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The Role of War in Global Capitalism



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For capitalism (or liberalism, as many also define it), the only valid balance sheets are the accounting ones.

Beyond that, it matters little whether intensive mineral extraction, industrial waste dumped into seas and rivers, and uncontrolled release of carbon dioxide and monoxide damage the ecosystem and health of humans around the planet; in addition to other disastrous social consequences. Transnational megacorporations, especially financial ones, are motivated only by the ambitious achievement of large profits in the shortest possible time. It will not be too much to affirm that the bases of such profits are the surplus value generated by

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salaried workers (regardless of their professional level or not) and the dispossession of territories occupied ancestrally by native peoples and peasants, counting on the complicity of corrupt and complacent governments. Between the last decades of the last century and the first decades of the present century, large European and North American companies have obtained economic benefits that far exceed the annual budget of several nations, which has increased the gap between rich and poor, both in terms of social classes and the North-South divide.

In the midst of this, war has played a fundamental role in the growth and validity of capitalism. No conflict between nations, however justified it may seem, is outside the interests of the large consortia that dominate the capitalist market. It is these who are behind the arms race, generating huge profits, arming governments and terrorist or irregular groups alike, without paying attention to ethical and moral issues. In addition to this, they benefit from the usurpation and exploitation of the territories that are scenarios of these wars, as happened with Iraq, Libya and some African nations, rich in strategic energy and mineral resources; on many occasions, generated by the ideological industry at their service.

Large transnational corporations aim to run strategic enclaves around the world. Their claim to absolute dominance contemplates the monopoly of new technologies; financial flows; access to the natural resources of each continent; traditional and emerging media; and weapons of mass destruction, which are denied to the rest of the countries, but which remain in the hands of those who have provoked wars and destruction to preserve their imperial or hegemonic status. All this would be, then, nothing more than a global totalitarianism against which any right of the peoples would represent a serious threat that would have to be eradicated, appealing to any strategy, regardless of the legality, ethics and morals with which it should be acted. In this regard, there are plenty of examples. Now more when it has a military power of global scope, possessing technological advances that, except for Russia, China and Iran, do not possess the other nations: NATO. In addition to military force, an extraterritoriality of measures is imposed that seek to force governments considered hostile or outlawed to conform to their interests and their particular conception of "democracy".

Ana Esther Ceceña, coordinator of the Latin American Observatory of Geopolitics, argues that, despite the level of war, oppression and repression observed on a global scale, new and diverse forms of resistance to capitalism and its disciplining regime are emerging every day. "It is because of this obscene concentration of wealth and power that the world's dispossessed multiply their strategies of escape and resistance. That is, the present conditions can be perceived as total war against the whole world, but simultaneously as one of systemic unsustainability and illegitimacy, of insubordination." In such a context, war is, today, as it was in the twentieth century, one of the main supports of the globalized economy. It ensures that large transnational corporations obtain and preserve accumulation and high profit margins, investment possibilities in each nation and the necessary control of markets and raw materials; which must be questioned at all times, regardless of any prejudice or argument that is used to justify their actions against the peoples of the world.

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