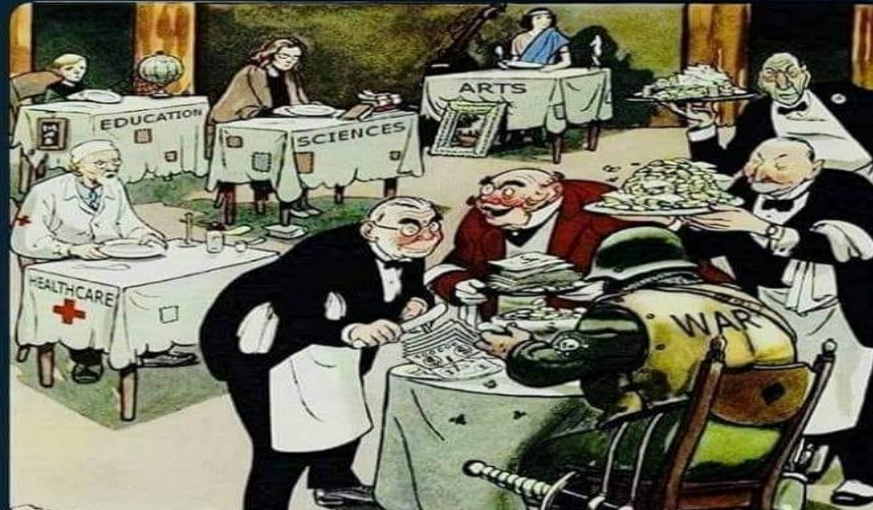


WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION AND THE ILLUSION OF SURVIVAL

This comic is over 80 years old and yet you don't have to change a thing about it. It's every bit as relevant today as the day it was drawn.



BOOM- AND BUST

Connecticut's federal and state legislators and many of its business leaders are currently singing the praises of the Manufacturing Pipeline Initiative, which provides paid apprenticeship training for young people entering the workforce with guaranteed jobs at General Dynamics Electric Boat Company in Groton, longtime producer of nuclear armed submarines, as well as other military contractors. The E.B. jobs start at \$18.91 an hour, hardly a living wage but an improvement over other fields that offer little job security and fewer long-term prospects of achieving significant raises. Some business leaders and economists will admit that this program is luring students away from poorly paid but essential fields including the crucial and life-sustaining work of medical assistants, a much-needed, scandalously underpaid and under-trained profession. But few suggest that there is a viable alternative: investment in occupations that serve ongoing human needs rather than in the next boom and bust economic cycle that inevitably characterizes military spending. Instead, they perpetuate the myth that research, development, and production of

weapons that threaten all life on the planet is somehow, in the words of United States Navy spokespeople, "foundational to our survival." This is a strange definition of "survival" indeed.

Electric Boat's expansion, called "perhaps the largest in our history" by its president, is fueled by contracts to produce the Columbia class of ballistic missile nuclear submarines. Built to replace the old Tridents, they carry a total projected price tag of \$112 billion, bound to be exceeded as the history of these weapons systems shows us. According to a Connecticut Mirror report on October 16, this new fleet of submarines will carry 70% of the nation's nuclear arsenal. It is scheduled to be completed in 2040. Once it is finished, large sectors of the current and soon to be hired workforce who are now being told they are "set for life" will inevitably be laid off, their labor no longer required, as has been the pattern throughout the company's history.

WHOSE SURVIVAL?

Scientists and human rights advocates who witnessed the results of the bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki at the beginning of the atomic age in 1945 warned then that continued refinement of nuclear weapons technology would keep us one step away from a miscalculation, a "mistake," or a deliberate act that would bring unimaginable destruction, even the end of the world as we know it. The nuclear powers, led by the United States and Russia, which together possess 90% of the world's nuclear stockpile, have never heeded those warnings. Instead, they have continued to invest in a state of permanent war that damages our environment, robs massive amounts of money and resources from unmet human needs, and holds subsequent generations hostage to an existential threat matched only by that of worldwide climate change.

The state of endless war transcends partisan politics. The work to resist it must continue with more urgency than ever. This is the responsibility of every engaged citizen. Voting is just the first, small step.

New Haven Sunday Vigil

Sunday, November 20 & 27, 2022

Join us any Sunday here at Broadway, Park, and Elm Streets
12-1 pm.

<https://newhavensundayvigil.wordpress.com>

(For further information about the Manufacturing Pipeline Initiative including at least some of its implications, see <https://ctmirror.org/2022/10/16/ct-electric-boat-submarine-groton-military-industrial-base-manufacturing>).