

## **US Economic and Military Terrorism**

By Stephen Lendman

Global Research, July 06, 2019

Region: <u>USA</u>
Theme: US NATO War Agenda

Sanctions and tariffs are favored economic US weapons of war by other means, especially the former. They're used to inflict economic pain and collective punishment.

The Vienna-based International Progress Organization calls sanctions "an illegitimate form of collective punishment of the weakest and poorest members of society, the infants, the children, the chronically ill, and the elderly."

According to the Treasury Department, they're imposed on Russia, North Korea, Syria, Venezuela, Sudan, Cuba, Myanmar, Nicaragua, Iran, and other countries — as well as against entities and individuals in targeted countries.

Threats usually precede and accompany US actions — including unacceptable demands no responsible leadership would accept.

The Sino/US face-off is far more than about trade. Michael Hudson calls major differences between both countries "a full-fledged Cold War 2.0," adding:

"At stake is whether China will agree to do what Russia did in the 1990s: put a Yeltsin-like puppet of neoliberal planners in place to shift control of its economy from its government to the US financial sector and its planners."

"So the fight really is over what kind of planning China and the rest of the world should have: by governments to raise prosperity, or by the financial sector to extract revenue and impose austerity."

The US aims "to gain financial control of global resources and make trade 'partners' pay interest, licensing fees and high prices for products in which the United States enjoys monopoly pricing "rights' for intellectual property."

"A trade war thus aims to make other countries dependent on US-controlled food, oil, banking and finance, or high-technology goods whose disruption will cause austerity and suffering until the trade 'partner' surrenders."

Simply put, the US seeks dominance over all other nations, their resources and populations, wanting Yeltsin-like puppets installed everywhere serving its interests — why wars by other means and hot wars are waged, ongoing against multiple countries.

China's Vice Foreign Minister Zhang Hanhui earlier accused the US of "naked economic terrorism, economic homicide, (and) economic bullying" — indicating how far apart both countries are on major issues, Beijing not about to bend to unacceptable Trump regime demands.

Iranian Foreign Minister Zarif slammed the White House the same way, earlier saying:

"If the United States decides to cause so much pain on the Iranian people by imposing economic warfare, by engaging in economic terrorism against Iran, then there will be consequences," without elaborating, adding:

"We don't differentiate between economic war and military war. The US is engaged in war against us, and a war is painful to our participants."

"We have a very clear notion that in a war, nobody wins. In a war, everybody loses...the loss of some...greater than (for) others."

"(W)e exercise our (right of) self-defense...(Trump) announced that he is engaged in a war and economic war against Iran, and we have an obligation to defend our people against that economic war."

He'll fail to "achieve his policy objectives through pressure" and other toughness. His tactics may work in "real estate," not "in dealing with Iran" — geopolitics and business world's apart.

Nor will US toughness work against Russia, China, Venezuela, Cuba, North Korea, and other countries.

Under Republicans and undemocratic Dems, two right wings of the US war party, the nation is increasingly viewed as a pariah state, making more enemies than friends by forcing its will on other nations.

Hubris and arrogance are self-defeating longer-term. The US is a declining superpower in an increasingly multi-polar world, its post-WW II supremacy fading — despite spending countless trillions of dollars to remain dominant globally.

It's the same dynamic that doomed all other empires in history, no exceptions, nor will the US be one – a nation in decline because of its hubris and arrogance, waging endless wars against invented enemies, and hardwired unwillingness to change.

The nation I grew up in before, during, and after WW II no longer exists — replaced by the imperial state, military Keynesianism, ruinous military spending, and endless wars of aggression against nations threatening no one while vital homeland needs go begging.

If humanity survives, an ominous uncertainty, America's epitaph one day may read the nation was consumed by its unattainable imperial rage for dominion over planet earth.

The US no longer is the world's sole superpower, not even the leading one.

Russian super-weapons outmatch the Pentagon's best, developed at a small fraction of the cost — intended solely for defense, never preemptively against another nation the way the US, NATO, Israel, and their imperial partners operate.

If attacked, Iran will exact a heavy cost on the US. The imperial state is no match against Russia's super-weapons. Nor would it fare well against China's growing military might.

After endless wars in Afghanistan, Iraq, Syria, Yemen, and Libya, conflicts rage without resolution.

If Washington left its puppet Kabul regime on its own, unaided by Pentagon forces, it would fall in short order, the same likely true in Yemen if Western weapons sales and support for Saudi terror-bombing ended.

The same can be said about other countries where US-installed or supported regimes cling to power with US military aid.

Like most of his predecessors, Trump is captive to dark forces controlling him, a businessman/TV personality transformed into a warrior president, escalating inherited wars, heading toward another against Iran if the world community doesn't stop the madness.

World peace and humanity's survival depend on whether the US can be contained. Its endless wars may destroy us all if a way isn't found to stop them.

\*

Note to readers: please click the share buttons below. Forward this article to your email lists. Crosspost on your blog site, internet forums. etc.

Award-winning author Stephen Lendman lives in Chicago. He can be reached at <a href="mailto:lendmanstephen@sbcglobal.net">lendmanstephen@sbcglobal.net</a>. He is a Research Associate of the Centre for Research on Globalization (CRG)

His new book as editor and contributor is titled "Flashpoint in Ukraine: US Drive for Hegemony Risks WW III."

http://www.claritypress.com/LendmanIII.html

Visit his blog site at <u>silendman.blogspot.com</u>.

The original source of this article is Global Research Copyright © <u>Stephen Lendman</u>, Global Research, 2019

## **Comment on Global Research Articles on our Facebook page**

## **Become a Member of Global Research**

Articles by: Stephen Lendman

## About the author:

Stephen Lendman lives in Chicago. He can be reached at lendmanstephen@sbcglobal.net. His new book as editor and contributor is titled "Flashpoint in Ukraine: US Drive for Hegemony Risks WW III." http://www.claritypress.com/LendmanIII.html Visit his blog site at sjlendman.blogspot.com. Listen to cuttingedge discussions with distinguished guests on the Progressive Radio News Hour on the Progressive Radio

Network. It airs three times weekly: live on Sundays at 1PM Central time plus two prerecorded archived programs.

**Disclaimer:** The contents of this article are of sole responsibility of the author(s). The Centre for Research on Globalization will not be responsible for any inaccurate or incorrect statement in this article. The Centre of Research on Globalization grants permission to cross-post Global Research articles on community internet sites as long the source and copyright are acknowledged together with a hyperlink to the original Global Research article. For publication of Global Research articles in print or other forms including commercial internet sites, contact: <a href="mailto:publications@globalresearch.ca">publications@globalresearch.ca</a>

www.globalresearch.ca contains copyrighted material the use of which has not always been specifically authorized by the copyright owner. We are making such material available to our readers under the provisions of "fair use" in an effort to advance a better understanding of political, economic and social issues. The material on this site is distributed without profit to those who have expressed a prior interest in receiving it for research and educational purposes. If you wish to use copyrighted material for purposes other than "fair use" you must request permission from the copyright owner.

For media inquiries: <a href="mailto:publications@globalresearch.ca">publications@globalresearch.ca</a>