursue peace proposals. They have all been blocked by the Western powers. To all intents and purposes Ukraine has become embedded in the world's most powerful and aggressive military alliance. Unsurprisingly, this has been accompanied by an assault on civil liberties in Ukraine itself and the further opening up of the country to foreign capital. President Zelensky has used martial law to clamp down on freedom of speech. A series of attacks on media freedom has led to complaints from journalists' unions and free speech campaigns. Selective bans have been imposed on journalists visiting the front lines and whole TV stations have been seized by the government.

One of the reasons why the support of some on the left for arming the Ukrainian government is so misguided is that Zelensky is using the war to crack down on the left and smash independent Ukrainian unions. One month into the war, 11 parties, including the largest parliamentary opposition party and the biggest left wing groups, were closed down by decree and all their property and assets seized by the state. A few months later in August last year, Zelensky ratified Law 5371, which removed union rights for workers at small and medium-sized companies. In practice, this means that around 70% of workers in Ukraine have been stripped of labour protections.

The government claimed that it introduced the law to alleviate the difficulties faced by companies in wartime. However, it first tried to introduce the new law in 2021 long before the war began, arguing that it was necessary because of the "the extreme over-regulation of employment". A further law brought all publicly owned property under the control of the Ukrainian state and led to the state confiscation of trade union property.



The international labour movement including the International Trade Union Confederation has backed Ukrainian trade unionists' protests. The terrible outcomes of the West's recent wars should be a lesson to us all. No-one should take the warmonger's rhetoric at face value. The US and its allies fight wars in pursuit of their interests, and freedom is not part of the package.

B'Tselem בתסלם **בצלם** @btselem · Aug 31

After soldiers sprayed with bullets the car Fawzi Makhalfeh (in the picture) was driving and killed him, his friend Muhammad Mukheimer, who was driving with him, heard one of the soldiers say "oops." >



Labour Outlook @LabourOutlook · Sep 2

"We demand an end to British government complicity in war and repression in the Gulf."

@STWuk have launched a public statement opposing the visit of Saudi Crown Prince Mohammad Bin Salman.



labouroutlook.org
 Mohammad Bin Salman Is Not Welcome Here – Stop The War
 Stop The War launch a public statement opposing the Government's welcome of Saudi Crown Prince Mohammad Bin Salman.

Stand Up To Racism @AntiRacismDay · Sep 3

Say no to scapegoating - don't let racism divide our communities.

It's not those arriving in 'small boats' that are the enemy, it's this government & it's rich friends who arrive on a luxury yachts!

Wakefield says #RefugeesWelcome
 Saturday 16 September.



London CAAT @londoncaat · Sep 4

Statement from @STWuk against Mohammad Bin Salman's visit to the UK labouroutlook.org/2023/09/01/moh... Sign the petition against it here actionnetwork.org/petitions/sign... and join the demo on Sept 27 londoncaat.org.uk/events/no-to-s... #SaudiPrinceNotWelcome



Sign the Statement:
 No to Saudi Crown Prince's
 Visit to Britain

actionnetwork.org
 Sign the Statement: No to Saudi Crown Prince's Visit to Britain
 The visit of Mohammad Bin Salman is part of the British government's efforts to support the Saudi regime, against the struggles for freedom...

World BEYOND War @WorldBeyondWar · Sep 4

#OnThisDay in 1953, Garry Davis founded a World Government, transcending borders for global unity. His journey from a WWII veteran to a world citizen reminds us that one person's commitment to #peace can ignite powerful change buff.ly/3P5Nspu



WORLD BEYOND WAR.org
 a global movement to end all wars

8 6 271

ICAN @nuclearban · Sep 5

Art 🎨 #NuclearBan

Did you know there's a collective of artists using their art to join in the fight for the elimination of nuclear weapons?

Learn more about Artist Against the Bomb here artistsagainstthebomb.org

And be sure to give them a follow on Instagram 📷



Greenham Women Everywhere @GreenhamWomen · Sep 5

Over 40 years ago, in September 1981, 36 women chained themselves to the RAF #GreenhamCommon base fence in protest against the Americans holding cruise missiles on common land

Read more about the 19 year protest here buff.ly/3aXCOLZ

1 23 53 2,427

Dean O'Brien @DeanoBeano1 · Sep 8

'I'm left without both arms and eyes, and without one ear'

A Ukrainian soldier talks about his experience of being injured in this conflict.

This war needs a peace deal, not more weapons. You can be fairly certain this isn't the son of a politician or arms manufacturer though.

MintPress News @MintPressNews · Sep 6

Palestine Action disrupts representatives of arms companies which sell to Israel.

"Merchants of death...we are coming for you.."

Palestine Action disrupted representatives of weapons firm Qinetiq and missile manufacturer MBDA. Both of which have deals within the Israeli... [Show more](#)

MILTON KEYNES, ENGLAND

Stop The Arms Fair! @StopTheArmsFair · Sep 8

All arrestees have been released! So no further support needed 🌈

Do ring 07946 541 511 if you can help with arrestee support over the weekend and during next week's protests!

Stop The Arms Fair! @StopTheArmsFair · Sep 8

Arrestee support is needed in East London from 3am to support those arrested resisting the arms fair today.

No experience necessary!

Please call 07946 541 511 if you can help twitter.com/GBCLegal/status...

8 26 1,614

Branko Marcetic @BMarchetich · Sep 7

Alongside cluster bombs, US depleted uranium is now flowing to Ukraine in one of history's stranger acts of humanitarianism.

aída chávez @aidachavez · Sep 6

Replying to @aidachavez

To this day, children in places like Fallujah are being born with gruesome birth defects due to the US military's use of depleted uranium theintercept.com/2019/11/25/ira...

12 111 380 71.3K

Zoë Garbett @ZoeGarbett · Sep 8

Outside the #Excel where brave protesters have stopped vehicles getting in to set up of the #DSEI arms fair

This Arms fair plays host to regimes on the UK rights abuse watch list

Oppose the arms fair

[#Peace](#) [#StopTheArmsFair](#) [@StopTheArmsFair](#)

ALT 0:10

Cllr Alastair Binnie-Lubbock (he/they) and Nathalie Bienfait

Dean O'Brien @DeanoBeano1 · Sep 9

In the city of Khmelnytsky conscription officers take away yet another man from his family. Whilst the working class get dragged off to war, the privileged get to party in Kiev.

The harsh reality is that this is probably the last time they will ever see him.

Stop. The. War

tdy Truthdig @Truthdig · Sep 9

Since the war on terror was launched, the London-based watchdog group Airwars has estimated that American air strikes have killed at least 22,679 civilians and possibly up to 48,308 of them.

truthdig.com
22 Years of Drone Warfare and No End in Sight - Truthdig
For over twenty-two years American administrations have used drones to commit civilian slaughter and sanitize their crimes.

People's Assembly @pplsassembly · Sep 9

!! Please share !! National Demo in Manchester against the Tory Party conference, Sun 1 Oct. Let's make it big and really oppose the Tories (or Tory policy from any subsequent government). Great speakers incl Mick Lynch @RMTunion General Secretary. Also Festival of Resistance!

1 55 44 8,118

CAAT @CAATuk · Sep 11
Coming up tomorrow!

Stop The Arms Fair! @StopTheArmsFair · Sep 11
Tomorrow, on the first day of the arms fair, we focus our attention on the arms trade's role in forcing people from their homes and making it harder to find safety.

We'll be on Western Gateway E16 1AA, 9am-7pm, calling for migrant justice and an end to the arms trade. Join us!

ALT

Hanan Ashrawi @DrHananAshrawi · Sep 9
So painful, so sad.

PALESTINE ONLINE @OnlinePalEng · Sep 8
1,000-year-old Palestinian olive trees were burnt down by colonial Israeli settlers in Hebron.

0:07

78 966 2,145 101.8K

DDN Double Down News @DoubleDownNews · Sep 11

50 years ago today, Salvador Allende, the democratically elected president of Chile, was overthrown in a bloody US/UK backed coup.

What followed were years of repression and death.

This is the story of the other 9/11.

Told by @JeremyCorbyn & the victims of brutal torture:

0:21 / 25:03

M Morning Star @M_Star_Online · Sep 12
Stop the War Coalition's CHRIS NINEHAM explains why a resolution before Congress this year risks committing the labour movement to a policy of escalating the war in Europe ow.ly/WqEP50PKx4O #TUC #TUC2023 @STWuk



morningstaronline.co.uk
The TUC should not support the British government's war policy in Stop the War Coalition's CHRIS NINEHAM explains why a resolution before Congress this year risks committing the labour movement to a ...

MN Anti-War Committee @AntiwarMN · Sep 15
During the war so far, "Ukraine's economic transformation" has meant austerity, IMF debt traps, attacks on workers' rights, & mass privatization of Ukrainian assets by US megacorporations like Blackrock and Halliburton.

Secretary Antony Blinken @SecBlinken · Sep 14
.@POTUS has appointed Penny Pritzker as the U.S. Special Representative for Ukraine's Economic Recovery. She will work with Ukraine's government, international partners, and the private sector to accelerate Ukraine's economic transformation.



Stop the War @STWuk · Sep 15
"The Derna flood and the sinking of the Adriana might begin to wake up governments and the public to the fact that the military intervention of France and Britain backed by the US in 2011 replaced Gaddafi with two gangster regimes funded by oil money."



inews.co.uk
Horror in Libya should be a wake-up call - the West replaced Gaddafi ... Authorities told Derna's residents to stay where they were, so they were in the path of a wall of water when the two dams collapsed

The human cost of France's nuclear tests in the Pacific

The human cost of France's nuclear tests in the Pacific



101 East investigates the effects of France's nuclear tests in French Polynesia.

For 30 years, France undertook nuclear testing in its Pacific territory, French Polynesia. In recent years, investigations have revealed the effects of the tests were far greater than France has officially acknowledged. A total of 193 nuclear tests were undertaken, including 41 atmospheric tests that exposed the local population and site workers to high levels of radiation. Today, children across the Pacific islands are still dealing with the nuclear fallout. Cancer and other developmental diseases plague new generations born after the last test in 1996.

HOW THE WEST BROUGHT WAR TO UKRAINE

Understanding How U.S. and NATO Policies Led to Crisis, War, and the Risk of Nuclear Catastrophe

Paperback – August 5, 2022

by Benjamin Abelow (Author)

Book Description

According to the mainstream Western narrative, Vladimir Putin is an insatiable, Hitler-like expansionist who invaded Ukraine in an unprovoked land grab.

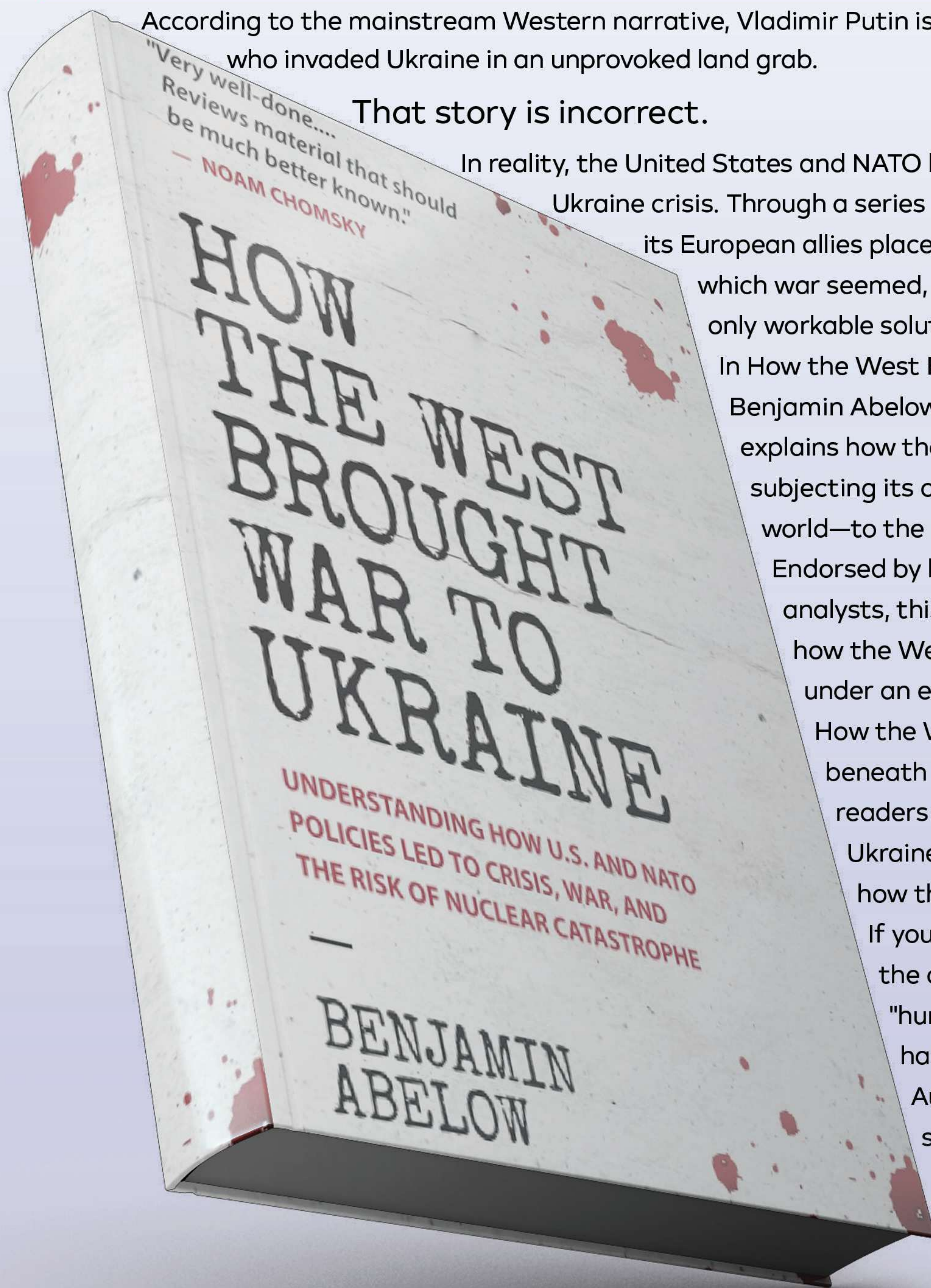
That story is incorrect.

In reality, the United States and NATO bear much of the responsibility for the Ukraine crisis. Through a series of misguided policies, Washington and its European allies placed Russia in an untenable situation for which war seemed, to Mr. Putin and his military staff, the only workable solution.

In *How the West Brought War to Ukraine*, author Benjamin Abelow lays out the relevant history and explains how the West needlessly produced conflict, subjecting its own citizens—and the rest of the world—to the risk of nuclear war.

Endorsed by leading defense experts and policy analysts, this brief and highly readable book shows how the West provoked the crisis and now labors under an existential threat of its own making. *How the West Brought War to Ukraine* looks beneath the surface of recent events. It lets readers understand the deeper sources of the Ukraine war and provides new insights into how the conflict might be resolved.

If you'd like to hear the author respond to the claims that the Ukraine war is a "humanitarian" venture and that Ukraine has the "right" to join NATO, go to the Author's page. There you will find two short video clips (two minutes each). To get to that page, click on the author's photo beneath the cover image of the book (this may not be an option from mobile devices).



BIOGRAPHY

Benjamin Abelow is an American citizen who believes that U.S. and NATO policies are causing great harm to Ukraine, Europe, the United States, and the Global South. He previously worked in Washington, DC, on nuclear arms issues. He has a B.A. in European history from the University of Pennsylvania and an M.D. from the Yale School of Medicine, where he also served as Lecturer in Medicine. His other areas of interest include the study of trauma, including war trauma.

Abelow has been interviewed on multiple Apple-listed podcasts and appeared on Italian, Slovenian, and Russian television. He has debated the chairman of the political science department at Swarthmore College and discussed his book with students attending the Williams College Summer Institute in American Foreign Policy. To date, his book has been translated into German, Italian, Polish, Danish and Slovenian, with French and Dutch translations forthcoming. Figures across the political spectrum have tweeted about the book, including Robert F. Kennedy, Jr. (progressive) and the British intellectual Peter Hitchens (conservative). Abelow can be reached at b.abelow.2022@gmail.com.



ENDORSEMENTS

"Very well-done.... Reviews material that should be much better known."

—**Noam Chomsky**

Institute Professor emeritus, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and Laureate Professor of Linguistics, University of Arizona

"A brilliant, remarkably concise explanation of the danger that U.S. and NATO military involvement in Ukraine has created. It needs to be read and pondered by every citizen capable of thinking rationally and responsibly about American and European security."

—**Jack F. Matlock, Jr.**

former U.S. Ambassador to the Soviet Union, author of *Superpower Illusions*

"For anyone interested in understanding the true causes of the disaster in Ukraine, How the West Brought War to Ukraine is required reading. Abelow makes a clear and compelling case that the United States and its NATO allies—not Vladimir Putin—are the principal culprits."

—**John J. Mearsheimer**

author of *The Tragedy of Great Power Politics*, is the R. Wendell Harrison Distinguished Service Professor of Political Science at the University of Chicago

"This is a splendid little book, tautly written, logically organized, easy to read, and persuasive but appropriately caveated. It is an invaluable primer on the trends and events that produced the escalating warfare in Ukraine."

—**Chas Freeman**

previously Assistant Secretary of Defense for International Security Affairs, author of *Arts of Power: Statecraft and Diplomacy*

"For those concerned about U.S. national security and the peace of Europe, this book is essential reading."

—**Douglas Macgregor**

Colonel (Retired), U.S. Army, author of *Margin of Victory*, was decorated for valor in the Battle of 73 Easting in Iraq and served as Director of NATO's Joint Operations Center at SHAPE (Supreme Headquarters of Allied Powers in Europe)

"A concise yet comprehensive and accessible overview. Invaluable for understanding how war once again came to Europe. Benjamin Abelow demonstrates that the crisis in Ukraine was predictable, predicted—and avoidable."

—**Richard Sakwa**

author of *Frontline Ukraine* and *The Putin Paradox*, is Professor of Russian and European Politics, University of Kent



UKRAINE SUNFLOWER

A poem by Peter Phillips

Dogs were howling. I don't know what breed
but something like wolves; so maybe Alsations.
They wouldn't stop, their noise was contagious.
Soon we were all weeping. When they came,
we quietened, but not the dogs. Soldiers picked
through our debris-scorched field. Most wore
balaclavas. Only yesterday, children had skipped
through us, laughing at how tall we were.
We don't feel tall now. Soon trucks arrived,
more soldiers. The dead were found, their
pockets emptied. Dogs kept howling. Pieces
of the plane were scattered, some crushed us.
I said, Can we still be called Sunflowers?
And the dogs? They were shot.

FROM 'SAYING IT WITH FLOWERS', HEARING EYE, 2016

1 Children's Peace Fair



International Day of Peace

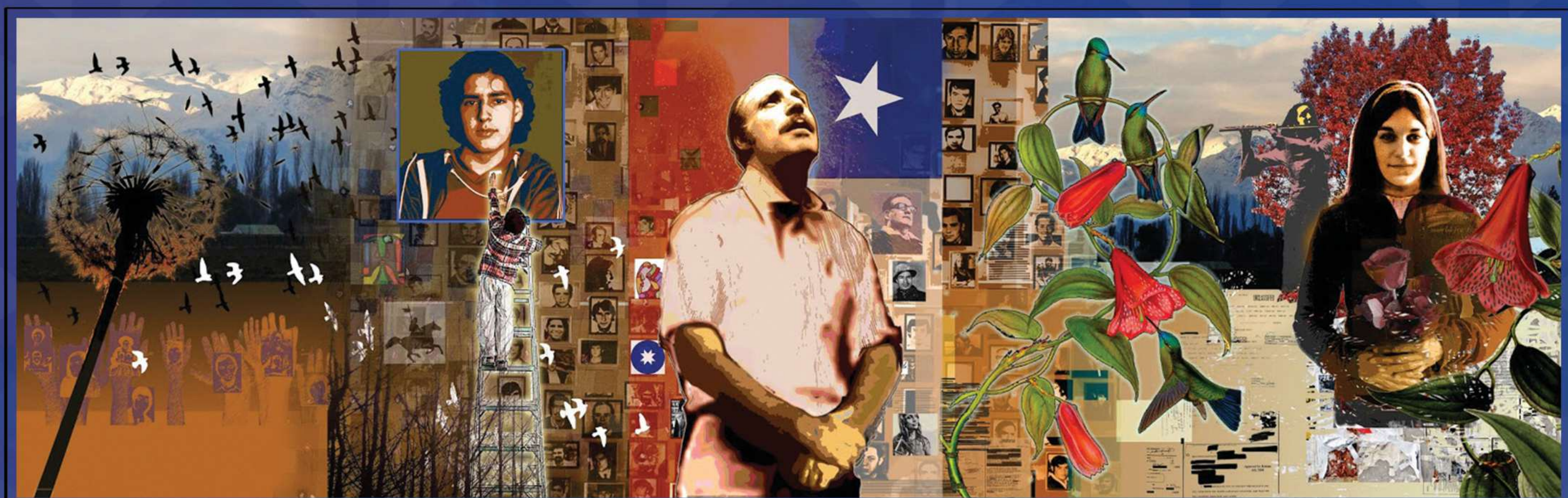
Thursday, September 21, 2023

Maine Memorial School, Maine NY
Maine-Endwell Fifth Graders from
Homer Brink and Maine Memorial Schools
led by teachers Hilary TerBoss and Jim Tokas
Music, song, games, storytelling and more

Sponsored by:

Broome County Peace Action & Veterans for Peace

2 Public Art, Activism, and Historic Memory



On the 50th anniversary of the military coup in Chile, a panel discussion will examine the importance of culture as a tool for building solidarity and advancing justice.

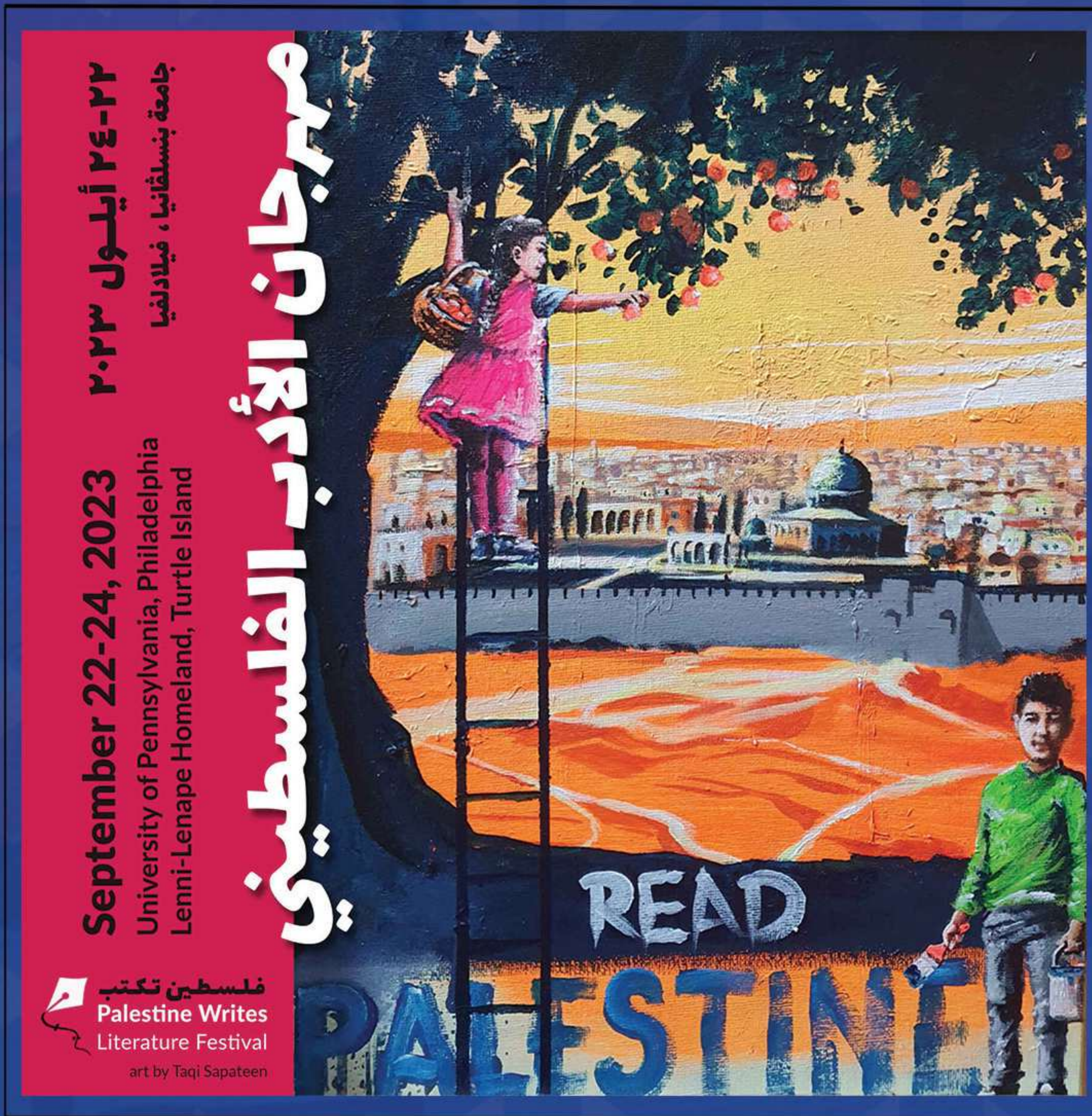
Friday, September 22

3:00pm - 5:00pm

*Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Library - Central Library
East Storefront A & B*

3 Palestine Writes Literature Festival

4 Truro Stop the War Peace Now! Stall



September 22, 2023 1:00PM
September 24, 2023 1:00PM
Eastern Time (US & Canada)

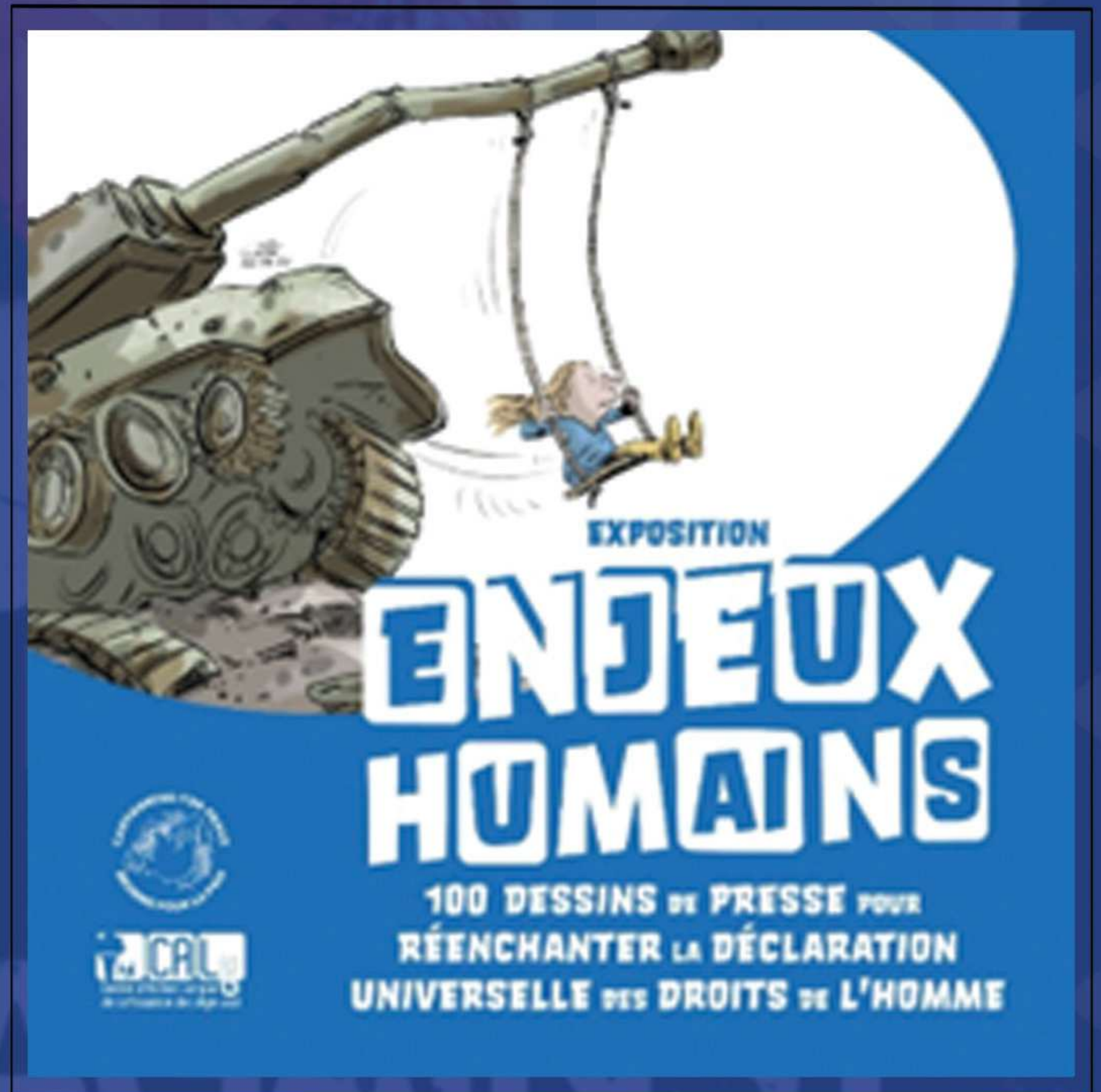
Saturday 23rd September
11.30am – 1.30pm

University of Pennsylvania:
3417 Spruce St Philadelphia,
Pennsylvania 19104

Outside Truro Cathedral
High Cross TR1 2AJ



6 Cartooning for Peace exhibition on Human Issues at the Cité Miroir of Liège, Belgium



The UK government has invited Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman (MBS) to the UK. We believe this visit will have implications for human rights in Saudi Arabia and the war in Yemen. MBS is the architect of the war on Yemen, which has killed thousands of people and led to one of the world's worst humanitarian crises. His regime also carried out the brutal murder of Jamal Khashoggi and is an oppressive country that tortures and executes dissidents. The government should not be laying out the red carpet for MBS and should in fact cut off all relations and stop arms sales to Saudi Arabia.

Join us on September 27th outside Downing Street to call on the UK government to cancel the visit and work to hold MBS to account for his human rights abuses and orchestration of the war on Yemen. This visit sends the wrong message and it must be stopped.

from 7 October 2023
to 28 January 2024

La Cité Miroir//Belgium//Liège
EXHIBITION

From 7 October 2023 to 28 January 2024 in Liège, La Cité Miroir is hosting the international Cartooning for Peace network for an exhibition of press cartoons questioning the state of human rights here and elsewhere:

Enjeux humains.

Bromley Borough CND presents International Peace Day



21 SEP 2023, 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM , BROMLEY

Join Bromley Borough CND for an event to mark the International Peace Day.

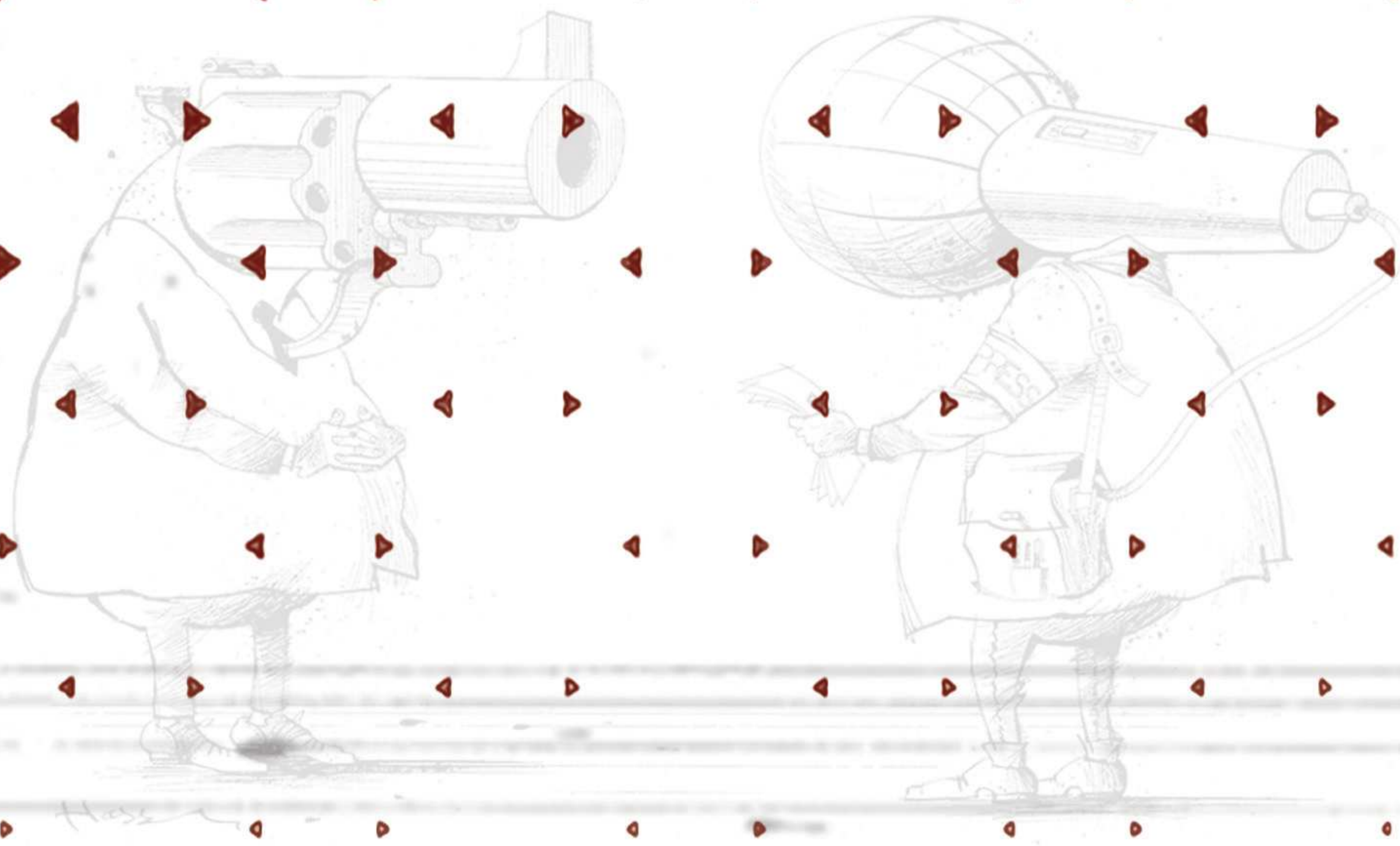
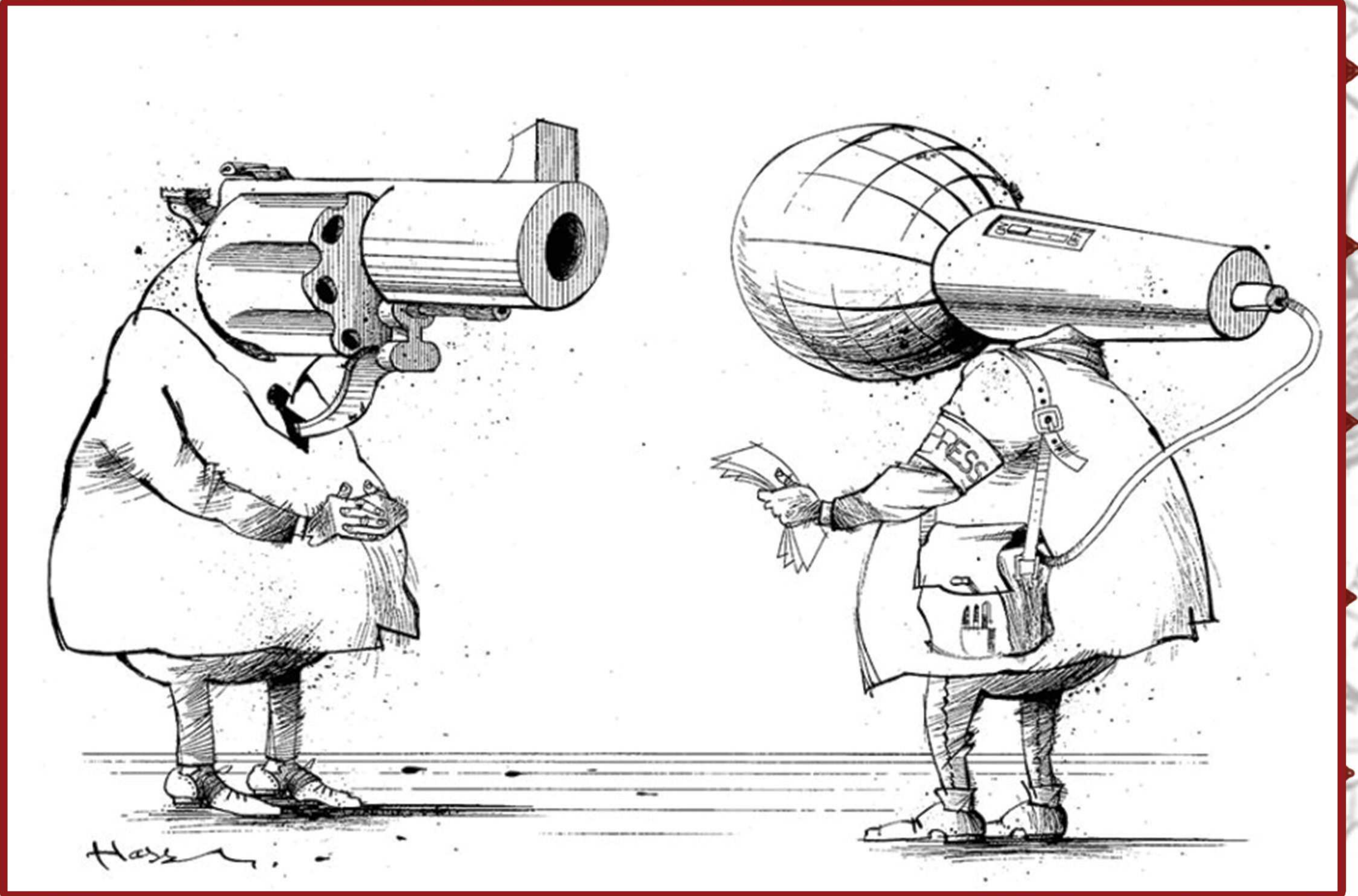
Head down for films, poetry, music, and speeches in recognition of the UN calling a global ceasefire day. Ticketless event.

For any queries please contact 020 8460 1295 or email anncgarrett@yahoo.com

46 Ravensbourne Road

Bromley

BR1 1HP



100^e JOUR DE GUERRE

