

# The Democratic Party's War History and the U.S. Congress' 2018 Authority for the Use of Military Force (AUMF)

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Global Research, April 25, 2018

Region: [USA](#)

Theme: [Law and Justice](#), [US NATO War Agenda](#)

*If there is any surprise that Senate Democrats, most of whom are virtually indistinguishable from pro-war Republicans, are about to coalesce in support of the newest version of the [Authority for the Use of Military Force of 2018 \(AUMF\)](#), then you have seriously not been paying attention.*

The proposed AUMF of 2018 would replace [AUMF 2001](#) and repeal [AUMF 2002](#) while it will codify an “uninterrupted authority to use all necessary and appropriate force in armed conflict” against the Taliban, al Qaeda, ISIS and as yet unidentified “designated associated forces” who might “pose a grave threat to the US” in whatever country they occupy.

Since its adoption in 2001 within days of the 911 attack, the AUMF has served to justify every expansion of the US military's role in the Middle East with every relevant Congressional oversight committee acting as little more than a syncopation of bobbing heads.

The AUMF 2018 offers no restriction on military ops and no expiration or sunshine date while it abdicates all Congressional statutory war making authority as defined in the Constitution to the executive branch with no meaningful oversight or accountability.

In other words, the AUMF 2018 represents a complete capitulation to the MIC in a permanent continuation of almost two decades of “[forever war](#)” ostensibly in the Middle East for future generations of American troops as the country is driven deeper into an indisputable ditch of financial insolvency and a wicked, amoral quagmire at home.

It has been fifty years since Congressional Democrats were in the vanguard of the anti-Vietnam war movement. Since the 1960's few elected Democrats have dared challenge the party leadership to speak for peace or challenge any administration's military interventionist policy and yet it is the Democratic party which claims the moral high ground.

Still instructive is an analysis of the October, 2002 [Congressional AUMF resolution](#) approving GW Bush's grotesque invasion of Iraq. The original AUMF was adopted by Congress [three days](#) after the 911 attacks with Senate Democratic Majority Leader Tom Daschle (SD) shepherding the resolution to enactment as its primary sponsor. The [Senate approved](#) the use of military force in Iraq with a 77 – 23 and [House approval](#) was on vote of 296 – 133. In both houses, Democratic ‘liberals’ provided the necessary cushion of support for the resolution which initiated the next 17 years of extreme civil devastation, death and destruction throughout the Middle East and a US indebtedness crisis that threatens a

massive financial implosion.

And yet there appears to be no accountability aimed at those alleged 'liberals' still in office who continue to support funding for every Defense appropriations bill with no regard for any consequences.

It may come as a shock to loyalist Democrats that the majority of every major war in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century was initiated and/or conducted under a Democratic president. WW I aficionados can thank [Woodrow Wilson](#), the revered [FDR](#) took the US into WWII, the unprepared [Truman](#) allowed the use of atomic weapons on the civilian population of Nagasaki and Hiroshima before initiating the [Korean War](#) in 1950 and LBJ's [escalation](#) in Vietnam became a metaphor for his Great Society. In the early 1990's, with NATO acting as its proxy, the [Clinton Administration](#) initiated a military effort to break up the non-aligned socialist Yugoslavia ending the decade with '[humanitarian bombing](#)' that devastated the civilian population while disintegrating the once-prosperous country.

On the other hand, former [President Jimmy Carter](#), a volunteer with Habitat for Humanity since leaving office, can proudly assert that

"We kept our country at peace. We never went to war. We never dropped a bomb. We never fired a bullet."

Most recently, is Barack Obama, who campaigned as a Constitutional scholar and whose fraudulent 2009 Nobel Peace Prize was awarded prior to a [bombing spree](#) on seven Islamic countries. During his eight years in office, Obama dropped over [26,000 bombs](#) in his last year in office including a multitude of [drone strikes](#), established a Tuesday morning [assassination list](#) and began war in [four countries](#) living in peace when he took office in 2008.

There is something more than a cosmic coincidence going on here as all those aforementioned Democratic Presidents are today considered by party loyalists to be 'liberal' on the ideological spectrum.

Introduced by Sen. Bob Corker (R-Tenn), retiring Chair of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, AUMF 2018 is co-sponsored by Democratic Sens. Tim Kaine (D-Va), Chris Coons (Del) and Bill Nelson (Fl). Kaine, HRC's vice president candidate, and Coons serve on Foreign Relations while Nelson is on the Armed Services Committee. Kaine and Nelson are both [up for re-election](#) this year as are three other Democrats on the committee; Sens. Menendez (NJ), Chris Murphy (Conn) and Cardin (Maryland). In addition, Sen. Jeff Flake (R-Az) who also serves on Foreign Relations, has opted to not seek re-election.

Corker has indicated that a potential Senate floor vote depends on the strength of AUMF support within the Foreign Relations Committee and that a wide margin in favor would facilitate Senate floor passage. [Sen. Rand Paul](#) (R-SC) and [Sen. Jeff Merkley](#) (Oregon) have announced their opposition to the resolution. Foreign Relation Committee members who attended the recent [2018 AIPAC Policy Conference](#) included Senators Cardin (D-Md), Coons (De), Menendez (NJ), Marco Rubio (R-Fl), Rob Portman (R-Oh) as well as [Sen. Tom Cotton](#) (Ak) who serves on the Senate Armed Services Committee.

Can there be a more pathetically farcical example of the “world’s [greatest legislative](#) body” so utterly devoid of conscience, so disconnected from life’s reality with no awareness of their own culpability for war crimes. As the committee deliberates on whether to lessen its Constitutional responsibilities and lighten its legislative duties, approval of the AUMF 2018 will confirm the public’s perception that, despite a cushy career with great benefits, the Congress is a completely irrelevant and obsolete forum.

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