

Selected Articles: US International Relations. Washington Is in High Gear

By [Global Research News](#)

Global Research, June 19, 2017

Do not underestimate the capacity of the US to maintain its “superpower” status. It is committed to exhaust whatever means to achieve its ends. From its unsolicited military intervention in Syria to economic sanctions imposed in Russia and Cuba, Global Research brings to your attention the following articles on US international relations.

The global media — to their credit – are focusing on the brutality of the US-backed Raqqa campaign, though they’re avoiding any serious reporting about how and why the Kurds are ethnically cleansing Arabs from Raqqa. (Andrew Korybko)

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[US Backed YPG Kurds Are Ethnically Cleansing Arabs From Raqqa, and the World Is Silent](#)

By [Andrew Korybko](#), June 19, 2017

Combined with the [heavy and indiscriminate airstrikes](#) being carried out against the city, [160,000 civilians](#) have been forced to become refugees and flee their homes as internally displaced people. This works out to [more than half](#) of the city’s pre-war population of 220,000, and it confirms what independent journalist and associate editor at 21stcenturywire.com Vanessa Beeley [told RT](#) just recently about how the US is making no attempt whatsoever to protect civilians.



[Trump Reaffirms the Blockade, Takes US Policy Towards Cuba One Step Back](#)

By [ACN](#), June 19, 2017

Although diplomatic relations – re-established on July 20, 2015 – will continue, the new actions of the Trump administration are a step backwards towards the normalization of bilateral ties, and come loaded with old anti-Cuban rhetoric.



[Trump to Reverse Cuba Policy, Reinstate 'Regime Change' Goals](#)

By [Telesur](#), June 19, 2017

U.S. President Donald Trump is expected to fulfill his campaign promise to curtail the 2014 re-engagement deal between Washington and Havana, tightening pressure on Cuba and dashing the hopes of those who had hoped for a thaw in relations between the two neighbors.



[US to Send Up to 5,000 More Troops to Afghanistan](#)

By [Jordan Shilton](#), June 19, 2017

Secretary of Defence James “Mad Dog” Mattis is set to announce the deployment of up to 5,000 additional troops to wage war in Afghanistan in the coming weeks, following a decision Tuesday by President Trump granting Mattis authority to set troop levels.



[Germany Issues Stinging Rebuke of US Sanctions Against Russia](#)

By [Johannes Stern](#), June 18, 2017

Republicans and Democrats agreed almost unanimously, by 97 votes to 2, to impose new sanctions on Russia in the Senate on Wednesday. The Senate justified the measure as a punishment for Moscow’s alleged meddling in the US presidential election, the annexation of Crimea and its support for Syrian President Bashar al-Assad. The bipartisan bill was “the package of sanctions the Kremlin deserves for its actions,” said Democratic Senator Jeanne Shaheen.

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