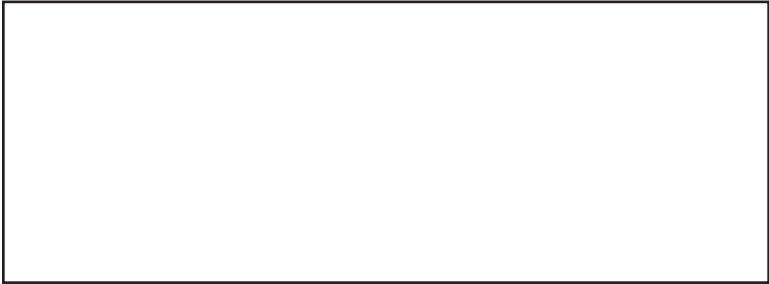


DATED MATERIAL



PEACE ACTION OF WISCONSIN’S
MOTHER’S DAY BUFFET AND PROGRAM!

May 14, 2023 at 3 PM
At Art Bar

722 E Burleigh St, Milwaukee (Between Fratney & Pierce)

Featuring Singer Dorothy James

Debra Gillespie of Mothers Against Gun Violence
will discuss creating a more peaceful Milwaukee.

Julie Enslow will read
Julia Ward Howe’s Mothers Day Proclamation.

Make your reservations today for the buffet.
Sandwiches and homemade desserts.
\$25.00 per person • Call 414-269-9525
or email pamrichard35@gmail.com

For 30+ years IFCO/Pastors for Peace has been standing in solidarity with Cuba in their fight for Peace with justice against immoral U.S. Policies. Join us for a discussion about Cuba’s model that secures human rights for all and exercises true democracy.



END THE BLOCKADE
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2023 FRIENDSHIPMENT
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FRIDAY - MAY 19 - ZAO MKE CHURCH
2319 E. KENWOOD BLVD. • MILWAUKEE, WI 53211
POTLUCK DINNER 6-7PM • PROGRAM 7-8PM

[HTTPS://WICUBA.ORG](https://wicuba.org) • [WICUBACOALITION@GMAIL.COM](mailto:wicubacoalition@gmail.com)

The Mobilizer Newsletter of

Peace Action
of Wisconsin



May - June 2023
Vol. 46 #2

REFLECTIONS ON THE UKRAINE WAR IN 2023

by Harry Targ

Most accounts of the Ukraine crisis still ignore the extraordinary expansion of NATO in the 1990s and the 2014 coup against the elected government of Ukraine carried out with the covert support of the United States. Including this in the accounts today adds important context, not for determining “good guys and bad guys,” but for figuring out where peace forces should stand. Reflection on this context DOES NOT DENY THE IMMORAL

Source: Chris Breihan. Peace Action Stands for Peace in Ukraine

AND INHUMANE RUSSIAN INVASION OF UKRAINE.

My takeaways so far are the following:

1. Russia has fallen into a trap that will significantly and negatively impact on its economy.
2. The invasion gives fuel to the emerging anti-China Cold War rhetoric for politicians of both parties and the corporate media who suggest that Taiwan will be next, presumably after a Chinese invasion.
3. The Ukraine war is an enormous plus for military/ industrial complexes in the US and in Russia as well.
4. The Ukraine story transforms the global narrative from the critical discussion of exploitation by the Global North of the Global South to the Biden narrative of “authoritarians” vs. “democracies.” For example, see the powerful presentation by V J Prashad of the essential nature of the North/South struggle. <https://youtu.be/Lg9c0jv6wTA>
5. The impacts of the debate on progressive forces in the US and elsewhere are potentially devastating. In the US, our discourse is shifting from a progressive agenda including President Biden’s 2021 Build Back Better program for example to stories about the relationships between Putin and former President Trump and so-called “national security.” Biden’s 2022 State of the Union address reflected his “shift

to the center.” Now we have a cause all Americans can get behind: opposing the Russians recalls the Soviet menace in the 1940s which was used to defang CIO militancy, the drive for free health care, Henry Wallace’s call for US/Soviet dialogue and, of course, civil rights for all.

The Russian invasion and the incomplete and war-oriented narrative of the Ukraine crisis dominating the news from such sources as the Washington Post, the

New York Times, National Public Radio, and CNN/MSNBC constitute a real setback for us. Media news is a commodity. War and portraits of American exceptionalism are profitable commodities for the increasingly concentrated corporate media.

For these reasons and more, I endorse the Code Pink demands that all parties cease fighting and negotiate all outstanding issues. The 12-point Chinese proposed peace plan is a good place to start. Russian withdrawal of its troops from Ukraine and the United States and its allies pulling back NATO forces from its presence in Eastern Europe are desirable goals. In addition, diplomatic efforts should ensue to replace NATO with an organization that can provide security for Europe and the Global South. The Code Pink frame gives appropriate recognition to both the immorality of the Russian action and the context, including NATO expansion and the events in Ukraine since 2014.

Finally, I want to reintroduce the concept of “historical memory.” These memories are important for people and they are legitimate ways to think about what needs to change. The historical memory for many Russians probably includes the 27 million of their ancestors killed during World War II largely from invading German armies crossing through Ukraine.

1

Will We Lose Our Right To Speak?

by Ann Batiza

There are so many current threats to our speech freedoms, it is hard to keep up. Most of these threats attempt to eliminate any voice outside of our docile legacy media.

For those who question the servility of legacy media,¹ the New York Times recently aided the FBI in the identification of a leaker² and then wrote stories about the information this source revealed.³ As Matt Taibbi wrote, “Future sources who might have very different motives than this one will obviously hesitate to go to the press if they think they might be served up to authorities.”⁴

His team’s latest Twitter Files release (#20, by Matt Orfalea) shows that when Twitter was told that its number of accounts identified as “Russian” (151) were “inadequate on every level,”⁵ Twitter instituted broader criteria⁶ that ultimately identified Jill Stein as “is_Russian.” “Outrageous!” was Stein’s response. She said, “More that McCarthy would be proud of.”⁷

But that’s not all. Four Black liberation leaders were recently indicted using the Foreign Agents Registration Act (FARA)⁸ after the FBI surveilled their organizations and months earlier had raided the home of one of them: the 80-year-old leader of the African Peoples Socialist Party.⁹

Perhaps this overreach pales in comparison to the draconian Restrict Act that is gaining momentum in Congress. The Restrict Act would open the door to broad surveillance and censorship that abrogates the first amendment by invoking risks to national security. According to the *Freedom of the Press Foundation*,¹⁰

“It is well-established that the government is required to show a grave, imminent danger to national security before imposing a ‘prior restraint’ on speech. But the bill contains no such requirement.”

As Julian Assange begins his fifth year of incarceration for publishing the truth, and as Democrats have seemingly abandoned support for freedom of speech, it is more imperative than ever that progressives sound the alarm. Without our right to speak, all other freedoms are in danger of being extinguished.



Source: Ann Batiza. Assange’s father, John Shipton, talks with Ithaka emcee, Emilio De Torre.

Assange’s Father and Brother Visit Milwaukee with the Movie *Ithaka*

by Ann Batiza

The father and brother of Julian Assange, John and Gabriel Shipton, appeared at the Oriental Theatre on April 8 with the movie *Ithaka*. They graciously mingled with the almost full house both before and after the show and answered questions during the Q and A emceed by Emilio De Torre, executive director of the Milwaukee Turners.

Thank you to all the members of Peace Action of Wisconsin, Assange Defense MKE, Veterans for Peace and the National Lawyers Guild (Milwaukee Chapters,) and the Milwaukee Turners, who helped to promote the event by posting flyers, handing out leaflets, sending emails, and in the case of Chris Borg – busking with his guitar and amp connected to his car battery (with some help acoustically from James Oldenburg.)

The movie describes the efforts of Julian’s father, John, and other members of his family, including Julian’s wife Stella (with glimpses of his two small children), as they seek justice for Julian across Europe and the UK.

The Q and A, filmed by Tom Rodman and Jess Devitt, elicited thoughtful audience questions and often lyrical answers from Julian’s father. Many of those queries and responses, with links to the appropriate timestamp in the video are captured in this thread of 19 tweets. You can access that thread by copying this URL into your browser.

https://twitter.com/AnnBatiza/status/1646052085203345408/retweets/with_comments

Award-winning photojournalist, Lee Matz of the Milwaukee Independent, captured much of the Q and A while documenting the evening in pictures.¹

Continued on page 5

¹<http://www.milwaukeeindependent.com/articles/ithaka-family-focused-documentary-fight-julian-assanges-freedom-premieres-milwaukee/>
² <https://www.wuwm.com/show/lake-effect/2023-04-06/thursday-4-6-23-mcts-fiscal-cliff-julian-assange-film-uw-system-tuition-increase-experience-after-incarceration>
³https://soundcloud.com/user-240416425/2023-04-08-1500-grass-is-greener-john-and-gabriel-shipton-free-assange?utm_source=clipboard&utm_medium=text&utm_campaign=social_sharing
⁴<https://www.thenation.com/article/politics/rashida-tlaib-julian-assange-letter/>

Contact the White House and Members of Congress

To reach your representative and senators:
Call the Congressional Switchboard at
202-224-3121.

Access www.congress.gov/members
Send letters to First St SE, Washington, DC 20004

How to Call the White House:

The Biden White House has very limited phone line hours. Call 1-202-456-1111 to be connected to the White House public comment line. Please note, you must call between the hours of 10am - 2pm CT, Tuesdays - Thursdays while the phone line is open. Send letters to 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20500

Peace Action of Wisconsin Rallies for International Women’s Day

by Chris Breihan

Close to one hundred hardy souls braved the blustery weather on Saturday, March 11th to march and rally for International Women’s Day. Stepping off from Dontre Hamilton Park, the activists convened inside the Village Church where literature tables, warm-up snacks, and an array of speakers awaited them.

Calling for “Hands off our bodies, hands off our families, and healthcare for everyone,” the Milwaukee International Women’s Day Coalition had invited Peace Action of Wisconsin to take part. Pam Richard handed out our brochures and flyers from our literature table, and Chris Breihan spoke about the enormity of the US military budget (greater than that of the next nine biggest spenders added together) contrasted with the demands for healthcare, childcare, and family leave that we are told are too expensive.

The Wisconsin Coalition to Normalize Relations with Cuba, part of the Peace Action coalition, also had a table and a speaker. Lex Nutile spoke about Cuba’s new, groundbreakingly inclusive Families Code and the democratic process that had led to its development and adoption—and acceptance, among the Cuban people.

In this time of almost daily attacks on the rights of women and the LGBTQ+ community in this country, it was important to come together for International Women’s Day and reaffirm our vision for a just society, and a peaceful world.

JOIN US / RENEW



____ New Member ____ Renewal

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

Email _____

____ \$30 individual ____ \$10 limited income

____ \$50 household ____ \$100 supporter

____ \$1000 lifetime membership

Additional donation of support \$ _____

Make checks out to Peace Action of Wisconsin

1001 E. Keefe Ave., Milwaukee, WI 53212

Call office for information on monthly sustainers.

If you are not receiving our *Peace Action Email Alerts* please email us your email address so you can keep in touch with current activities.

THANK YOU TO OUR PEACE ACTION VOLUNTEERS

Steering Committee: Chair Tom Seery, Treasurer Chris Breihan, Secretary Bruce Ware, Harry Targ, Ann Batiza, Laura Kukor Shea, Bruce Brown, Babette Grunow

Mail Crew: Marsha Vila, Julie Enslow, Mary Laan, Babette Grunow, Sue Cottrell, David Lindberg, Tom Neibler, Trish Beausang, Joyce Ellwanger, Barbara Markoff, Roger Hansen, John Payton, Jill Ferguson, Mary Lou Stebbins, Jan Watson, Don Timmerman, Roberta Thurston, Ruth Zubrensky, Barbara Markoff

Tom Rodman for many hours of computer tech advice.

Movers to our new office:

Brian Bunzel, Mile Trokan, Ken Gass, Babette Grunow, Liz Richard and Paul Host, Marsha Vila, Laura Kukor-Shea, Tom Seery, Chris Breihan, Trish Beausang, Elder Carpenter

Samir Moukaddam for keeping the Peace Center on Keefe Ave going over the past 5 years.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR WORK FOR PEACE ACTION OF WISCONSIN



PEACE CALENDAR MAY 2023 - JUNE 2023

May 1, Monday, 11 AM May Day March with Voces de la Frontera, Day without Immigrants, at the Voces office. Join the Peace Action of WI contingent at Mitchell St & 6th St at the rally before the march.

May 6, Saturday, 11 AM Wisconsin vs WW3, Capitol Square West in Madison, WI, End the Wars Coalition and Libertarian Party

May 6, Saturday, 2 PM No to NATO with Milwaukee Anti-war Committee. ZAO Church at 2319 E Kenwood Blvd, Milwaukee

May 6, Saturday, 5 PM-8 PM Water Listening Tour with Communities United by Water, with Paul DeMain, Chair, Honor the Earth, Polish Falcon Hall, 801 E Clark MKE, Indigenous vegetarian dinner for sale.

May 13, Saturday, 10 AM-11:30 AM CDT on Zoom "Foreign Policy, International Peace and the Role of US Military Spending"
Speaker: Dr. Joseph Gerson, United Nations Association of Milwaukee Forum, Co-sponsored by Peace Action of WI.

Saturday, May 13, 3-4:30 PM, Peace in Ukraine- Second Wisconsin Organizing Zoom, Sponsored by the Milwaukee End the Wars Coalition and Peace Action-WI, co-sponsored by the WI Network for Peace and Justice, Building Unity WI, the Interfaith Peace Working Group, and Veterans for Peace, Madison.

Mother's Day Peace Event, May 14, Sunday, 3 PM Art Bar, with sandwiches and home-made desserts. Call 414-269-9525, or email pamrichard35@gmail.com to reserve a space now! See ad on back page.

May 15, Monday, NAKBA Day- The Nakba – the forced expulsion of over 700,000 Palestinians by Zionist/Israeli forces – started 75 years ago and its victims continue to suffer to this day. Milwaukee Action? We'll have dedicated Stand for Peace on May 13, Saturday, at the Orange Sunburst at the foot of WI Ave. to honor that day.

May 19, Friday, 6 PM Pastors for Peace 2023 Friendshipment Caravan to Cuba. Welcoming Event will be held at ZAO Church, 2319 E Kenwood Blvd.

May 20, Saturday, Noon-1 PM Stand for Peace with the Nuns! School Sisters of Notre Dame and other orders will be joining us at 92nd & Burleigh

May 20, Saturday, Noon to 2 PM Benefit for the Golden Rule Veterans for Peace Sail Boat, at Milwaukee Friends Meeting House. The Golden Rule will be here August 31- Sept 5, 2023.

May 24, Wednesday, 7 PM Milwaukee End the Wars Coalition meeting on Zoom, email pamrichard35@peacemail.com for the link.

June 10, Saturday, Noon-1 PM 16th & Greenfield, Stand for Peace Special: No to NATO. NATO will hold its largest-ever air exercises this June 12-24, known as Exercise Air Defender, that will involve 220 aircraft and 10,000 personnel from 24 nations.

June 24, Saturday, 2 PM-4 PM Annual Peace Action of WI Picnic with United Nations Association of Milwaukee. ZAO Church, 2319 E Kenwood Blvd. Tours of our new office and spaces available to us for meetings and events.

June 28, Wednesday, 7 PM Milwaukee End the Wars Coalition meeting on Zoom, email pamrichard35@peacemail.com for the link.



EVERY SATURDAY, NOON - 1PM

MAY

May 6: Layton/Howell

May 13: Wisconsin/Prospect (by orange sunburst)

May 20: 92nd/Burleigh

May 27: Lincoln Memorial/Lafayette Hill

JUNE

June 3: King/Locust

June 10: 16th/Greenfield

June 17: 35th/Fond du Lac/Burleigh

June 24: Farwell/North

The Mobilizer Newsletter of

Peace Action 
of Wisconsin

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1001 E. Keefe Ave., Milwaukee, WI 53212**

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Babette Grunow, Pam Richard, and Harry Targ

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Facebook: facebook.com/peaceactionwi

**End Military Intervention, Transfer Military Spending
to Human Needs, Abolish Nuclear Weapons & Power.
*Oppose Racism & Sexism, Protect the Environment.***

Remembering Bruce Andrews

Peace Action has just been informed that our former Treasurer and Steering Committee Member, Bruce Andrews, tragically died in a house fire on October 14, 2022. He is remembered for his dedication and selflessness as a willing volunteer for peace and justice.

Tell Biden to stop following Trump on Cuba

by Art Heitzer

Just nine days before leaving office, Trump's Secretary of State Mike Pompeo added Cuba to a US list of supposed "State Sponsors of Terrorism" (SSOT). This was the last of over 240 sanctions Trump had added against Cuba.

This reversed President Obama's 2015 determination that Cuba should not be on this list. It was widely expected that Biden would follow the facts and not maintain this unjustified designation. Instead, more than two years later, this is continuing to cause serious injury to the people of Cuba, including private entrepreneurs seeking to serve foreign tourists.

Richard Nuccio, former Special Advisor on Cuba affairs to President Clinton, noted, "Frankly, I don't know anyone in or outside of government who believes in private that Cuba belongs on the terrorist list. People who defend it know it is a political calculation. It keeps a certain part of the voting public in Florida happy, and it doesn't cost anything."

Meanwhile, US colleges can't get insurance for study in Cuba programs, and any inclination by foreign banks or companies to deal with Cuba is dashed by the risk they'll be tarred for dealing with "a terrorist country."

Further, solely because of this designation, citizens of 40 countries including all of Western Europe are now barred from eligibility for normal expedited permission to visit the US — if they've visited Cuba — risking their ability to enter the US at all, and at a minimum delaying any planned trips by many months and costing hundreds of dollars to seek a US visa.

Cuba is cash-strapped, very short on fuel, food, and even medicine. The Biden administration appears to be more interested in seeking advantage from the extreme hardship of our neighbors, than acting in a reasonable or rational way.

The main rationales cited for this listing early in 2021 was that Cuba had granted asylum to several US figures such as Assata Shakur some 40 years ago, and also that it had allowed Colombian rebels to remain in Cuba as part of internationally sponsored ongoing peace negotiations with the Colombian government. But last October Colombia's elected president Gustavo Petro declared in front of US Secretary of State Anthony Blinken that this continued US listing of Cuba "is an injustice ... that does need to be corrected."

Rather than defend its position, Blinken other Biden spokespeople have said repeatedly in the last two years that they are "studying" this issue.

And while the president could and should use his unilateral authority to remove Cuba from this list, anti-Cuba Republicans and some Democrats in Congress are now moving to insert that listing into US law and remove the president's authority, conditioning it on factors unrelated to terrorism (in H.R. 314).

For more information visit ACERE.org and please use this easy tool kit to send a message to both the White House and your representatives in Congress to take Cuba off this list: acere.org/acere-advocacy-toolkit/

REMEMBER AL-NAKBA - MAY 15

by Julie Byrnes Enslow

Every year on May 15, Palestinians around the world commemorate the anniversary of the Nakba, 'the Catastrophe', in 1948 when thousands of Palestinians were ethnically cleansed from their homeland. The establishment of the State of Israel by Zionist forces triggered the first Arab-Israeli war. By 1949, the Israelis had demolished 530 villages. About 15,000 Palestinians were killed in a series of mass atrocities, including dozens of massacres, when 750,000 Palestinians were driven from their homes. Today,

almost five million Palestinian refugees continue to demand their Right to Return to the homes and lands from which they were exiled.

Peace Action of Wisconsin will stand in solidarity with our Palestinian brothers and sisters on the 75th anniversary of the Nakba on Saturday, May 13th at noon, as part of our weekly Stand for Peace. We will gather at the orange sunburst sculpture at the foot of Wisconsin Avenue.

In addition, Nkosi Zwelivelile Mandela, elected member of the

South African National Assembly representing the African National Congress and grandson of the late Nelson Mandela, will speak at Turner Hall on May 15 at 6:30 p.m. His tour to commemorate the 75th Anniversary of Al-Nakba is sponsored by the U.S. Palestinian Community Network (USPCN) and the National Alliance Against Racist and Political Repression (NAARPR). Locally, the event is sponsored by USPCN Milwaukee, Milwaukee Turners at Turner Hall and Jewish Voice for Peace - Milwaukee.

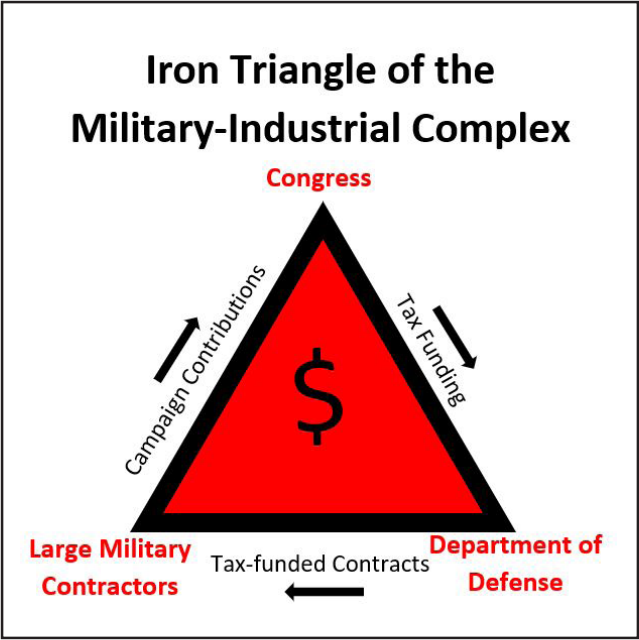
THE IDEA OF THE NATIONAL SECURITY STATE

by Harry Targ

A contradiction that still needs an explanation is that while the US has continued to engage in war after war, for the most part the American people oppose war and intervention. This is particularly so in the twenty-first century when so much pain and suffering has been caused by wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

The answer can be found in a variety of explanations of United States imperialism including what Mike Lofgren has called the “deep state.” Lofgren defined the “deep state” as, “... a hybrid association of elements of government and parts of top-level finance and industry that is effectively able to govern the United States without reference to the consent of the governed as expressed through the formal political process.”

The power to make critical decisions resides not in the superstructure of the political process - the place where competitive games are played for all to see - but in powerful institutions embedded in society that can make decisions without requiring popular approval. In the end these institutions have involved the United States in death and destruction across the globe.



Source: Recreation by Ann Batiza

Ukraine today, of course, is coming out of stockpiles, either at DoD [the Department of Defense] or from our NATO allies, and that’s all great news. Eventually we’ll have to replenish it and we will see a benefit to the business over the next coming years.” In December, 2022, Congress authorized military expenditures of \$858 billion (not counting authorizations to agencies that are really engaging in military activities)

And Military Spending Continues

“The spending on contractors continues today at the same rapid clip, accounting for more than half of average Pentagon spending each year. And with Congress poised to approve a \$778 billion one-year spending package... Democrats are slashing the Build Back Better bill from \$3.5 trillion to \$1.75 trillion over ten years. Meanwhile, Pentagon contractors have received \$3.4 trillion over the past decade.”

And with the war in Ukraine, U.S. military spending in 2022 has exceeded \$800 billion dollars. As Raytheon Technologies CEO Greg Hayes said: “Everything that’s being shipped into

STOP THE BLEEDING

by Julie Byrnes Enslow

There is a split in the American left concerning the war in Ukraine.

The one thing we in the peace movement should all agree upon is the need to stop the bloodshed and the terrible loss of lives in Ukraine. The question is how best to accomplish this.

There are many who are opposed to the murderous war and the illegal Russian invasion but see it in the historical context of the threat of NATO expansion right up to the borders of Russia. Although they strongly disagree with Russia’s decision to invade, they do not support endless transfer of weapons to feed the conflict, but hope to move quickly to a negotiated settlement. They are also appalled that the US and UK administrations directed Ukrainian President Zelensky NOT to negotiate with Putin before the war began. A violent conflict with Russia was seen as an opportunity to weaken Russia and hopefully remove Putin from power. This was stated clearly by top US officials, including Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin.

On the other hand, there are those on the left who see an obligation of the US and NATO countries to support the Ukrainian resistance to the illegal Russian invasion by providing weapons, intelligence and financial support, even at the risk of escalating the war to dangerous levels with two nuclear powers going nose to nose.

Is there not a third way that we all can support?

What if we put aside arguments about the historical background that led up to the Russian invasion? What if we just look at how we can stop the bleeding as soon as possible?

We all are opposed to war. We all want this conflict to end and save the lives of Ukrainians. We all want to prevent an expansion of the war into other European countries. No one in their right mind wants to see this evolve into a nuclear conflict and a possible WWII.

Can we all agree that most wars end through negotiated ceasefires and peace agreements? In this case the question seems to be: When is the best time to negotiate? And does the Biden administration have the moral right to discourage Ukraine from negotiating in order to weaken Russia, thus prolonging the war and increasing the number of Ukrainian victims?

Many of us see this conflict as a proxy war between US/ NATO and Russia played out on the backs of the Ukrainian people. This does not negate the fact that Russia started this war with an illegal invasion. But it does explain why both Biden and Boris Johnson of the UK discouraged Zelensky from negotiating when the opportunity arose early on and why negotiations are not a top priority now.

Is it possible for the peace movement on the left to compromise and have a united voice?

- Can we all agree that a negotiated ceasefire and a just end to the conflict is desirable?
- Can we all call for Russian forces to be removed from Ukraine?
- Can we all support defensive weapons for Ukraine that deter the Russian aggression and protect against Russian missiles but do not escalate the conflict and increase the threat of nuclear weapons? Can we agree that the influx of weapons on both sides should end during a ceasefire?
- Can we all support humanitarian aid to Ukraine? Can we support both Russian and Ukrainian dissidents who refuse to participate in war as conscientious objectors?
- Can the possibility be considered for Ukraine to give up some of the disputed territory (Crimea, some or all of the Donbas region) in exchange for withdrawal of Russian troops and an end to the war? Is this an acceptable trade-off to prevent a nuclear war?
- Can we agree that the negotiated settlement is up to the Ukrainians and Russians but that the US/NATO encouragement for negotiations and a peaceful outcome is an essential part of the process?

It isn’t just Ukraine’s decision. The war is being funded and supplied by the US and its NATO allies. We have an *obligation* to debate the current policy. Escalating the weaponization of Ukraine has consequences that can impact the whole world, and even lead to nuclear war. World leaders from around the planet are calling for negotiations and a ceasefire *now*.

These are questions upon which to build a rational discussion. This should happen as soon as possible. The longer this war grinds on, the more precious lives it chews up and spits out. Enough is enough.

Has *Negotiation* Become a Dirty Word?

by Julie Enslow

In October, 30 members of the Congressional Progressive Caucus sent a letter to the White House to open a conversation about a potential diplomatic end to Russia’s war on Ukraine. The letter, signed by Wisconsin’s Mark Pocan and Gwen Moore, had been endorsed by many mainstream peace groups, including national Peace Action and our local Wisconsin affiliate. It was met with a furious response and by evening had been withdrawn by caucus chair Pramila Jayapal.

Rep. Ro Khanna, D-CA, a supporter of the letter, stated, “I have voted for every defense package to Ukraine and stand firmly for Ukraine’s sovereignty. It should not be controversial to say we need to explore every diplomatic avenue to seek a just peace and to end the war, including the engagement of our allies to help with that.”

Please call Gwen Moore and Mark Pocan at 202-224-3121 to follow up on their original request to President Biden to support a negotiated settlement to the fighting in Ukraine.

Assange’s Father and Brother Visit Milwaukee with the Movie *Ithaka* - Continued from page 2

The event was preceded by two excellent interviews, both of which can still be accessed online. One was Chuck Quirmbach’s on WUWM’s “Lake Effect”² and the other was Gary Grass and Babette Grunow’s on Riverwest Radio’s “Grass is Greener.”³

Julian remains in the UK’s maximum security prison with murderers and rapists as his lawyers continue to wait for a response from the High Court whether it will hear Julian’s latest and last appeal. This is the start of his 5th year of imprisonment for publishing the truth.

Notably, Milwaukee’s Rep Gwen Moore did not sign onto Rashida Tlaib’s “dear colleague” letter⁴ requesting Assange’s freedom. Please call her DC office at 202-224-3121 to request that she do so. For all our sakes, it is time that this award-winning journalist was set free.

¹ Mike Lofgren, “Anatomy of the ‘Deep State’: Hiding in Plain Sight,” Online University of the Left, (February 23, 2014).

² Lindsay Koshgarian, “U.S. Military Contracts Totaled \$3.4 Trillion Over 10 Years,” Institute for Policy Studies, October 28, 2021.

³ William Hartung, “How Pentagon Contractors Are Cashing in on the Ukraine Crisis,” Quincy Institute, April 17, 2022.