



SANCTIONS & RACIAL REPRESSION IN US IMPERIALISM

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WHAT IS IMPERIALISM?

Relationship of power requiring a subordinate peoples or nation that is subject to a ruling peoples or nation.

- Foreign economic and political control of an otherwise sovereign nation.
- Resource and wealth extraction, labor exploitation.
- Ideological formations that produce racial power.



WHAT IS IMPERIALISM?

Imperialism produces U.S. foreign policy, and foreign policy is the way in which U.S. imperialism is executed around the world.

It can be executed by force, mutual collaboration, or various forms of dependence.



HOW DOES THE US EXECUTE IMPERIALISM?

**“FUTURE WARFARE: THE RISE OF
HYBRID WARS”**

Lt. General James Mattis (retired), US Marine Corps & **Lt. Colonel Frank Hoffman** (retired), US Marine Corps

HOW DOES THE US EXECUTE IMPERIALISM?

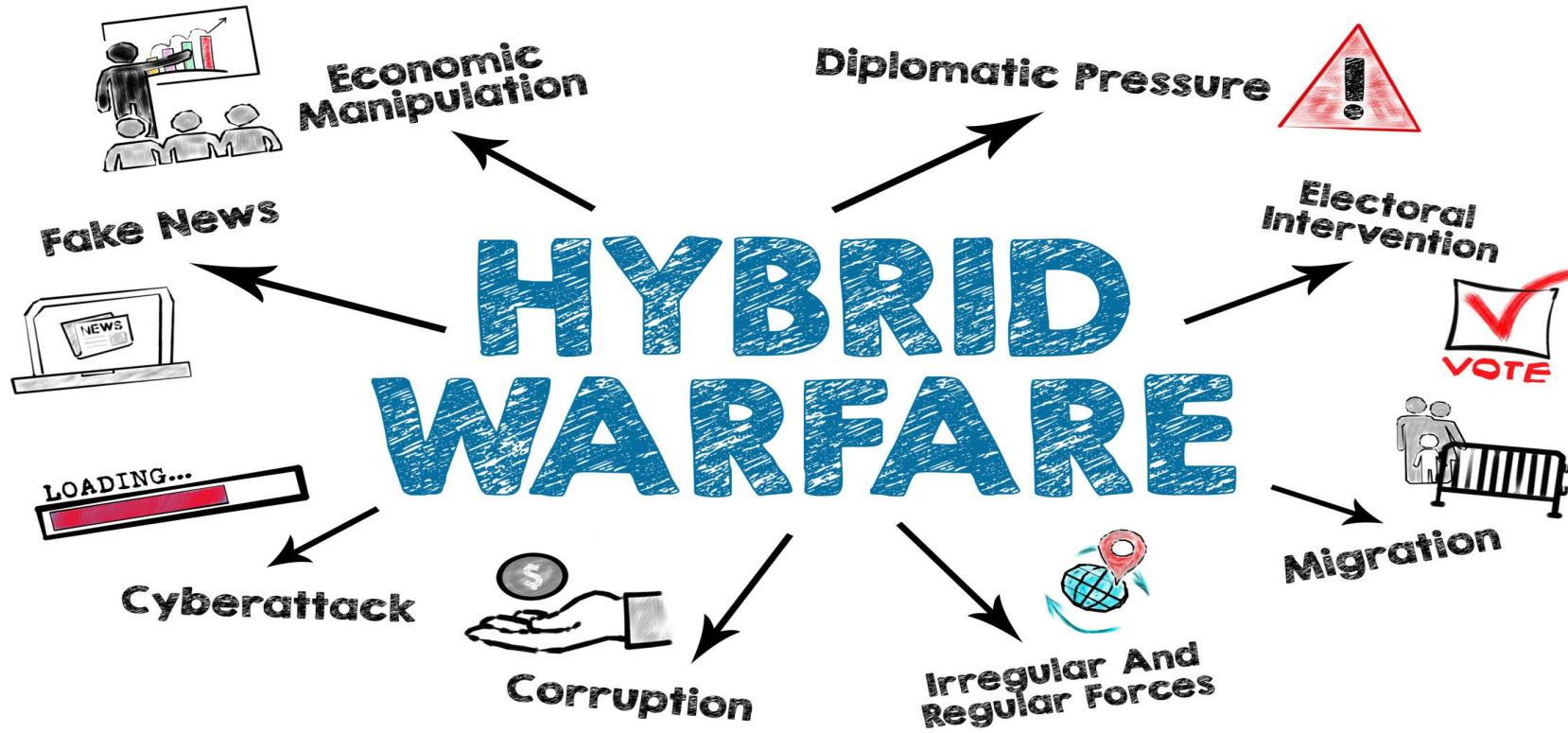
HYBRID WARFARE

- **Fusion of conventional and unconventional instruments of power and subversion**, blended in a synchronized manner to exploit the vulnerabilities of an antagonist.
- **Objective:** to inflict optimal damage on belligerent state.
- **Characteristics:**
 1. Line between war and peace is totally obscured, making it hard to identify the war threshold. War becomes elusive.
 2. Hybrid attacks are marked by vagueness, complicating attribution as well as response. (Who did it?, How can we respond?)

Arsalan Bilal, "Hybrid Warfare: New Threats, Complexity, and Trust as the Antidote", NATO REVIEW, November 30, 2021.
<https://www.nato.int/docu/review/articles/2021/11/30/hybrid-warfare-new-threats-complexity-and-trust-as-the-antidote/index.html#:~:text=Hybrid%20Warfare%20and%20its%20Characteristics,power%20and%20tools%20of%20subversion.>

HOW DOES THE US EXECUTE IMPERIALISM?

HYBRID WARFARE



POLICY PILLARS OF US IMPERIALISM

- **MILITARISM:** The US has over 800 known military bases around the world.
- **ECONOMIC COERCIVE MEASURES (Sanctions):** Nearly 1/3 of the global population is subject to sanctions.
- **FOREIGN AID:** A soft method for enforcing US foreign policy interests, a type of quid-pro-quo.
- **DOLLAR DIPLOMACY:** Until very recently, international trade was mostly conducted in the dollar and the dollar was the primary reserve currency throughout the world.

POLICY PILLARS OF US IMPERIALISM: **MILITARISM**

- The US has over 800 known military bases around the world.
- Astronomical military budget that accounts for 40 percent of military expenditures worldwide.
- Council on Foreign Relations Global Conflict Tracker: 25 active US conflicts.
- Between 1947 and 1989, the US sought regime change at least 72 times. Notably, the majority of these operations were in non-white nations.

Lindsey O'Rourke, The US Tried to Change Other Countries' Governments 72 Times During Cold War, <https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/monkey-cage/wp/2016/12/23/the-cia-says-russia-hacked-the-u-s-election-here-are-6-things-to-learn-from-cold-war-attempts-to-change-regimes/>.

U.S. MILITARY INTERVENTIONS IN WEST ASIA SINCE 2001

Afghanistan, 2001 (direct)

Iraq, 2003 (direct)

Syria, 2011 (direct & proxy)

Libya, 2011 (direct)

Yemen, 2014 (proxy)

Azerbaijan, Ongoing
(proxy)

Palestine, Ongoing
(proxy)

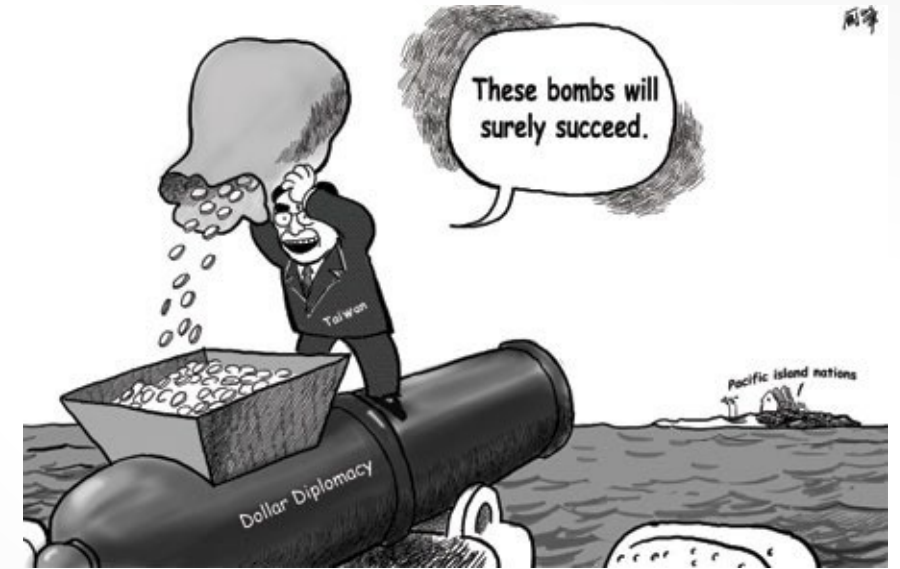


POLICY PILLARS OF US IMPERIALISM: FOREIGN AID

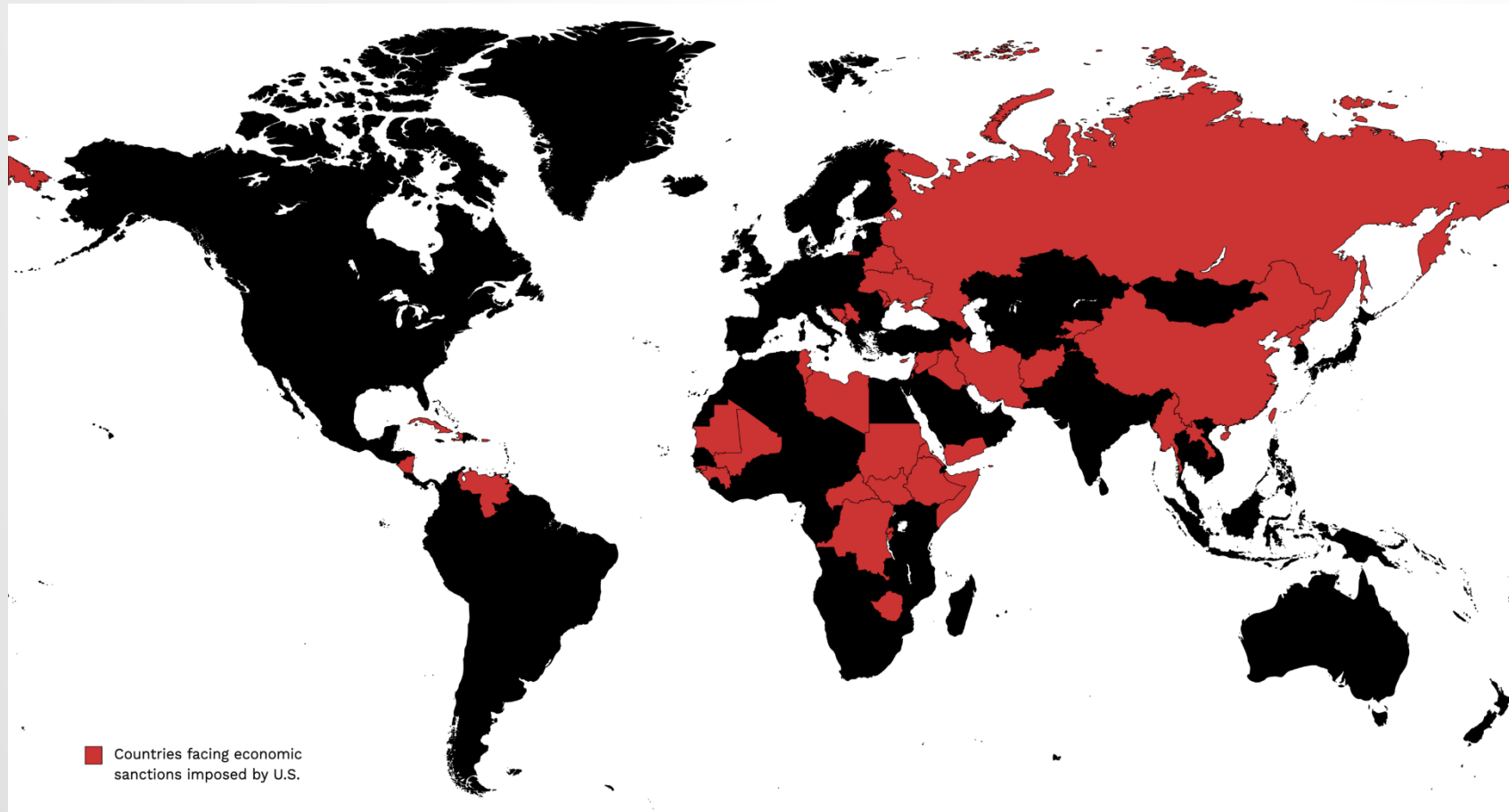
- Promise of foreign aid is critical tool in toolbox of US foreign policy establishment.
- Example: Food for Peace Program requires compliance with US foreign policy interests and enforces a bias for US-based companies and investment.
 - ✓ At one time, Food for Peace required that all food imports to aid nations come from the US, creating a market for US goods in perpetuity.
- Formerly colonized nations of Africa, Asia & Latin America are overrepresented as borrower nations.

POLICY PILLARS OF US IMPERIALISM: **DOLLAR DIPLOMACY**

- Until the current moment, most international trade was conducted in the dollar and the reserve currency throughout the world was the dollar. This is changing now.
- **The Petro Dollar:** In 1979, the US and Saudi Arabia made an agreement to maintain the price of Saudi oil exports exclusively in the dollar. In exchange, the US would defend the Saudi monarchy and provide them with arms.



POLICY PILLARS OF US IMPERIALISM: ECONOMIC COERCIVE MEASURES



WHY SANCTIONS?

INFORMATION ON THIS SLIDE COURTESY OF SANCTIONS KILL, WWW.SANCTIONSKILL.ORG

- **What are Sanctions?**
Restricted Trade, Blocked Financial Transactions, Frozen Assets, Reduced Foreign Aid, Travel Bans, etc.
- **What are the Goals of Sanctions?**
Give the US an economic advantage, effect regime change, retaliate against nations who exit the US sphere of influence through de-development or under development.
- **Sanctions Kill**
By devastating economies, impairing access to food, water, medicine, energy, transportation, etc.

SANCTIONS ARE THEFT

The overwhelming majority of sanctioned nations are formerly colonized, non-white nations.

WHO IS OFTEN THE TARGET OF SANCTIONS?

- **Resources:** Resource-rich nations.
- **Geopolitical Location:** Strategically located nations.
- **History of Socialism:** Nations that seek independence from imperialist economic system through nationalization of resources.
- **Sanctions & Democracy:** US has never allowed a democratically elected government to remain in power in West Asia without engaging in hybrid warfare.



DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF KOREA

- Imperial powers partitioned Korea in 1945, in an attempt to defeat Communism.
- The Korean War is ongoing, with US as a belligerent party.
- DPRK has been under sanctions for almost its entire existence.
- 80 percent of DPRK trade effected by sanctions.

(Information in this slide from Nodutdol Presentation at Sanctions Tribunal)



SANCTIONS AGAINST DPRK: 1995 FLOODS

- **Mainstream Discourse:** famine in North Korea self-induced, but 80 percent of Korean arable land in the south
- 1995 floods swept away more than half of infrastructure – half a million homeless and 5.2 million impacted
- Food production fell by 2/3rds, electrical generation capacity fell by 85 percent, floods destroyed decades of Korean people's production
- For second time Koreans had to rebuild their nation
- This period followed by massive achievements in health system and agriculture
- So...



(Information in this slide from Nodutdol Presentation at Sanctions Tribunal)

U.S. ESCALATED SANCTIONS AGAINST DPRK

- President Obama issued more sanctions against DPRK than any president since.
- He did so following the imposition of UNSC measures, creating the illusion that he was following an international agenda, **rather than setting an imperialist agenda through the UN.**



(Information in this slide from Nodutdol
Presentation at Sanctions Tribunal)

SANCTIONS & THE LAW

Multilateral & Unilateral Coercive
Measures are Both Imperialist in Nature,
MCMs Utilize International Law to
Execute US Imperialism & Uphold a
Western World Order
(that is now in rapid decline)

FINAL REFLECTIONS

GIVE **PEACE** A
CHANCE

A **MULTIPOLAR**
WORLD IS BETTER
FOR ALL



THIS TALK IS BASED ON:

- **International People's Tribunal on US Imperialism: Sanctions, Blockades, and Economic Coercive Measures;** www.sanctionstribunal.org
- **"Imperialism and Black Dissent,"** STANFORD LAW REVIEW (2023)
- **"Imperialism in the Making of U.S. Law,"** ST. JOHN'S LAW REVIEW (2022)
- **"We Charge Imperialism,"** GEOPOLITICAL ECONOMY REPORT (2022)

