

AMERICAN UNIVERSITIES: SERVANTS OF U.S. IMPERIALISM



Universities claim to be institutions where students explore different ideas about the world for their person growth / society's benefit, but this is not true. Universities are in large part the places where the next generation of elite and bureaucrats of the US are taught. They teach a very clear set of politics that all align with each other.

That is, **in line with American imperialism.**

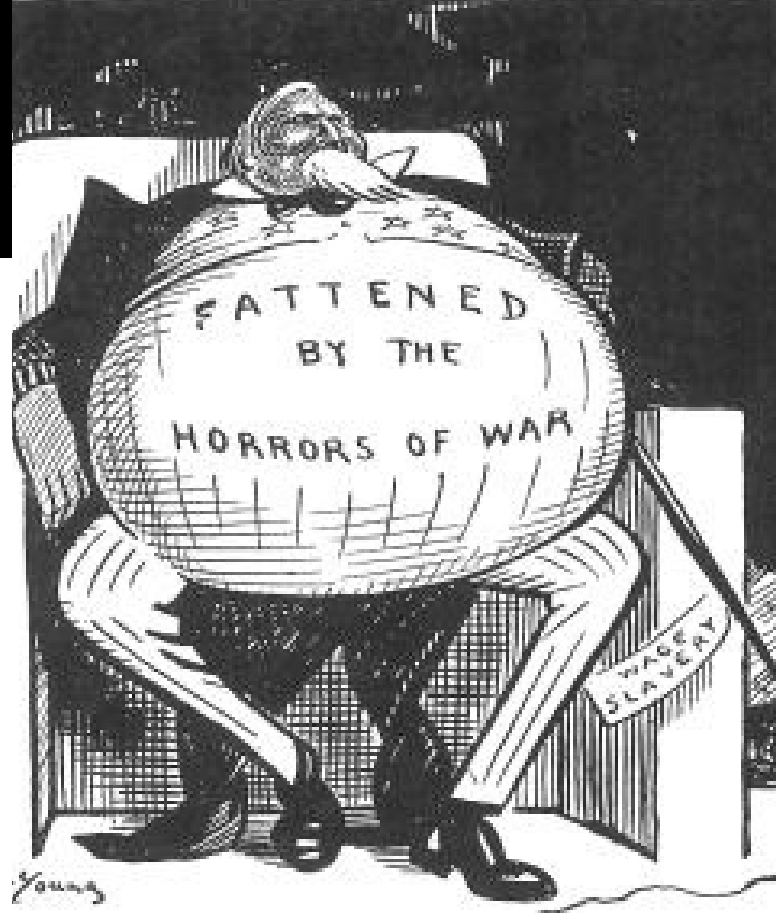
**Join us for a Discussion on US Imperialism
& the Role of Universities within It!**

WHAT IS IMPERIALISM?

Imperialism is the natural result when the ruling elites who control major monopolies have such dominance in their home market that to continue to make a profit they must rapidly expand into foreign markets. **Such expansion in the modern era of monopoly capitalism is not a particular policy decision of one party or another, but a bipartisan necessity for the maintenance of this exploitative global order.** While this expansion can and often does come through the barrel of a gun, as it did in Iraq and Afghanistan, it can also come through less explicit means such as unequal trade agreements and predatory loans. But make no mistake, **the violence enacted on the working people of nations that find themselves in the clutches of American imperialism is real and tangible, even if direct US military actions are not taken.**



U.S. bombing of Baghdad, 2003



While the plunder extracted by imperialist capitalism does benefit a small section of American workers who make up this nation's "labor aristocracy", the boot of imperialism falls not only on the necks of the working class in those nations in the Imperial periphery, but also on the vast majority of workers here in the United States. Even though the brunt of Imperialist violence is felt by the masses of people in countries far away, **the costs of imperial expansion are also shouldered by the working class here at home in the form of increased cost of living, inflation, and unemployment.**

WHAT IS IMPERIALISM? (CONT.)

In pursuing the expansion of their sphere of influence within the world market, the U.S. imperialists are forced to increase their exploitation of the working class worldwide, generating increased resistance from those they oppress. It is in the interest of the American working class to engage in solidarity with the internationally exploited and oppressed masses and fight imperialism both here and abroad. With this in mind, **the fight we students take up against imperialism must also be recognized in tandem with the fight to bring anti-imperialist politics to the working class of the United States and reveal to them that this fight is their fight as well.**

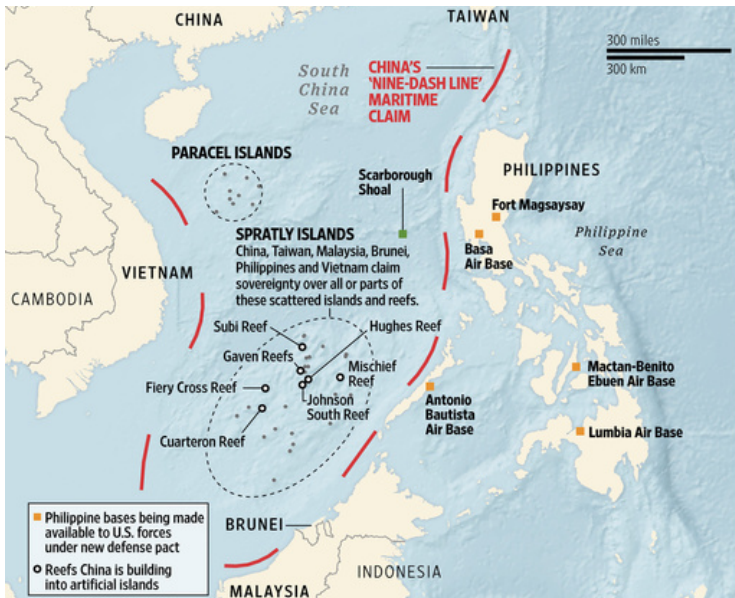


UPS Teamsters at a practice picket this past July for a better contract. One of the main issues surrounding the contract negotiations was making sure that worker's wages keep up with the inflation which have skyrocketed especially due to inter-imperialist competition and conflict in Ukraine.



German transport workers striking in Berlin, March 2023, for wage increases to keep up with inflation. Many of the economic demands of these workers are connected to their opposition to the German ruling class's complicit stance in continuing the inter-imperialist war in Ukraine.

US IMPERIALISM TODAY



Bombed out ruin's of Yemen's capital city, Sa'ana. Since 2014, the Saudi and U.S. ruling classes have been united in conducting their genocidal war on the Yemeni people. **This war of imperial conquest has cost Yemen over 200,000 lives**, with many of the weapons used by the U.S. and Saudi military being **developed by students and researchers at American universities.**

100 million dollars. That's how much the U.S. gave in foreign military aid to the brutal Filipino regime of Bong Bong Marcos in 2022. On the long list of crimes perpetrated by the U.S. armed and funded Filipino Armed forces and police, you will find **accounts of torture, sexual mistreatment, silencing of journalists, and forced disappearances.** Why is it that this massive sum of American tax dollars was delivered to such a despotic state instead of being spent on working Americans here at home? The reason lies in the fact that **Marcos and his cronies play an important role for the U.S. ruling class in maintaining its dominance.** Not only does the Philippines host various economic interests in the form of investments from major U.S. companies, but its sell-out leaders also are allowing the U.S. state to turn the island nation into a virtual floating US military base in the South China Sea. **This system of exploitation, extraction, and military saber-rattling serves to maintain the U.S. imperial sphere of influence in South East Asia, and help counter the rising rival power of China.**



Role of Universities in the Imperialist System

The American university system plays a major role in upholding the interests of the ruling class, and American imperial dominance of the global world order. It's important to note that this is a deliberate effort, built on upholding their outsized influence, which has been generated by historical, economic power from being controlled by the ruling class. Some ways in which the university system may uphold imperialism and ruling class interests including:

Ideological Reproduction

Universities serve as institutions that reproduce dominant ideologies, including the centrality of capitalism. **With this ideological indoctrination, students see their futures of being part of an exploitative class of the world as being just “business as usual.”** The curriculum is developed to desensitize us to the reality this economic system perpetuates, and prioritizes framing the world in a way which is beneficial to the logic of the ruling class. Policies and theories such as “the resource curse” are put forward to provide narratives of exploited countries naturally being backwards and unable to support themselves, instead of accounting for generations of colonization and exploitation- as that would require university institutions to accept their role in creating our modern exploitative system. **This ideological indoctrination doesn't just stay in the classroom but is put into practice.** For example, the Chicago Boys; a group of Chilean economists who were trained at the University of Chicago and were influential in shaping the devastating neoliberal economic policies of Chile under the Pinochet regime.



The Generation of the New Leaders and Bureaucrats of the Ruling Class

The university system is oriented towards preparing students for the job market, emphasizing skills and knowledge that serve powerful enterprises. The goal of one's degree is framed as an opportunity to hold high positions in fields of financial institutions, government, and STEM fields. These cycles of recruitment and education with indoctrination tactics applies to all areas of studies. **Career fairs push weapons developers like Raytheon or government agencies as competitive options, even as the careers offered work to destabilize foreign lands, and support elite interests.** As alumni go into the fields supporting US dominance, these roles are held up as the ideal to strive towards.



BU Connections

Boston University is certainly no exception to the connections previously laid out in this pamphlet. Not only does BU do research for homeland security's surveillance technology, they have begun hosting hawkish events, like the spring semester 2023 event "how to out compete rising power." The event hosted 2 US colonels and one Canadian Colonel, all three of which engaged in the strategy behind the unjust imperialist wars in Afghanistan and Iraq. At the event they spoke about the need to out compete rising powers in the pacific, or in other words, combat the growing threat China poses to the US ruling class. It is also no coincidence that military brass, and not economists and businessmen were coming to speak. China's economy will likely overtake the US's, and in doing so will leave the US and its allies with only one choice to regain the dominant position it had held in global politics for so long: War. The US military has begun outlining plans to bomb Taiwanese semiconductor plants if China ever takes control of them, 5-star US airforce general Mike Minihan has said "My gut tells me we will fight in 2025." The US military will continue to spread their imperialist and hawkish ideas on our campus, and we must be aware of our own universities connections to stop it.

Research

Universities rely on funding from corporations and wealthy donors. This financial dependence influences research priorities and the direction of academic programs, not for self knowledge or benefit of society, but in the interest of the ruling class. This is extremely relevant regarding the military-industrial complex, both encouraging research and recruitment for jobs to funnel students into being the next creators of destructive weaponry used in wars of aggression.

Universities engage in research and development to be utilized by corporations and industries. They contribute to reinforcing the power and influence of certain industries and the ruling class. The deep history and shared connections to the MIC make universities invaluable assets to the imperialist ambitions of America's ruling elite.

FORBES > LEADERSHIP > EDUCATION

The Role Of Research At Universities: Why It Matters

RELEASE
IMMEDIATE RELEASE

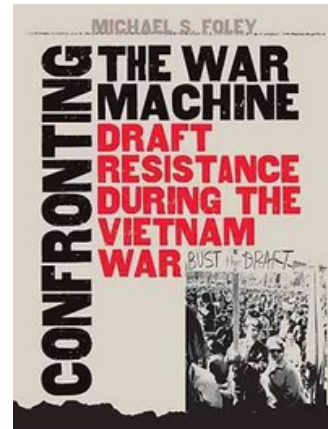
Fiscal Year 2023 Research Funding Awards

March 21, 2023 | [f](#) [t](#) [r](#)

The DoD announced \$220 million in awards for basic research projects as part of the Multidisciplinary University Research Initiative (MURI) Program. At an average award amount of \$7.1 million over five years, these competitive grants will support 31 teams located at 61 U.S. academic institutions, subject to satisfactory research progress and the availability of funds.

Fighting the Imperialist System

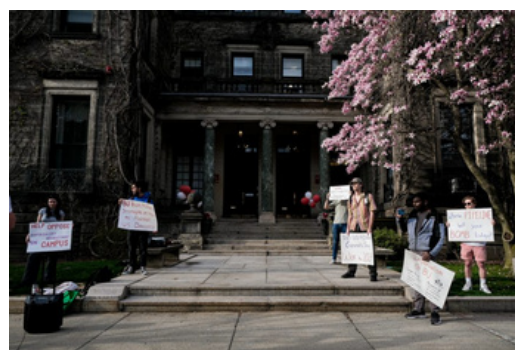
Given the important role that Universities play in upholding the imperialist system it is key that we as students take up organizing against it – both the imperialist ties on our own campuses but also the entire system. This might seem like a daunting task but historically revolutionary students have played important roles in the struggles against their old rotten and oppressive societies. They helped spark the May 4th Movement in China which was directed against imperialist oppression & repressive feudal culture in 1919, sparked massive protests against the Vietnam war here in the US in the 60s/70s & more recently many of the 2020 BLM protests were initially started and led by students.



In the 60s/70s the strong student movement of the day was able to force programs like ROTC, CIA recruitment off campuses / to stop engaging in research that was directly contributing to military operations in Vietnam etc.



We should also see building up the student movement in relation to building up a broader movement across all of society against the oppressive and rotten society that we live in today. This requires that we further our own understanding and analysis of society at large. It also means that we need to build links with other sections of society – especially the working class since they as a class have the most interest in & are in the best position to overthrow the imperialist system.



As students we should engage in organizing against the most blatant outrages. Universities are tied to the imperialist system. In doing so we can work to slowly develop a more politically conscious student body that will take up more of a militant stance against the imperialist system. This can look like **protesting career fairs** which push students into government bodies like the CIA or defense companies like Raytheon. Or **pushing back against University sponsored events** that promote imperial plunder and/or military hawkishness.



We aren't students forever. While our work as students organizing against imperialism is important, it's more important to think about what we do with the rest of our lives. Neither corporate america, the government nor NGOs hold the key to ending the exploitative imperialist system - it will be the organized force of the people who defeat it. **Students who wish to deal a crippling blow to the imperialist system should take up working class jobs and work to help organize the people into a fighting force.**

After Graduation?

