

Weapons and Billions for War

By Manlio Dinucci

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In-depth Report: **UKRAINE REPORT**

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President Biden, receiving Italy's PM Draghi at the White House, said,

"The thing I most appreciate about you is your effort from the beginning to bring NATO and the EU in sync in helping Ukraine."

Well-deserved congratulations: while the U.S. Congress is allocating an additional \$40 billion to arm Kiev's forces in the war against Russia, adding to the \$14 billion already allocated in March, Draghi has been working to open a similar channel of war funding in Europe through a "European Union Solidarity Trust Fund for Ukraine" and a "resilience package" worth an initial €2 billion provided to Kiev by the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development.

At the same time Mario Draghi and other G7 leaders (of which Italy is a member along with the U.S., Canada, Britain, France, Germany and Japan) allocated \$24 billion to support Ukraine in its war against Russia. Draghi's role is also important in the financing to Kiev decided by the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund, initially amounting to about \$5 billion.

Thanks to this funding, in the months before and after the war the United States and its allies supplied Kiev forces with 85,000 missiles, more than 50 million rounds of ammunition of all calibers including for long-range howitzers, drones and other advanced weapons systems. Kiev forces, particularly those of the Azov Regiment and other neo-Nazi formations, are not only armed but directed by NATO.

The colossal spending on the war against Russia, which is set to increase and become permanent, is paid for by the citizens of Italy and Europe directly and indirectly by cutting social spending.

Added to this is the growing expense resulting from the EU Directive to accept and keep all Ukrainians arriving (without the need for visas) in Italy and other European countries.

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