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In Ukraine they are playing with everyone's lives



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One of the biggest existential risks in relation to the current Russian-Ukrainian war crisis is a confrontation of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) against Russia, with Ukraine as an instrument to provoke war.

The provocation amounts to a declaration of war in the twenty-first century, which due to the intensification of the conflict has gone from being a hybrid war to a traditional war, but with enormous implications, such as the eventual end of humanity.

Neither Russia nor Ukraine is likely to achieve a decisive military victory in their ongoing war: both sides have considerable scope for deadly escalation. Ukraine and its Western allies have little chance of expelling Russia from Crimea and the Donbas region, while Russia has little chance of forcing Ukraine to surrender. As Joe Biden noted in October,

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the spiral of escalation marks the first direct threat of a "nuclear Armageddon" since the Cuban missile crisis 60 years ago.

Europe is in recession, while developing countries struggle with rising hunger and poverty. U.S. arms manufacturers and big oil companies make windfall profits, even as the U.S. economy worsens. The world endures increased uncertainty, disrupted supply chains and serious risks of nuclear escalation.

Ukrainian leaders believe Russia would take advantage of any pause in fighting to rearm. Russian leaders believe NATO would take advantage of any pause in fighting to expand Ukraine's arsenal. They choose to fight now, rather than face a stronger enemy later, says Jeffrey Sachs, a U.S. economist adviser to three U.N. secretaries-general.

Beyond the transition from hybrid warfare to traditional warfare, there is another fundamental change in the nature of the weaponry used, with greater destructive capacity such as German and American tanks, while the nuclear issue returns to the discussions: its planetary, final impact cannot be concealed, treating it as if it were part of something superficial.

Because the consequences of this escalation of war would result in a nuclear conflagration in which case Europe would appear as the first target. For Russia, the conflict in Ukraine is spiraling and if the West sends more weapons, escalation will be imminent.

In the capitalist economic conclave of Davos regarding the war in Ukraine, two alternatives were proposed: the negotiation of peace or the victory of Ukraine as the only way.

Sanna Marin, the young warmongering prime minister of Finland (a country bordering Russia), is pushing her country to abandon its traditional neutrality to integrate it into NATO and is helping to lead the world to a terminal war, She was the one who proposed this last option in the most aggressive terms, with the bet that international security is only defended by now helping Ukraine.

The Davos Forum determined the guidelines of the economy and politics on a global scale, but this year showed an evident disorientation of the leaderships in general, economic and also political terms, marked by disorientation in the face of war and also in terms of the environmental issue, with the restoration of coal as a legitimate energy when it is the most polluting fossil energy of all

Many in the Western world are concerned about the disorientation and short-termism of the elites, but above all the absence of rational voices. Henry Kissinger – despite his

record of war crimes and coups – pointed out that they are wrong if they think that the only way to solve the problem is to win the war in Ukraine.

War and rightward drift

In almost a year of war in Ukraine, one of the impacts is the enormous rightward shift of political life in all of Europe, as well as in the United States and also Canada, which undoubtedly affects the supposed well-being of the popular classes that constitute the majority of the population in all these countries.

When we talk about the war in Ukraine we cannot refer to the classic military conflict between the Armed Forces of two countries (in this case Ukraine and Russia), which affect not only the soldiery, but very especially and massively the civilian population, especially those who survive in Ukraine.

But the great beneficiary of the expansion of such a "cold war" ideology is the neoliberal economic model itself. Especially in the Western world, which is not talked about and even less denounced. Large economic and financial groups dominate the states to achieve maximum political power and corporate profit. It is the struggle for the dominant economic and financial interests in each bloc to achieve greater spheres of political power, almost always at the expense of the popular classes.

The popular classes of the United States, for example, do not benefit from the dominance of this economic model, nor from the enormous military spending in their country. Democracy in the United States is enormously limited with large deficits in the social and labor rights of its popular classes, which is being accentuated by Cold War II, reproducing what already happened in the First Cold War.

Economic and social consequences

Some speak of the Cold War 2.0 when Ukraine has received weapons for at least 100 billion euros, especially from the United States and NATO countries. Thanks to this, it has achieved that 300,000 people have died in less than a year and millions more are going hungry and cold.

The economic and social consequences transcended Ukraine. The great shortage of vital products, energy and food, resulting not only from the war but also from economic and financial sanctions, meant a huge increase in inflation that hits ordinary people, especially those with lower incomes.

The war was an enormous popular sacrifice, very marked on both sides of the North Atlantic, but undoubtedly more accentuated in Europe than in the United States, which is tried to justify as a necessary sacrifice to defend the democracy and freedom of the

Western and Christian world, starting from the premise that the triumph of Russia would mean the victory of an alternative economic system. Communism?

The message conveyed by the recent visit to the United States by Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky is that his people are fighting to defend democracy in the world, including that of the United States. This ideology is well promoted daily by the hegemonic media, which are nothing more than spokesmen for economic interests that are using the supposed Second Cold War as a mechanism for its expansion.

These include the cases of non-renewable energy companies that feared their disappearance due to the strength of the green movement worldwide and that today are enjoying unprecedented prominence and benefits. "Anti-communism" still gives economic returns to big business and serves to tie the popular classes to the danger of the "Russian bear".

But above all the arms industry, which is having huge profits after a couple of years ago feared that NATO would disappear, as the president of France, Emmanuel Macron, had indicated. Such a military industry has enormous political influence in the U.S. (it funds politicians of both parties), a country that reached unprecedented levels in its military spending.

The same is happening in Europe, where the growth of the state-financed arms industry at the cost of not correcting large public deficits in its basic services such as health, education and food security, deficits that the Covid-19 pandemic had already starkly shown.

And at our level, that of the so-called Global South, the scarcity of agricultural products from the zones of military conflict, as well as the inflation and cost of living that the war brought about, have created a problem of enormous dimensions, responsible for the growth of mortality in our countries, in greater numbers than the fatalities in Ukraine.

Neutral nations, including Argentina, Brazil, China, India, Indonesia and South Africa, have repeatedly called for a negotiated end to the conflict. These countries do not hate Russia or Ukraine. They don't want Russia to conquer Ukraine, nor do they want the West to expand NATO eastward, which many see as a dangerous provocation not only for Russia, but also for other countries.

Their opposition to NATO enlargement has broadened as Americans have urged the Atlantic alliance to confront China. Neutral countries were baffled by the participation of Asia-Pacific leaders (from Japan, South Korea, Australia and New Zealand) in a summit last year of supposedly "North Atlantic" countries.

It should be remembered that when Washington and the European Union imposed economic sanctions on Russia, the major emerging economies, such as India, did not do the same. They did not want to choose sides and have maintained strong relations with Russia. But that's not what the hegemonic media say.

In Ukraine, not only Zelensky, Biden, Putin, NATO, Ukraine and/or Russia are protagonists, but the lives of each one of us, of the eight billion people who inhabit the planet, are also at stake. Ah, also the survival of the Earth.

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