

A BASIC PRINCIPLE ON THE WAR IN UKRAINE

p3

**Shameless American Chauvinism:
“Anti-Authoritarianism” as a “Cover”
for Supporting U.S. Imperialism**

p5

**Imperialist Parasitism and “Democracy”:
Why So Many Liberals and Progressives
Are Shameless Supporters of
“Their” Imperialism**

p13

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**by Bob Avakian, Revolutionary Leader
and Author of the New Communism**



**Bob Avakian:
A Radically Different Leader—
A Whole New Framework
for Human Emancipation**

Bob Avakian is completely different than the endless stream of bourgeois politicians who are put forward as “leaders,” whose goal is to maintain one variation or another of this system of capitalism-imperialism that is founded on and perpetuates itself through cruel and literally life-stealing exploitation, murderous oppression, and massive destruction, in all parts of the world. BA is a revolutionary who bases himself on the scientific understanding that this system must finally be overthrown through an organized struggle involving millions of people, and replaced with a system that is oriented to and capable of meeting the most fundamental needs of humanity and enabling humanity to become fit caretakers of the earth.

Bob Avakian is the architect of a whole new framework of human emancipation, the new synthesis of communism, which is popularly referred to as the “new communism.”

intensifying, indeed poses the prospect of something terrible—*but also something truly emancipating*: an actual revolution, right in this country, which will break the hold of powerful capitalist-imperialist oppressors over masses of people, weakening the death grip of this system far beyond the borders of this country, sending shockwaves of positive revolutionary inspiration throughout a world that is today still dominated by capitalism-imperialism, with all the horrors this involves.

A BASIC PRINCIPLE ON THE WAR IN UKRAINE

Certainly, the big power bullying and aggression by Russia, with its invasion of Ukraine a clear example, is something that all decent people should oppose. But no decent person should be joining in with the U.S. imperialists in their rivalry with Russian imperialism. For reasons I will get into here, it is utter, disgusting hypocrisy for the U.S. imperialists, and their media mouthpieces and other representatives, to be self-righteously condemning this Russian invasion, when *the U.S. is the country which has, by far, carried out the most invasions and other acts of violent interference in other countries....*

For those of us who are *not* willing to be blinded by this [GTF*], we can and must confront and analyze reality as it actually is, and draw the necessary conclusions. Besides the fact that the U.S. is today, and has historically been, allied with many "authoritarian" governments throughout the world (and, in fact, has forcibly installed such governments in many countries), the even more fundamental fact is that the essence of the conflict between the U.S. and countries like Russia and China is not one between "democracy" and "authoritarianism," but is a matter of *rivalry among imperialist powers*, all of which are monstrous oppressors of masses of people, and none of which represent or act in the interests of humanity. What is called for, and urgently now, is to oppose all imperialist marauders and mass murderers, and all systems and relations of oppression and exploitation, while giving particular emphasis to opposing "our own" imperialist oppressors who commit their monstrous crimes "in our name" and seek to rally us to support them on the basis of a grotesque American chauvinism, which we must firmly reject and fiercely struggle against.

Of course, this act of imperialist aggression by Russia deserves to be condemned. But especially for people residing in *this* country—which, again, by far holds the record for such acts of aggression—it is a matter of basic principle and profound importance *not* to be echoing the positions and serving the aims of “our” imperialists, and instead to be making very clear our opposition to the aims and actions of these (U.S.) imperialists, *who are using opposition to the Russian invasion of Ukraine, not as a way of promoting “peace,” or “the right of nations to self-determination,” but as means of furthering U.S. imperialist interests, in opposition to the rival Russian imperialists.* So, in keeping with this crucial principle, any opposition to the Russian invasion of Ukraine, particularly by people in *this* imperialist country, *should be accompanied by a clear and definite stand of also opposing the role of the U.S. in the world, including the wars it continually wages, and other ways it violently interferes in other countries.*

**Bob Avakian, Revolutionary Leader and
Author of the New Communism**

Above are excerpts from:

- “Shameless American Chauvinism:
‘Anti-Authoritarianism’ as a ‘Cover’ for Supporting U.S.
Imperialism” p.5
- “Imperialist Parasitism and ‘Democracy’: Why So Many
Liberals and Progressives Are Shameless Supporters of
‘Their’ Imperialism” p. 13

* Bob Avakian notes earlier in this article: “... I have referred [previously to] the GTF, the Great Tautological Fallacy, the ‘round and round in a circle argument’ that America is a force for good in the world—and whatever it does is good, or at least done with ‘good intentions,’ because America is... a force for good.”

this country. But what is noteworthy is that it is precisely the “left” of the *bourgeois* political spectrum—that is, the “left” of politics *defined and delimited by the capitalist-imperialist system*—to which these liberals and progressives spontaneously incline. This, again, is a politics that is ultimately grounded in and reliant on the parasitism of the capitalist-imperialist system of this country and its position in the world. And this goes a long way in explaining why so many liberals and progressives in this country are shameless supporters of “their” imperialism—and why, particularly now, so many are falling in line with the utterly hypocritical stance of the representatives and mouthpieces of the U.S. imperialist ruling class in self-righteously denouncing the actions of Russian imperialism in invading Ukraine—actions of imperialist aggression which the imperialists of the USA have carried out on a scale far beyond any other country.

To shake these liberals and progressives, or at least significant numbers of them, out of their despicable stand in support of “their imperialism” will require fierce and relentless ideological struggle, to force them to confront the reality of what this imperialism actually represents and what it actually does in the world. And, more than that, it will require bringing forward a powerful revolutionary movement, aiming for nothing less than overthrowing this system and replacing it with a radically different, emancipating system—a revolutionary movement that is based, not only but mainly, among masses of people who have far less of a stake in the “fortunes” of this parasitic system, whose conditions of brutal oppression under this capitalist-imperialist system far outweigh any “spoils” they might receive from its worldwide plunder.

With all this, it is crucial to recognize, and act on the recognition, that the situation in this country, and the world as a whole, which is already very intense and is continually

encompassed and was centered on sections of better-paid and unionized workers in large-scale industry, craftsmen, small-business owners, lower managers, salaried public sector workers like teachers, and those in professions not requiring college or advanced degrees....

This middle class has seen its conditions deteriorate. There are *contradictory effects* of the loosening grip of the cohering myth of the American dream. Traditional expectations have been exploded. This is also part of the ground on which Trump fascism feeds....

At the same time, the economic forces working in this direction were also contributing to the growth of an upper end of the U.S. middle class. Concretely, imperialist globalization, technological change, and heightened financialization—and with this the evolution of many U.S. companies like IBM and Dell from production to services over the last few decades—stimulated the *expansion of higher-income “domestic supply chain” service jobs*. Jobs like operations managers, computer programmers, etc.⁶

The “traditional middle class” represents, in broad terms, what Marx refers to with the metaphor of “shopkeepers”—which, as I have pointed out, tend to the right, even the extreme right, of the bourgeois political spectrum (with, however, many teachers, and some others, an exception to this). And those in the “upper end of the U.S. middle class”—or, more specifically, those working in “knowledge occupations”—generally tend to the “left” of that bourgeois political spectrum, constituting to a large extent the middle class liberals and progressives in

⁶ *Imperialist Parasitism and Class-Social Recomposition in the U.S. From the 1970s to Today: An Exploration of Trends and Changes* (emphasis in original). This paper by Raymond Lotta is also available at revcom.us.

Shameless American Chauvinism: “Anti-Authoritarianism” as a “Cover” for Supporting U.S. Imperialism

“Go search where you may, roam through all the monarchies and despotisms of the Old World, travel through South America, search out every abuse, and when you have found the last, lay your facts by the side of the everyday practices of this nation, and you will say with me, that, for revolting barbarity and shameless hypocrisy, America reigns without a rival.”

—Frederick Douglass, former slave and determined abolitionist, 1852.

In recent years, there has been lot of talk, and a lot written, about the growing danger of “authoritarianism” in the U.S., as represented by Donald Trump and the Republican Party. Now, in the context of Russia’s invasion of Ukraine, and U.S. moves in response to this, there is the spectacle of a number of supposed “experts” on “authoritarianism” rallying around the flag of U.S. imperialism in the face of the challenge to its dominance posed by Russia, with China lurking as perhaps an even more serious challenge. (Russia and China have not been “communist” for a long time—and instead have, for decades, been capitalist-imperialist countries and, as such, represent a significant challenge to the imperialist interests of the U.S.)

If we listen to these “experts,” the powerful force with imperial ambitions that we should be most concerned about now is Russia and its “authoritarian” leader, Vladimir Putin. Suddenly, the expression of high-minded principle about how wrong and dangerous it is for one country to invade another, on the basis of flimsy pretexts and outright lies, applies only to Putin (and, of course, to other “authoritarians” that “we” do not like), and most certainly not to “us.”

Certainly, the big power bullying and aggression by Russia, with its invasion of Ukraine a clear example, is something that all decent people should oppose. But no decent person should be joining in with the U.S. imperialists in their rivalry with Russian imperialism. For reasons I will get into here, it is utter, disgusting hypocrisy for the U.S. imperialists, and their media mouthpieces and other representatives, to be self-righteously condemning this Russian invasion, when *the U.S. is the country which has, by far, carried out the most invasions and other acts of violent interference in other countries.*

Somehow, these “learned people” have “forgotten” about the U.S. invasion and occupation of another “sovereign country,” Iraq, in 2003—on the basis of flagrant lies about Iraq supposedly possessing “weapons of mass destruction” and being closely linked with Islamic fundamentalist terrorists like Al Qaeda. This U.S. invasion was a blatant *international war crime*, which set in motion events which have cost the lives of hundreds of thousands of people, created millions of refugees, and unleashed a maelstrom of death and destruction in that part of the world. (One of the most disgusting spectacles on the “mainstream” media these days, such as CNN, is the presence of government officials who are “veterans” of this U.S. war crime in Iraq, and who arrogantly denounce the Russian invasion of Ukraine as the illegal act of a powerful country aggressing against a weaker country! Somehow, the outrageous irony

their individual position they may be as far apart as heaven from earth. What makes them [the democratic intellectuals] representatives of the petite bourgeoisie is the fact that in their minds they do not get beyond the limits which the latter [the shopkeepers] do not get beyond in life, that they are consequently driven, theoretically, to the same problems and solutions to which material interest and social position drive the latter practically.

The petit bourgeois democratic intellectuals (people in capitalist society whose social position and mode of life is based on working in the realm of ideas, of one kind or another) mainly tend to the “left” side of the bourgeois political spectrum (the “liberal” or “progressive” position), while much of the “shopkeeper” strata (or, in broader terms, the owners of small-scale means of production or distribution) will often incline to the right, even the extreme right, of this spectrum (although at least some small-scale entrepreneurs, as well as many in the “gig economy,” seem to be an exception to this). But what is true of both the shopkeepers (broadly understood) and the democratic intellectuals is that, spontaneously, they remain confined within the constricting limits of capitalist commodity relations and the corresponding conceptions of bourgeois right.⁵

Further light is shed on this in an important paper by Raymond Lotta:

A certain historical configuration of the U.S. middle class has shrunk. This middle class grew and to some degree thrived economically in the 1945-75 period. It

⁵ Bob Avakian, *Breakthroughs, The Historic Breakthrough by Marx, and the Further Breakthrough with the New Communism, A Basic Summary* is also available at revcom.us.

major work where that point is made about the Republican Party (“Something Terrible, Or Something Truly Emancipating”) I have analyzed why these “cohering norms” are no longer holding as they have in the past, and how this situation can only be resolved by radical means of one kind or another—“either radically reactionary, murderously oppressive and destructive means or radically emancipating *revolutionary* means.”⁴

But what is important to speak to here is how, even as this has been interrupted by times of major upheaval—and even as this is being torn apart in a major way now—this relative stability during the period after World War 2, grounded in imperialist parasitism, has fostered and encouraged the illusion, particularly among more well-off sections of the population, that this country is not ruled on the basis of oppression and repression—an illusion that is especially, and often desperately, clung to by liberals and progressives.

Imperialist Parasitism and the Effects on (Different Sections of) the Middle Class

In *Breakthroughs*, I made the following observations regarding important insights by Karl Marx in *The Eighteenth Brumaire of Louis Bonaparte*:

One must not imagine, Marx writes, that the democratic intellectuals

are indeed all shopkeepers or enthusiastic champions of shopkeepers. According to their education and

⁴ *Something Terrible, Or Something Truly Emancipating: Profound Crisis, Deepening Divisions, The Looming Possibility Of Civil War—And the Revolution That Is Urgently Needed, A Necessary Foundation, A Basic Roadmap For This Revolution.* This major work by Bob Avakian is available at revcom.us.

of these American war criminals denouncing the war crimes of *others* is “lost” on, or deliberately ignored by, these media.)

Somehow, these “experts” are ignorant of (or they are deliberately ignoring) the fact that the U.S. by far holds the record for violently interfering in the affairs of other countries: In addition to the continuing crimes against humanity carried out by the U.S., just since World War 2, including the U.S. slaughter of millions of civilians in Vietnam, and before that in Korea, and the bloody coups it has engineered in Indonesia, Iran and elsewhere, in the period from 1846 to the present the U.S. has intervened in South and Central American countries—militarily, through CIA coups, or in other ways—at least 100 times, at the cost of literally hundreds of thousands of deaths and endless misery for the people of those countries.

Somehow, these “enlightened historians” have lost sight of the fact that the country they are living in (the “good old USA”) established, and repeatedly expanded, its territory on the basis of predatory violence on a massive scale, including genocidal “military campaigns” against the indigenous peoples of this continent (repeatedly breaking treaties in the process), and an expansionist war of aggression which resulted in ripping off a huge part of the territory of Mexico, in the middle of the 19th century, largely for the purpose of expanding slavery. And, after all, this is a country where a “manifest destiny” was declared—to conquer territory “from sea to shining sea” (and beyond).

American Chauvinism and the Uses and Misuses of “Authoritarianism”

The notion of “authoritarianism,” as wielded by these “scholars,” “pundits,” and others, is a misleading concept, which serves American imperialist interests and promotes American

chauvinism (the sickening belief in the superiority of Americans and “the American way of life”). “Authoritarianism,” in itself, has no particular ideological, political or social content, and in fact serves to cover over or obscure actual social, political and ideological content. For example, to refer to Donald Trump and the Republican Party as “authoritarians” makes it seem as if what defines them is simply the urge to ill-gotten and tyrannical power. It tells you nothing about what they are seeking to do with that power—what ideology and what political and social program they are upholding and seeking to implement and enforce. The fact is that they are *fascists*—which has a *very definite content*: hatred and violent suppression of Black people and other people of color, immigrants, women and LGBT people, unrestrained plunder of the environment, grotesque American chauvinism, crude anti-intellectualism and anti-scientific lunacy.

Refusing to call these fascists what they actually are—and instead just referring to them as “authoritarians”—serves a number of objectives, all in line with American chauvinism.

First, it covers over the fact that these fascists *have been bred by the system that has ruled in this country, from the days of slavery to the present, with blatant inequality and blood-soaked oppression poured into its foundation and its ongoing functioning*. This has been nurtured by the putrid and poisonous soil of this country—a country that, from the start, has regarded and treated Black people as sub-human beings created by “god” to be beasts of burden, or destined by their “nature” to become dangerous criminals; women as lesser beings, fit only to be subordinate servants of men, objects of their sexual domination and mere breeders of their children; and LGBT people as essentially non-human “deviants.” Forcefully imposing a situation where that is the unchallenged state of things is the fanatical passion and goal of the fascists. And, since these fascists have indeed sprung forth out of the soil of this country, what does

the period of Jim Crow segregation and Ku Klux Klan terror, before the 1960s. It should also not be overlooked that *the U.S. has the highest rate of mass incarceration of any country in the world, with Black people and Latinos particularly subjected to this mass incarceration.*

Still, fundamentally because of imperialist parasitism, there has been a *relative* stability within this country for most of the period since the U.S. emerged as the most powerful and prosperous imperialist country in the aftermath of World War 2, and this has allowed for a certain level of tolerance of dissent and protest, at least where this dissent and protest essentially “abides by the rules” of the imperialist order.

At the same time, to once again graphically illustrate “the other side of this picture”—a truly horrific expression of the reality which underlies this relative stability in the U.S. itself—as I have pointed to before, in the period of slightly more than 75 years since the end of World War 2, **because of the way the world is dominated by the system of capitalism-imperialism, at least 350 million children in the Third World have needlessly died because of starvation and preventable disease—a number greater than the entire population of this country!**³

This, in a very concentrated way, gives expression to the parasitic basis on which the relative stability in this imperialist country has been possible. Among other things, this has facilitated the “peaceful transfer of power” from one section of the ruling class to another—until now, when one section of that ruling class, represented by the Republican Party, “*no longer believes in or feels bound by what have been the ‘cohering norms’ of ‘democratic’ capitalist rule in this country.*” In the recent

³ Bob Avakian cites this fact in the article *In Light of the Urgency Spoken to in “Something Terrible, Or Something Truly Emancipating,” A Renewed Challenge: Searching For An Honest Liberal Or Progressive*, which is available at revcom.us.

What is also true—and also important to speak to—is the *political* dimension of this: the way that this imperialist plunder provides the material basis for a certain stability, at least in “normal times” in the imperialist “home country” (with the U.S. a prime example of this). This relative stability, in turn, makes it possible for the ruling class to allow a certain amount of dissent and political protest—so long as this remains within the confines of, or at least does not significantly threaten, the “law and order” that serves and enforces the fundamental interests of this ruling class.

At the same time, as sharply demonstrated in mass uprisings which *do* call into question that “law and order” and/or defy allegiance to the imperialist interests of this system—such as the mass outpouring against police terror in 2020, and urban rebellions and mass opposition to the Vietnam war in the 1960s—the rulers of this country will frequently respond to such opposition with severe repression and murderous retribution. For example, the city of Wilmington, in Biden’s home state of Delaware, was placed under martial law for months during the 1960s upsurge against the oppression of Black people, and a number of members of the Black Panther Party, most prominently Fred Hampton, were murdered by police, along with many Black people taking part in urban uprisings in that period, while militant mass resistance against the Vietnam war and rebellions among middle class youth and students were in some cases subjected to a vicious, and at times murderous, response by police and National Guard troops.

It should never be forgotten, or overlooked, that the “law and order” that enforces this relative stability has included *the regular murder of Black people, as well as Latinos, by police*—resulting in the fact that **the number of Black people who have been killed by police in the years since 1960 is greater than the thousands of Black people who were lynched during**

that say about this country: how is it then possible to maintain the farcical notion of “American exceptionalism,” the idea that there is something “exceptionally good” about this country?—a notion that the actual history, and present reality, of this country shatters to pieces and reveals as vile mockery—which is why so many “historians” and “scholars” do not want to really, scientifically examine this history and reality.

Second, speaking of “authoritarianism,” without reference to the actual ideology and political and social content of the “authoritarians,” allows for the pretense that “extremists” of the “right” and the “left” are essentially the same. Thus, with the label of “authoritarianism,” communists can be thrown into the same camp of “very bad people” with fascists—when, in reality, *communists are the exact opposite of, and the force most fundamentally opposed to, fascism*. This can be readily seen through any objective, scientific analysis of the ideological outlook and aims of genuine communists, who, on a scientific basis, stand for and are fighting for the abolition of all exploitative and oppressive relations, while the fascists are fanatically determined to impose the most horrific expressions of these very relations, and seek to justify this with all kinds of lunatic conspiracy theories and anti-scientific distortions of reality.¹

And this notion of “authoritarianism of the left and right” serves to propagate and perpetuate American chauvinism in this way: If the problem and danger is “authoritarianism,” of the left, as well as the right, then of course, according to this perverted logic, it is “American democracy” that is the “center”—the center of all that is good and righteous—in opposition to the evils of “authoritarianism.”

¹ For a concentrated discussion of the profound difference between communism and fascism, see the article “Fascists and Communists: Completely Opposed and Worlds Apart” by Bob Avakian, which is available at revcom.us.

Here we are back to what I have referred to previously as the GTF, the Great Tautological Fallacy, the “round and round in a circle argument” that America is a force for good in the world—and whatever it does is good, or at least done with “good intentions,” because America is... a force for good.² This GTF is a “great escape mechanism” for all these anti-authoritarian “historians” and other American chauvinists, allowing them to explain away (or neglect as irrelevant or insignificant) the horrific crimes committed by this country throughout its history, and down to today, to which I have referred in this article.

“We may have founded a country on slavery and genocide,” some might admit; but, they insist (while ignoring or discounting the life-stealing, soul-crushing oppression to which masses of people are subjected day after day) “we have been continually moving toward a more perfect union.”

“We may carry out wars of conquest, invasions, coups, and other acts of violent interference in the affairs of other countries”; but, they claim, “We do this for some greater purpose, or at least in opposition to some greater evil.”

“We may live in the only country that has actually used nuclear weapons”—the atomic bombs that were dropped on two Japanese cities, instantly incinerating hundreds of thousands of civilians, at the end of World War 2—but, the argument goes, “We did this to save lives, especially the lives of *American* soldiers.”

Such are the ridiculous, and outrageous, rationalizations.

² Bob Avakian speaks more fully to the GTF in the speech *THE TRUMP/ PENCE REGIME MUST GO! In the Name of Humanity, We REFUSE To Accept a Fascist America, A Better World IS Possible*, a film of a talk by Bob Avakian in 2017. For more on this film, and to view the film, Q&A sessions, and clips, go to BA's Collected Works at revcom.us.

The platform of democracy in the imperialist countries (worm-eaten as it is) rests on fascist terror in the oppressed nations: the real guarantors of bourgeois democracy in the U.S. are not the constitutional scholar and Supreme Court justice, but the Brazilian torturer, the South African cop, and the Israeli pilot; the *true* defenders of the democratic tradition are not on the portraits in the halls of the Western capitols, but are Marcos, Mobutu, and the dozens of generals from Turkey to Taiwan, from South Korea to South America, all put and maintained in power and backed up by the military force of the U.S. and its imperialist partners.²

Some of the mass murderers in other countries who today play such a crucial role in serving the interests of U.S. imperialism throughout the world, and in making possible the maintenance of bourgeois democracy in this country itself (worm-eaten as it is indeed), are the same as they were 40 years ago, and some are different—but the essential reality remains that *the “platform of democracy” in this country rests on fascist terror, along with ruthless exploitation, in the oppressed nations of the Third World (Latin America, Africa, the Middle East and Asia).*

In a number of works of mine, and other materials on the website revcom.us—including important papers by Raymond Lotta—the economic “spoils” of “imperialist parasitism” are examined: the way that the predatory super-exploitation of billions of people, including more than 150 million children, throughout the world, and in particular the Third World, makes possible a certain “standard of living” and process of consumption for people in this country, even as these “spoils” are shared in an extremely unequal way.

² Bob Avakian, *Democracy: Can't We Do Better Than That?*, Banner Press, 1986. Information about ordering this book can be found at BA's Collected Works at revcom.us. The quote is from Lenny Wolff, *The Science of Revolution*.

So, in keeping with this crucial principle, any opposition to the Russian invasion of Ukraine, particularly by people in *this* imperialist country, *should be accompanied by a clear and definite stand of also opposing the role of the U.S. in the world, including the wars it continually wages, and other ways it violently interferes in other countries.*

As I pointed out in a previous article, a stand in line with U.S. imperialism is often rationalized with the claim that invasions and similar acts by *this* country are different, because “we” are a “democracy” while the rulers of Russia (or China) are anti-democratic “authoritarians.”¹ Never mind the fact that more than a few “allies” of the U.S., such as Turkey (a member of NATO), are certainly no less “anti-democratic.” And then there is Saudi Arabia, whose rulers enforce dark ages oppression of women, along with vicious exploitation of especially immigrant workers, and savage repression overall, and who—with backing, support, and armaments supplied by the U.S.—are responsible for carnage and suffering in Yemen that is far worse than what Russia has inflicted on Ukraine, as awful as that is.

And the role of these “allies” of the U.S., in relation to the maintenance of the U.S. empire *and* “stability” in the U.S. itself, is another thing which our liberals and progressives ignore (or are actually ignorant of).

Imperialism and Its Political, as Well as Economic, “Spoils”

Nearly forty years ago, in the book *Democracy: Can't We Do Better Than That?* I quoted the following:

¹ *Shameless American Chauvinism: “Anti-Authoritarianism” as a “Cover” For Supporting U.S. Imperialism.* This article by Bob Avakian is available at revcom.us.

And now, with Russian, and Chinese, challenges of various kinds to U.S. dominance in the world, the argument of the U.S. ruling class, and those who parrot its American chauvinist rationalizations, amounts to essentially nothing more than this: “We have established, through massive force and violence, an ‘order’ in the world that is favorable to our ‘national’ (that is, *imperialist*) interests, and no one has the right to use force to change this in a way that threatens those interests.”

In short, “we” are the “good guys” in the world, so things “we” do that would be “evil” if others did them are after all “good”... because “we” are the “good guys.” And now especially, a particular variation of this is the claim that, in the rivalry and confrontation between the imperialists of this country, on the one hand, and those of Russia, or China, on the other hand, “we” must stand with “our own” (U.S.) imperialists because the governments of “those” countries are “authoritarian,” while “our” government is not (yet) “authoritarian.”

That all this is completely bankrupt, both logically and morally, should be obvious to anyone who is not blinded by the American chauvinist GTF.

For those of us who are *not* willing to be blinded by this, we can and must confront and analyze reality as it actually is, and draw the necessary conclusions. Besides the fact that the U.S. is today, and has historically been, allied with many “authoritarian” governments throughout the world (and, in fact, has forcibly installed such governments in many countries), the even more fundamental fact is that the essence of the conflict between the U.S. and countries like Russia and China is not one between “democracy” and “authoritarianism,” but is a matter of *rivalry among imperialist powers*, all of which are monstrous oppressors of masses of people, and none of which represent or act in the interests of humanity. What

is called for, and urgently now, is to oppose all imperialist marauders and mass murderers, and all systems and relations of oppression and exploitation, while giving particular emphasis to opposing “our own” imperialist oppressors who commit their monstrous crimes “in our name” and seek to rally us to support them on the basis of a grotesque American chauvinism, which we must firmly reject and fiercely struggle against.

Imperialist Parasitism and “Democracy”: Why So Many Liberals and Progressives Are Shameless Supporters of “Their” Imperialism

In the context of the Russian invasion of Ukraine, there has been a not-so-remarkable but thoroughly revealing, and disgusting, display of American liberals and progressives mindlessly mouthing condemnation of Russian aggression in a way that is *thoroughly in line with the position and aims of the imperialist ruling class of this country (the “good old USA”), which by far holds the record for invasions and other acts of violent interference in other countries.*

Of course, this act of imperialist aggression by Russia deserves to be condemned. But especially for people residing in *this* country—which, again, by far holds the record for such acts of aggression—it is a matter of basic principle and profound importance *not* to be echoing the positions and serving the aims of “our” imperialists, and instead to be making very clear our opposition to the aims and actions of these (U.S.) imperialists, *who are using opposition to the Russian invasion of Ukraine, not as a way of promoting “peace,” or “the right of nations to self-determination,” but as means of furthering U.S. imperialist interests, in opposition to the rival Russian imperialists.*