

## The Needed for an Anti-War Government

Alastair Haythornthwaite's remarks at January 24<sup>TH</sup>, 2016 Joseph Mairs Memorial



Last year I retired which gave me the freedom to run in a Federal Election. The main plank I ran on was the formation of an anti-war government. With all the challenges facing workers, why was an Anti-War Government a priority?

My remarks today are not about how to achieve a Socialist paradise, but rather, a pragmatic musing about Canada's role in the world today and how this role can be transformed to the benefit workers.

Since the collapse of the Soviet block in the early 1990s, we have lived in a uni-polar world, the world of American hegemony. America has not been wise with its dominance but instead has worked ceaselessly to eliminate any society which has some aspects of nationalism and socialism.

First up was Yugoslavia, which at the cost of a lot of Yugoslavian blood, was dismembered over a decade. America used every dirty sectarian trick to amp up the situation, culminating in the bombing campaign to wrest Kosovo from Serbia and hand it over to gangsters and jihadists. America's bombing campaigns focused on civilian infrastructure, power, water, sewage plus high value state enterprises like auto plants.

America was not satisfied to carry out the deed itself, which it was capable of doing, but entangled its NATO allies in its dark purposes. This pattern is repeated over and over again, the 'coalition of the willing' varying depending on the nation attacked. In Afghanistan in 2001, the UN obliged with a green light to overthrow the Taliban and Canada participated. In Iraq in 2003, there was no UN resolution and Canada, under Chretien, declined.

What is clear is, if a nation does not prostrate itself to US corporate interests and has no nuclear bombs, it will be destroyed. Merely cooperating with America did nothing to save Gadhafi and did not stop the war on Syria.

For our Western nations America takes a different tack. Governments that try to follow a policy of national interest are undermined and replaced with more pliable compradors. Our rulers are directed by America on what policies to take and what wars to wage, with the underlying threat of political oblivion for those foolish enough to challenge the world order.

But this uni-polar world has ended. China and Russia balance America's economic power. This puts us in the most dangerous situation possible, worldwide rivalry between the big powers. The 'Great Game' led

directly to World War One and will lead to nuclear war if nations and peoples continue to dance to America's tune.

Hence the necessity of an Anti-War government. But how could an Anti-War Government be formed? None of the leading parties have an Anti-War Government as their goal. The parties are more and less bellicose but all voted for America's wars on Libya. These wars are dressed up in values we can support. Afghanistan was attacked to help the status of women by killing their fathers, husbands and sons. Libya was destroyed to depose a genocidal 'Madman' who threatened civilians.

To form an Anti-War Government, a broad common front is required. We do not have to agree on every nuance of politics. We need to agree that being part of America's muscular war on everything is bad for Canada and bad for the world. This is going require people to be better informed about who our enemies are and who our friends are. We need to know what countries are trying, in their own way, to do the best for their populations and which are dangerous troublemakers.

Since the new era of continuous war started in 2001, the nature of our allies like Turkey and Saudi Arabia has been exposed and put on a billboard for anyone who cares to read it. The absolutely catastrophic results for the local populations of America's wars is undeniable.

On the basis of the combination of the illegality of these attacks and the negative results, such a common front is possible within Canadian society. To do nothing is to invite disaster. Who knows, Trudeau may make it part of his platform next time, if it has sufficient support.