THE 21st CENTURY HAS BROUGHT NEW FORMS OF CAPITALISM—from the globalization of production, to financial speculation, to new kinds of cross-national class formations. Paralleling these changes in the nature of national and global capitalism have been new resistance from Arab Spring, the Occupy Movement, to the Pink Tide in Latin America, to international boycott campaigns, to global worker mobilizations to fight Covid 19. Given the rise of neoliberal globalization, drone warfare, crippling economic blockades, a burgeoning climate crisis, and new forms of rightwing populism organized around racism, sexism and revanchism, it is time for the left to have a serious conversation about twenty-first century imperialism.

Saturday, July 18, 2020
Noon to 8 pm EST
via Zoom

Featuring

Session 1: Imperialism Today
Medea Benjamin, Code Pink; Jerry Harris, Global Studies Association; Vijay Prashad, Tricontinental.

Session 2: Systemic Conflicts
Sangeeta Kamat, UMass; Alfred McCoy, UWisconsin; Tarso Luis Ramos, Political Research Associates.

Session 3: A Talk Show on International Solidarity
Host: Bill Fletcher, Jr.
Panelists: Lisa Brock, Cuba Solidarity Work; Oscar Chacon, Immigrant Rights; Meredith Tax, Feminist and Kurdish Rights Advocate; Cindy Wiesner, Grassroots Global Justice.

THE TELECONFERENCE will consist of 3 two-hour sessions, each with 45 minutes for Q&A. The first will begin at noon EST, followed by an hour break. A second will be from 3-5pm EST. A final session will take place from 6-8 pm EST. A headset & webcam, or a smartphone, is recommended.

TO REGISTER, Go Here:
https://tinyurl.com/july18register

All-Day Video Web Conference

21ST Century Imperialism: Theory and Practice

Sponsors: Liberation Road & Committees of Correspondence for Democracy & Socialism

For more details contact Bill Fletcher (billfletcherjr@gmail.com) or Harry Targ (targ@purdue.edu), or Janet Tucker (jlynjenks@gmail.com).
Session 1: What is imperialism in the twenty-first century? What are the class forces within and between nations that are the predominant players in the new global system? Are there contradictions between a transnational capitalist class and national class formations? How important are international financial institutions, the debt system, and global production chains? Are there contradictions between class fractions, such as finance and manufacturing capital, different economic sectors including the fossil fuel industrial, and the military? How important are ideologies, such as white supremacy, “American exceptionalism”, and anti-communism as drivers of war and intervention? Are the corporate media and/or social media new forces in the imperial system?

Medea Benjamin, Code Pink, activist and author of books on such subjects as Iran, Saudi Arabia, and Cuba.

Jerry Harris, Executive Secretary, the Global Studies Association, author of numerous books and articles on the transnational capitalist class and financialization.

Vijay Prashad, Founder of Tricontinental; author of numerous books and articles on imperialism and the Global South.

Session 2: What are the contradictions in the imperial system? What have been the responses to the twenty-first century world of grotesque economic inequality, increasing violence, economic blockades to starve peoples, climate crises, and wars? In virtually every part of the world there have been mobilizations to protest the worsening of human existence: from the Middle East, the Persian Gulf, to African, to East Asia, to Europe, to Latin America, and North America. Much of this grassroots protest has occurred while great power competition has increased, particularly the decline of some powers such as the United States, and the economic and political rise to power of China. While much of the protest takes on an anti-capitalist, anti-racist, anti-misogynist character all parts of the globe have been sites for rightwing populism as well. What are the causes of each form? Are they interconnected? Does imperialism use rightwing populism to promote the global capitalist agenda? And, does this rise of power influence of China?

Sangeeta Kamat, Professor at UMASS-Amherst; focuses on globalization, education, gender and South Asia. She sponsored a recent conference on caste and race.

Alfred McCoy, Professor of History, U of Wisconsin, author of a recent volume on the US empire in decline and the rise of China, In the Shadows of the American Century: The Rise and Decline of US Global Power.

Tarso Luis Ramos, Executive Director of Political Research Associates (focuses on the political Right); based in Massachusetts.

Session 3 (Talk Show Discussion): What is and should be international solidarity in the twenty-first century? Arab Spring, Occupy, anti-war movements against the Iraq War, the war in Syria, Venezuelan and Cuban solidarity, the Sudanese revolution, and struggles for justice for the Palestinian people have figured prominently in the twenty-first century political landscape. Have forms of activism, of international solidarity, been effective responses to twenty-first century imperialism? Is there a disjuncture between the form that twenty-first century imperialism takes and the strategies and tactics of peace and solidarity movements? Does the left need to think in new and different ways about fighting the imperial system? If so, how do anti-imperialist movements build unity? Do twenty-first century anti-imperialist movements need to be anti-racist, anti-misogynist, anti-climate disaster, anti-militarist, as well? In sum, how do we build an effective twenty-first century anti-imperialist movement?

Moderator: Bill Fletcher, is the author of books and articles on labor and politics, a novel, and has been affiliated with the AFL-CIO, Trans Africa and the Institute for Policy Studies. He also is a talk show host.

Lisa Brock. Historian, director of the Arcus Center at Kalamazoo College; Cuban solidarity activist.

Oscar Chacon, a co-founder and executive director of Alianza Americas, a Chicago-based national network of Latin American immigrant-led and immigrant serving organizations in the US.

Meredith Tax, peace and feminist activist, has been a writer and feminist organizer since the late 1960s. Her book about the Kurds, A Road Unforeseen: Women Fight the Islamic State, appeared in 2016.

Cindy Wiesner, a 25 year veteran of the social justice movements in the USA and internationally, she currently serves as the executive director of Grassroots Global Justice.