

RUSSIAN TROOPS OUT OF UKRAINE

The Russian army has inflicted a year of indescribable suffering and bloodshed on the Ukrainian people. Innumerable war crimes have been committed.

The Russian invasion was aimed at making Ukraine a loyal satellite of Moscow, and grab its mineral and agricultural resources. Putin claimed that Ukraine had to be “denazified” and demilitarised.

The Ukrainian people refused to be passive victims of this war of aggression, and are massively resisting the invasion. For them, it is a war of national liberation and independence which socialists and internationalists should support.

We should support the left and the trade unions resisting the neoliberal Zelenski government attacking labour rights, and trying to join the EU and NATO. Our governments should cancel, not just postpone Ukraine’s debt, for

post-war reconstruction based on social, climate and economic justice.

Internationalist and anticapitalist should be in solidarity with the resistance of the people of Ukraine against the invasion of their country. That means supporting the right of Ukraine to obtain all the military equipment necessary, including from NATO. The arms should be without strings or illusions. The future of Ukraine must not be decided above the heads of its people by Russian and Western imperialism.

NATO and Western imperialism are backing Ukraine for their own geopolitical interests. NATO and Western imperialism are not forces for democracy. They back countries such as Israel and Saudi Arabia that are undemocratic and are at war with their weaker neighbours. Western imperialism has regularly intervened into struggles for



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national independence and liberation to subvert and limit the goals of the popular struggle.

The people of Ukraine did not start the war and they have no choice but to resist the Russian army. They want peace to stop the destruction and deaths. Ukraine put forward a peace plan in December but it was rejected by Russia reiterating that demilitarisation and denazification was not negotiable.

A ceasefire now will not be respected by Putin. He will not withdraw his troops or respect Ukraine's territorial integrity unless forced to do so. As long the people of Ukraine are fighting for the liberation of their country, they should be supported.

Peace talks without a withdrawal of Russian troops means the Ukrainians have to accept annexation of their country. Ukrainians have the right to determine the future of their country.

Russian troops have committed war crimes, and arguably even a genocide. A war crimes tribunal should be set up. But Western imperialism also committed war crimes when NATO invaded Afghanistan in 2001 and when Blair and Bush illegally invaded Iraq in 2003. Yet Blair and Bush escaped justice.

A year after the brutal and unprovoked invasion, socialists and internationalists must continue to support Ukraine's resistance to the Russian invasion. If we are not seen to be on the side of the people of Ukraine, then the only voices they will hear will be those of western imperialists, not those of socialists and internationalists. We cannot let that happen.

If Russia stops fighting, it will be the end of the war.

But if Ukraine stops fighting, it will be the end of Ukraine.

RUSSIAN TROOPS OUT NOW

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NO TO RUSSIAN AND NATO IMPERIALISM



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