

STAND AGAINST WAR AND EMPIRES

We condemn the Russian invasion and war against the people of Ukraine in the strongest terms. There is no justification for this new war in Putin's quest for empire, with the terror, suffering and death it is inflicting on the innocent and the threat it brings of a wider war which puts the entire world at risk.

We condemn the U.S. and allied Western governments for their historical complicity in helping to create at least a partial pretext for this invasion, including their aggressive expansion of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) military alliance in the post-Soviet world and their own long history of imperialist war-making.

We condemn the nine nuclear powers (the United States, Russia, France, China, the United Kingdom, Pakistan, India, Israel, and North Korea) for refusing to abolish nuclear weapons. According to the Union of Concerned Scientists, the global nuclear stockpile is close to 13,000. **Together, the U.S. and Russia possess 90% of that stockpile.** These weapons make a nuclear exchange a real and present danger in the current crisis.

The sanctions imposed by the U.S. and Europe will create bring more misery and hardship to the people of Russia. They too, like the Ukrainians, will be victims in Putin's attempt to recreate the Russian Empire.

Jockeying for domination over the world's resources benefits only a very small number of people- the 1% who already control most of the wealth on the planet- while killing, maiming, terrorizing, and displacing those who stand in their way. There are both shared as well as competing business interests among the members of that small percentage in this as in every crisis they foment.

We celebrate the brave Russians who are taking to the streets in nonviolent protest against their government's actions, risking not only arrest but, in many cases, their lives. We wish our fellow citizens would follow that example to protest our own government's ongoing military incursions throughout the rest of the world.

WHY WE'RE STILL STANDING OUT HERE IN 2022

This vigil for peace and justice has been observed every Sunday from 12 until 1 p.m. since May of 1999. Five U.S. presidential administrations later, we are still here.

Often people ask us what our banner "RESIST THIS ENDLESS WAR," means. "What war?" we are asked.

The serial wars fought throughout the world in the quest for empire and profit are one war being waged on many fronts. Men, women, and children continue to be slaughtered, maimed, traumatized, and driven from their homes all over the world so that immense wealth and power can be concentrated in the hands of a very few people.

Here in the United States and throughout the world, bigotry, discrimination, and widespread economic injustice serve the same ends- the placing of obscene amounts of wealth and power into the hands of smaller and smaller numbers of people while pitting the masses against one another for the benefit of that same few.

*Join our vigil to **RESIST THIS ENDLESS WAR** every Sunday,
12-1pm, Broadway, Park and Elm Streets, New Haven [https://
newhavensundayvigil.wordpress.com](https://newhavensundayvigil.wordpress.com)*

Sunday, March 6, 2022