Obama had his “Asian pivot,” and Trump his “China Virus.” US Rep. Mike Gallagher has formed the House select committee on the Chinese Communist Party while President Biden boosts arms shipments to the “Quad” of US allies. It seems Americans are being primed for another war—this time against China. What is going on here … and there?

Many analysts claim that the power of the United States compared to China is declining - regarding economic growth, scientific and technological developments, productivity, and trade.

University of Wisconsin historian Arthur McCoy and others warn that the United States is attempting to overcome its declining relative economic hegemony by increasing investment in military advances: a space force, a new generation of nuclear weapons, cyber security, biometrics, and maintaining or enhancing a global military presence, particularly in the Pacific.

In addition, the United States continues to promote regime change around the world through brutal economic sanctions, such as in Venezuela, Cuba, Iran and 36 other countries. China, to the contrary, is increasing its economic ties to these countries through investments, trade, and assistance. Generally, Chinese policy stands with most countries in the Global South while the United States seeks to control developments there.

To generate support for the US’s growing hostility to China, policymakers in Washington in both the Trump and Biden administrations have raised the specter of a new “red menace,” drawing upon the long history of anti-Asian racism, white supremacy, and American Exceptionalism. Perhaps the greatest danger of war involves Taiwan.

Taiwan is an island 100 miles from the mainland of China. It has been occupied since 1949 by the anti-communist forces of Chiang Kai-Shek and his descendants. It has long been allied with the United States. But the island is also claimed by the Chinese government in Beijing as part of China (which it was before Japanese imperialists occupied it in 1895.) Since 1979 a “One China Principle” has been accepted by both China and the United States. This is a policy designed to postpone any direct conflict between the United States and China over Taiwan, a policy many Taiwanese citizens prefer.

However, recently Congresswoman Nancy Pelosi visited Taiwan and the president of Taiwan came to the United States. President Biden has made statements threatening China over Taiwan. The US maintains extensive military bases in the South China Sea and elsewhere near the mainland. Many fear that the US, mimicking its escalation of militarism in support of Ukraine, is using increased support of Taiwanese independence to reduce Chinese influence in the world.

In addition, Taiwan manufacturers produce sixty percent of the world’s semiconductors and Taiwan is among the top ten commercial partners of the United States. A reintegration of Taiwan with the mainland would further challenge the United States as the world’s dominant power.

Each of these elements of the US/Chinese relationship increase the danger of world war between the United States and China. The peace movement must say “No” to a new Cold War with China and declare that the US should accept the idea of a multipolar world.

A New Cold War with China? A Possible Hot War? Over Taiwan? Why?

by Harry Targ
Hiroshima Poem by Nazin Hikmet

. . . inspired by two-year-old Sadako Sasaki who survived the blast only to die of cancer 10 years later. Hikmet’s words should be a warning even now to Biden for laughing at the possibility of renewed military conflict against China.

I come and stand at every door
But none can hear my silent tread
I knock and yet remain unseen
For I am dead for I am dead.

I’m only seven though I died
In Hiroshima long ago
I’m seven now as I was then
When children die they do not grow.

My hair was scorched by swirling flame
My eyes grew dim my eyes grew blind
Death came and turned my bones to dust
And that was scattered by the wind.

I need no fruit I need no rice
I need no sweets nor even bread
I ask for nothing for myself
For I am dead for I am dead.

All that I need is that for peace
You fight today you fight today
So that the children of this world
Can live and grow and laugh and play.
August 5: Port Washington/Silver Spring

August 12: 27th/National

August 19: 1st/Pittsburgh

(near the Collectivo ½ mile south of the Public Market)

August 26: King/North

Message from Daniel Ellsberg to Peace Action of WI

April 24-30 was “Daniel Ellsberg Week” across the nation, and our Stand for Peace joined the celebration of Ellsberg’s life’s work as a whistle-blower and peacemaker by saluting him and demanding freedom for all journalists to uncover the truth and share it with the people. Ellsberg, who exposed the Pentagon Papers and published Confessions of a Nuclear War Planner in which he revealed the Pentagon’s willingness to sacrifice the lives of hundreds of millions of people in a nuclear conflagration, died June 16, after only recently having revealed that his cancer was terminal.

Peace Action member Jim Carpenter thoughtfully shared this photo of our “Stand” with Ellsberg himself, and we are all honored to have received this message from him in return:

(Message from Daniel Ellsberg to Us)

Wow! The wetness (and cold? It looks it) makes this the most heartwarming tribute I’ve ever received! I can hardly imagine anyone getting out of bed and going out in the rain with a hand-lettered sign to honor...me! (And Julian. Or almost anyone)! The letters ran, but you didn’t! We haven’t. You’ve made my week—and more! Thank you, my friends!

Love, Dan

Dr. Ian Harris passed away on May 15, 2023, in Walnut Creek, CA where he had been living in retirement since 2010. Ian was a professor at UWM and a member of Peace Action of Wisconsin. He established the Peace Studies Certificate Program at UWM and became a leading advocate for Peace Studies at the local, national and international levels.

Ian’s first student in the UWM Peace Studies program was Jill Sternberg who served as an intern and staff person with Peace Action of Wisconsin. She said, “Ian was a significant mentor in my life. He encouraged me to explore my passion for peace studies, particularly nonviolent activism.”

Chris Breihan of Peace Action of Wisconsin was a student of Ian Harris at UWM. She reflected, “Prof. Harris did not accept detached analysis of violence as ‘other people’s problems’ from his Peace Education students. He insisted that we dig deep to discover our connections to the rest of humanity and our common wounded soul. Peace Education became not just a nice idea but a personal imperative in Ian’s class.”

Dr. Harris led a life of service at local and international levels. He helped found the Wisconsin Institute for Peace and Conflict Studies and the Peace Education Special Interest group of the American Educational Research Association. He led the Peace Education Commission (PEC) of the International Peace Research Association and helped develop the Journal of Peace Education (Taylor & Francis) and the prestigious Peace Research Grant Program. He will be remembered as a leading researcher and innovator in Peace Education and missed as a warm-hearted member of the peace community.

The Mobilizer Newsletter of Peace Action of Wisconsin

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2319 E Kenwood Blvd
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The Mobilizer Committee:
Ann Batiza, Christy Breihan, Jim Carpenter, Babette Grunow, Pam Richard, and Harry Targ

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The PEACE CALENDAR
MAY 2023 - JUNE 2023

July 3, Monday, 4:30 pm, Celebrate Julian Assange’s Birthday with a Banner Drop on the Brady Street Bridge overpass. We’ll also be tabling on the Prospect side.

July 4, Tuesday, 12 pm, Red Arrow Park, Peoples Independence Day, Milwaukee Alliance Against Racist and Political Repression

July 19-23, Milwaukee Air & Water Show at the Lakefront.

July 22, Saturday, noon, Stand for Peace at Prospect & Brady. We’ll bring protest signs to the overpass at the foot of Brady St for the Blue Angels Air Show after the Stand.

July 22, Saturday, Madison WI, Building Unity’s Justice Summit. Contact Tim Cordon for more information, 608-630-3633

July 25, Tuesday, 6 pm, Mitchell Street Library, 906 W. Historic Mitchell St, “Healthcare for All, In Cuba & the US” Cuba Coalition potluck & film “Dare to Dream,” a film about Cuba’s tuition-free Latin American Medical School. Special guestyunuen Cacique Borja, a current US student from Austin, Texas, studying at ELAM. Sponsored by WI Cuba Coalition www.wicuba.org.

August 5, Sunday, 6pm - 9pm, at Picnic Area 3 in Lincoln Park. Lanterns for Peace- Remember Hiroshima & Nagasaki. Speakers, lantern making, origami peace crane making, and music by Frogwater. Lantern floating ceremony at dusk. See ad on back page for details.

August 12, Saturday, Noon - 5pm, Center Street Daze. Volunteer to help with the Peace Action WI table, or come by to visit.

August 18, Friday, 7pm, Friday Freedom Films at Zao Church. War Made Easy by Norman Soloman.

Aug 20, Sunday, 10am - 6pm, Jackson Park at 35th & Forest Home, Milwaukee. Red Magic Festival, A celebration of Native American Art & Culture.

August 25, Tuesday, 7pm, Friday Freedom Films at Zao Church. A Force More Powerful: how nonviolent movements have changed the world.

August 26, Wednesday, time and location TBA, Sheboygan, Veterans for Peace Sheboygan will host the Golden Rule Peace Boat

Sept 1-4, Save the Date for the Veterans for Peace Milwaukee visit by the Golden Rule peace boat at Lakeshore State Park, on the downtown lakefront between Discovery World and Milwaukee World Festival grounds. It will be open to the public for visits and tours.

The Peace Action Mourns Professor Ian Harris

by Julie Enslow and Chris Breihan

PEACE CALENDAR
MAY 2023 - JUNE 2023

July 1: Greenfield/National
July 8: KK/Lincoln
July 15: Sherman/North
July 22: Farwell/Brady
July 29: 92nd/North

JULY

August 5: Port Washington/Silver Spring
August 12: 27th/National
August 19: 1st/Pittsburgh
(near the Collectivo ½ mile south of the Public Market)
August 26: King/North
Peace Action of WI has Moved!

THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO CONTRIBUTED TO MAKE THIS MOVE POSSIBLE!

ZAO MKE Community Church
2319 E Kenwood Blvd
Milwaukee, WI 53211
Our office # is the same: 414-269-9525

ZAO MKE Church, once known as the United Methodist Church, is across the street from the UW-Milwaukee Union, between Farwell and Prospect Streets. Call us if you would like to visit. You can park in the parking lot. Just put a note that you’re visiting Peace Action WI.

Contact for information:
Pam Richard  pamrichard35@gmail.com

Our new home at ZAO MKE Community Church across from the UW-Milwaukee Union.

IN ACTION!

The School Sisters of Notre Dame joined the Peace Action regulars in a stand for Peace near their home.

PASTORS FOR PEACE SUCCESSFUL CUBA FRIENDSHIPMENT EVENT AND FUNDRAISER

by Pam Richard

Fifty people (plus others online) gathered on May 19 for a very successful benefit and send-off event featuring the Executive Director of Pastors for Peace/IFCO, Gail Walker. The Friendship Caravans, Walker explained, concretely show solidarity with the embattled people of Cuba by sending badly needed medicines. Sponsored by the WI Cuba Coalition, a record $15,000 in donations were raised. Some donated in response to beautiful Afro-Cuban art and books.

Dr. Alexandra Skeeter, one of Milwaukee’s recent graduates of Cuba’s tuition-free medical school and recently accepted into the Medical College of Wisconsin graduate school in Public Health, gave an inspiring talk. Pastors For Peace was founded in response to a 1988 attack in Nicaragua by US-funded “contra” terrorists which killed two and wounded 29 people including Gail’s father, the late Rev. Lucius Walker. Gail Walker stressed how the US economic blockade also harms people in the US – disproportionately people of color -- such as those with diabetes who are denied access to a highly effective Cuban medicine that could prevent 70% of the 100,000 diabetic amputations the US sees annually.

We also shared a pamphlet prepared by one of our members on Cuba’s new Families Code, which will be the subject of an international webinar on June 29, at 7 PM. (see www.wicuba.org)

To see a video of our one-hour program, and how you can still make a tax-deductible donation, visit our website, www.wicuba.org.

REPORT ON DC LOBBYING DAYS

by Pam Richard

In April I spent a week in Washington, DC, with the Alliance for Nuclear Accountability’s “DC Days,” meeting with members of Congress and the Biden Administration. I joined 50 activists from nuclear weapons front-line communities around the country as a member of the Tri-Valley Communities Against a Radioactive Environment team. The Alliance includes anti-nuclear groups near the Hanford Site in WA, from Oakridge in TN, from Los Alamos Nuclear Laboratory, Idaho National Laboratory, Nevada Nuclear Security Site, Savannah River Site, and others.

We met with members of congressional committees relevant to nuclear weapons issues, including the Armed Services Committees, which authorize nuclear weapons programs, and those that fund the National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA’s) nuclear weapons programs. We also met with the Department of Energy’s Environmental Management office, the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board, the NNSA, and the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

We also asked them not to appropriate money for new nuclear weapons and instead fund the skyrocketing costs of cleaning up radioactive and toxic waste from years of weapons production. Our most important funding asks were to stop costly and unsafe plutonium warhead production for the new ICBM Sentinel Missiles. Our efforts included briefing congressional staffers on the hazards of plutonium bomb core production.


I am on the national board of the Alliance and will keep you updated on future developments.

Pam Richard sets up a new Peace Action office at ZAO MKE Community Church.

Gail Walker explains how the blockade creates shortages in Cuba.

STAND FOR PEACE WITH THE SCHOOL SISTERS OF NOTRE DAME

by Pam Richard

On May 20, 2023 the School Sisters of Notre Dame, led by Sister Paul Mary, came to the Stand for Peace at 92nd and Burleigh. Almost all of the sisters were in their nineties. They brought their aluminum chairs and held signs for an hour with us, quite close to their residence. We joined them in prayers for peace in Ukraine.

Come out when they join us again in September!

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