# افغانستان آزاد ــ آزاد افغانستان

### AA-AA

بدین بوم و بر زنده یک تن مسباد از آن به که کشور به دشمن دهیم چو کشور نباشد تن من مبساد همه سر به سر تن به کشتن دهیم

www.afgazad.com afgazad@gmail.com

ربانهای اروپائی European Languages

*By Jeffrey D. Sachs* 30.12.2023

## U.S. Foreign Policy Is a Scam Based on Corruption



**Sources:** Common Dreams

The \$1.5 trillion in annual military spending is the scam it continues to swindle—the military-industrial complex and members of Washington—even as it impoverishes and endangers the United States and the world

At first glance, U.S. foreign policy appears to be totally irrational. The U.S. is engaged in one disastrous war after another: Afghanistan, Iraq, Syria, Libya, Ukraine, and Gaza. In recent days, the U.S. has found itself isolated globally in its support for Israel's genocidal actions against the Palestinians, voting against a UN General Assembly resolution for a ceasefire in Gaza backed by 153 countries with 89%, and opposed only by the U.S. and 9 small countries with less than 1% of the world's population.



Over the past 20 years, all the grand goals of U.S. foreign policy have failed. The Taliban returned to power after 20 years of occupation U.S. Citizen of Afghanistan. Post-Saddam Iraq became dependent on Iran. The President Syria's president, Bashar al-Assad, remained in power despite the CIA's efforts to overthrow him. Libya fell into a protracted civil war after a U.S.-led NATO mission overthrew Muammar Gaddafi. Ukraine was beaten on the battlefield by Russia in 2023 after the U.S. secretly scuttled a peace agreement between Russia and Ukraine in 2022.

To understand the foreign policy scam, Think of today's federal government as a multidivisional business controlled by the highest bidders.

Despite these remarkable and Costly defeats, one after another, the same cast of characters is still at the forefront of U.S. foreign policy, including Joe Biden, <u>Victoria Nuland</u>, Jake Sullivan, Chuck Schumer, Mitch McConnell, and Hillary Clinton.

What's going on?

The puzzle is solved recognizing that U.S. foreign policy has nothing to do with the interests of the American people. It's about the interests of the members of Washington, while pursuing campaign contributions and jobs lucrative for them, their staff, and their family members. In short, the U.S. foreign policy has been hacked by big capital.

As a result, the village The U.S. is losing a lot. The failed wars since 2000 have cost about \$5 trillion in out-of-pocket outlays, or about \$40,000 per household. Another \$2 trillion or less will be spent in the coming decades on caring for veterans. More beyond the costs directly incurred by Americans, as well We must recognize the terribly high costs suffered abroad, in the United States. Millions of lives lost and billions of dollars in property destruction and nature in war zones.

Costs continue to rise. Disbursements tied to the U.S. Armed Forces in 2024 will amount to about \$1.5 trillion, or about \$12,000 per year. If we add the Pentagon's direct spending, the CIA's budgets, and other intelligence agencies, the budget of the Veterans, the Department of Energy's nuclear weapons program, the "Foreign Aid" Linked to State Department Military (such as Israel) and other security-related budget lines. Hundreds of billions of dollars is money thrown down the drain, squandered on useless wars, overseas military bases, and a A totally unnecessary arms build-up that brings the world closer to the Third World War. World war.

However, describing these gigantic costs is also to explain the twisted "rationality" of U.S. foreign policy. The \$1.5 trillion in military spending They are a scam that delivers the military-industrial complex and the members of the Washington, even as they impoverish and endanger the United States and the world.

To Understand the Scam foreign policy, think of today's federal government as a business-scam controlled by the highest bidders.

The Wall Street division is run by the Treasury.

The Healthcare Industry division is headed by the Department of Health and Human Services.

The Big Oil and Coal division is in charge of the Departments of Energy and Interior.

The Foreign Policy division is run by the White House, the Pentagon and the CIA.

Every division uses power public for private benefit through information operations greased by corporate campaign contributions and Lobbying disbursements. Interestingly, the health industry division rivals the Foreign Policy division as a notable scam financial. Health expenditures in the United States The U.S. totaled a staggering \$4.5 trillion in 2022, or approximately \$36,000 per household, with no difference in healthcare costs

highest in the world, while the U.S. ranked <u>roughly 40th in the world among nations in life</u> <u>expectancy</u>. A failed health policy translates into large sums of money for the healthcare industry, just like a failed foreign policy translates in mega-revenues of the military-industrial complex.

#### The more wars, of course, the more business.

The Politics Division Exterior is run by a small, secretive, close-knit clique, which includes the top brass of the White House, the CIA, the Department of Homeland Security, and the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. State, Pentagon, House Armed Services Committees, Representatives and the Senate, and major military companies, including Boeing, Lockheed Martin, General Dynamics, Northrop Grumman, and Raytheon. There's maybe a thousand key people involved in setting policy. The The public interest doesn't play much of a role.

The main people responsible for Foreign policy directs the operations of 800 military bases U.S. citizens overseas, hundreds of billions of dollars in military contracts and the war operations in which the equipment is deployed. The more wars, of course, the more business. The Privatization of Politics has been greatly amplified by the privatization of the company's own business. war, as more and more are delivered and more "basic" military functions for arms manufacturers and contractors such as Haliburton, Booz Allen Hamilton, and CACI.

In addition to the hundreds of thousands of millions of dollars in military contracts, there are significant effects indirect business implications of military and CIA operations. With bases military operations in 80 countries around the world, and CIA operations in many more, The U.S. plays an important, if mostly covert, role in determining who governs in those countries and, therefore, in the policies that shape lucrative mineral-related deals, hydrocarbons, pipelines, and agricultural and forestry lands.

The U.S. has tried to overthrow at least 80 governments since 1947, usually led by the CIA through the instigation of coups d'état, assassinations, insurrections, civil unrest, election rigging, economic sanctions, and wars Open. (For a superb study of the regimechange operations of U.S. from 1947 to 1989, see Lindsey O'Rourke's book *Covert Regime Change*, 2018).

In addition to the interests There are, of course, ideologues who really believe in the right of The United States to rule the world. The ever-warmongering <u>Kagan Family</u> is the case more famous, although his financial interests are also deeply deepened. intertwined with the war industry. The point about ideology is this. The ideologues have been wrong on

almost every occasion, and it has been a long time since they have been they would have lost their thuggish positions in Washington if it weren't for their usefulness as warmongers. Knowingly or unknowingly, they serve as paid performers for the military-industrial complex.

There's a downside persistent for this ongoing trading scam. In theory, politics is carried out in the interest of the American people, although the truth is that It's the opposite. (A similar contradiction, of course, applies to the overpriced health care, Wall Street government bailouts, profits from the oil industry and other scams). The American People he rarely supports the machinations of U.S. foreign policy when he occasionally hears the truth. America's wars are not They are not fought by popular demand, but by decisions from above. They are needed Special measures to keep people out of decision-making.

## In theory, foreign policy is carried out in the interest of the American people, even though the truth is otherwise.

The first of these measures is Relentless propaganda. George Orwell hit the nail on the head in 1984 when "the Party" suddenly changed the foreign enemy of Eurasia into East Asia without a word of explanation. The U.S. essentially makes The same. Who is America's gravest enemy? Choose the one that suits you the most you like it, depending on the season. Saddam Hussein, the Taliban, Hugo Chavez, Bashar al-Assad, ISIS, al-Qaeda, Gaddafi, Vladimir Putin, Hamas, all have played the role of "Hitler" in American propaganda. The White House spokesman John Kirby delivers the propaganda with a smile on his face, indicating that he also knows that what he is saying is ridiculous, if mildly entertaining.

Propaganda is amplified by Washington think tanks that live off donations from contractors and, occasionally, foreign governments that are part of the U.S. scam operations. Think of the Atlantic Council, the CSIS and, of course, the ever-popular Institute for the Study of Culture. War, made up of major military contractors.

The second is to hide the costs of foreign policy operations. In the 1960s, the The U.S. made the mistake of forcing the American people to assume the expenses of the military-industrial complex recruiting young men to fight in the Vietnam and raising taxes to pay for the war. The audience erupted in opposition.

Since the 1970s in Going forward, the government has been much smarter. The government put an end to the conscription and made military service a paid job in public service, backed by Pentagon disbursements to recruit soldiers from the lower economic strata. He also left the quaint idea that government outlays should be financed with taxes

and instead shifted the military budget to spending This protects it from the popular opposition that would be unleashed if it were to It will be funded by taxes.

It has also deceived states clients like Ukraine to fight in U.S. wars over the so that no U.S. body bag spoils the U.S. propaganda machine. Needless to say, teachers of the war in the United States such as Sullivan, Blinken, Nuland, Schumer and McConnell remain thousands of miles away from the forehead. Death is reserved for Ukrainians. Senator Richard Blumenthal (D-Conn.) defended U.S. military aid Ukraine as money well spent because it is used "without a single woman or man of the year." wounded or lost U.S. service," somehow not It occurs to the good senator to save the lives of the Ukrainians, who have killed by hundreds of thousands in a U.S.-provoked war over the NATO enlargement.

This system is based on the complete subordination of the U.S. Congress to the business of war, to avoid any questioning of exaggerated budgets and the wars instigated by the Executive Branch.

The subordination of Congress Here's how it works.

First of all, monitoring of war and peace by Congress is largely allocated to the House and Senate Armed Services Committees, which largely frame the overall policy of Congress (and the budget of the United States). Pentagon).

Second, industry (Boeing, Raytheon, and the rest) finances the campaigns of members of the Bipartisan Armed Services Committee. Military industries too They spend large sums on lobbying or influence, providing lucrative salaries retiring members of Congress, their staffs, and their families, whether directly to military companies or Washington lobbying firms.

It is the urgent task of the American people reform a foreign policy that is so broken, corrupt, and deceptive that It's burying the government in debt while pushing the world closer to the end of the world. Nuclear Armageddon.

The Hacking of Politics Congress's exterior is not only on the part of the military-industrial complex of United States. The Israeli lobby has long since mastered the art of buying the Congress. U.S. Complicity in Israel's Apartheid State and war crimes in Gaza make no sense for national security and U.S. diplomacy, not to mention human decency. They are the fruits of the investments of the Israeli lobby, which reached 30 million dollars in campaign contributions in 2022, and that will far exceed that figure in 2024.

When Congress reconvenes Biden, Kirby, Sullivan, Blinken, Nuland, Schumer, McConnell, Blumenthal and his ilk will tell us that we absolutely must finance the the lost,

cruel and deceitful war in Ukraine and the massacre and ethnic cleansing in Ukraine. course in Gaza, lest we, Europe and the free world, and perhaps the own solar system, let's succumb to the Russian bear. the Iranian mullahs and the Chinese Communist Party. Suppliers of Foreign policy disasters are not being irrational in this scaremongering. They are being deceitful and extraordinarily greedy, pursuing interests above those of the American people.

It is the urgent task of the people reform a policy that is so broken, corrupted, and that is burying the government in debt while pushing the world further into debt. near nuclear Armageddon.

This review should begin in 2024 by rejecting further funding for the disastrous war in Ukraine and Israel's war crimes in Gaza. Peacemaking, and diplomacy, not military spending, is the path to a U.S. foreign policy in the public interest.

Jeffrey D. Sachs: University professor and director of the Center for Sustainable Development at Columbia University, where he directed the Earth Institute from 2002 to 2016. He is also Chair of the United Nations Sustainable Development Solutions Network and Commissioner of the United Nations Broadband Commission for Development. He has been an advisor to three United Nations Secretaries-General and currently serves as an SDG Advocate under Secretary-General Antonio Guterres. Sachs is the author, most recently, of "A New Foreign Policy: Beyond American Exceptionalism" (2020). Other books include: "Building the New American Economy: Smart, Fair and Sustainable" (2017) and "The Era of Sustainable Development" (2015) with Ban Ki-moon.

Source: <a href="https://www.commondreams.org/opinion/corruption-of-us-foreign-policy">https://www.commondreams.org/opinion/corruption-of-us-foreign-policy</a> Translated by Rebellion.

This translation may be freely reproduced provided that its integrity is respected and that the author and Rebellion are acknowledged as the source of the translation.

Rebelion 29.12.2023