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Today's Forecast: possibility of nuclear winter

The West was rattled when President Putin alluded to the use of nuclear weapons if attacked, but we in the U.S. need to look at our own role in provoking an existential threat to Russia in its own region.

Putin's remarks were preceded by the U.S. planting tactical, low-yield nuclear weapons (B-61 bombs) in five European countries, and increasing U.S. military deployments in Baltic states. Aegis missile-launching facilities, which can be fitted with nuclear warheads that could hit Moscow in minutes, have been installed in Romania and Poland on Russia's border.

Eschewing support for a negotiated peace process, the U.S./NATO continues to fuel a proxy war with Russia, at the expense of the Ukrainian people. Is it any surprise then that referendums

to join Russia are underway in Russian-ethnic Ukrainian provinces, and the situation with the West is volatile?

Further, the current U.S./NATO war with Russia over Ukraine raises alarm about food supplies, as Russia is the world's largest exporter of grain and Ukraine is Europe's "breadbasket." War, militarism, and climate change throughout other parts of the world affect food sources and contribute to famine. Nuclear winter is the ultimate scenario in which nuclear weapons and agriculture converge.

Severe Warning: "Nuclear Winter: the Other Catastrophic Climate Change," page 4. **Chance of Prevention:** Advisory is to act now to ban nuclear weapons.

— Editor

Wolf Winter: Vargavinter (Swedish) or Fimbul Winter (Norwegian) when the sun no longer shines is part of Scandinavian mythology. Now it's believed that it could have had an actual basis in the year 536 when two huge volcanic explosions sent dust into the upper atmosphere, causing the earth to cool. Many plants and animals did not survive and it's estimated that half the population of Norway and Sweden died. Similar atmospheric conditions could be produced in a regional or worldwide nuclear war.
Art by Louise Meijer Ostrom



The statements and opinions reflected in this newsletter are the views of the author and not necessarily official positions of WAMM. We encourage a diversity of opinion to represent the range of perspectives that coexist under the banner of WAMM's mission statement.

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Women Against Military Madness is a nonviolent, feminist organization, founded in 1982, that works in solidarity with others to create a system of social equality, self-determination and justice through education, action and the empowerment of women. WAMM's purpose is to dismantle systems of militarism, economic exploitation and global oppression.

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Chile's New Constitution: the Surprising Results

by Michael Livingston

On Sunday, September 4th, the movement for social change in Chile suffered a massive setback. The new constitution, submitted to a national referendum, was rejected by 62 percent of the voters, with 86 percent of eligible voters casting a ballot. The new constitution was defeated in all 16 regions of the country (divisions similar to states in the U.S.), and in 338 of the 346 communes, which are similar to our counties within each state.

The road to rejection started on October 18, 2019, when mass protests broke out in the entire country. The protests focused on three crucial problems faced by Chileans: education, pensions, and healthcare. The root problem, however, was the political-economic system enshrined in the Chilean constitution, a constitution that was written by the dictator General Augusto Pinochet before he was forced from power in 1990. Under the dictator, the capitalist elite was given free rein in Chile, following the economic philosophy of U.S. economist

Milton Friedman and his Chicago Boys (named for the University of Chicago, where most of these Chileans had gone to graduate school). The Chicago Boys created a version of capitalism known as neoliberalism that has since been imposed on many countries of the world, especially in Latin America.

Under the neoliberal policies of the Pinochet dictatorship the pension system was privatized, health care was privatized, and public education was defunded and semi-privatized with a system of charter schools. These policies were written into the constitution of Chile by Pinochet and remained in effect even through the transition to democracy in 1990, making it difficult for subsequent presidents and congress to alter these policies which were essentially outside the power of the government to change. Chile had what the Chileans called a “subsidiary state model” – a government that was

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A Mapuche woman shows enthusiasm for a progressive new Chilean constitution last July. Due mainly to a vigorous propaganda campaign to defeat it, even the majority of Mapuche voted against it in September.

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subsidiary to the interests of capital. At the root of an October 2019 mass movement was the call to change the constitution so that the Chilean people could improve the things that directly affect their lives.

After mass protests in 2019, Chileans voted 78 percent to 22 percent to convene a constitutional convention to rewrite the Pinochet era constitution and, as many Chileans said, to kill neo-liberalism. Then, in December 2021, the 36-year-old leftist Gabriel Boric was elected president with 55 percent of the vote. Boric was a strong supporter of the constitutional convention and strongly backed the proposed constitution. What went wrong?

The proposed constitution

The proposed constitution was long, coming in at over 180 pages. The document contained 388 articles and over 100 kinds of rights. They ranged from the profound, such as abortion rights, strong environmental protections, and strong worker and union protections, to the mundane, such as the right to internet access and the right to culturally appropriate diets, and they were all mixed in together. The variety of issues and length of the document made it difficult to understand and easy to mischaracterize. It was not a socialist constitution. It did not take away people's rights to their pension or their homes (as right-wing propaganda claimed). It did, however, threaten neoliberal capitalism and the power of the ruling elites. Ultimately, the constitution was more democratic, more pro-working people, and more pro-environment than the previous constitution and most recent constitutions. Take, for instance, the article on protecting water, air, and other elements of the commons:

Every person, natural or juridical, has the right to property in all its species and over all goods. Exceptions are those goods that nature has made common to all persons and that the constitution or the law declares cannot be appropriated, such as water and air.

The law shall determine the manner of acquiring property, its content, limits, and duties, in accordance with its social and ecological function.

This article prevents the privatization of certain resources and goods (such as water – the privatization of water is a serious problem in Chile) and allows for the nationalization of other resources, such as minerals and land. This is a serious limitation on capitalism and the pillaging of the planet.

The proposed constitution also reduced the power of the Chilean Senate, a less democratic body than the Chilean Chamber of Deputies and a bastion of ruling class power.

So, while the constitution was overly long, hard to grasp, and had some frivolous features, it was ultimately a very democratic document.

Reasons for rejection: Process, Propaganda, and Plurinationality

The constitutional convention was dominated by the left, who made up about two thirds of the delegates. The right and far right had about one-third of the seats. Some of the left-wing delegates were politically inexperienced, and a few were outright opportunists. Three events on the left caused scandal: As part of his election campaign, one of the delegates claimed he had cancer – he did not; a female delegate took off her shirt during the convention and gave a speech naked from the waist up; and a male delegate did not show up for the convention and once voted from his shower – he was asked to turn off a video, which he had

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WAMM Committees

Action Groups:

End Domestic Militarism
End Military Madness Against the Earth
End War
Middle East
St. Joan of Arc/
WAMM Peacemakers
Movies
Solidarity Committee on the Americas
Tackling Torture at the Top

Standing Committees:

Coordinating
Finance
Fundraising
Membership/Outreach
Newsletter
Personnel
Program/New Issues

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Nuclear Winter: The Other Catastrophic Climate Change

by Mark Bird

Nuclear winter is the terrifying idea that nuclear bomb explosions would incinerate cities, farms, and forests, causing smoke and soot from fire to enter the upper atmosphere and block sunlight, resulting in crop failures on a large scale as temperatures drop drastically, leading ultimately to mass starvation and the possible extinction of large numbers of species, including our own.

As plants and animals are dependent on photosynthesis, the ability to produce food for consumption by people and animals would be constrained and could cease entirely. The few remaining survivors will not eat well. “Not eating well” means no fresh fruit, vegetables, meat, fish, or milk for months or years, and could eventually mean not eating at all.

We can imagine nuclear winter occurring, from evidence provided by these localized incidents that have occurred on a smaller scale: volcanic eruptions reducing sunlight, Martian dust storms circling the planet, the 1930s dust bowl impacting several states, NASA’s report of smoke circling the globe after the 2020 Australian fires, smoke from recent U.S. West Coast fires detected on the East Coast and in Europe, and frequent annual reports of Saharan dust blocking sunlight in the southeastern U.S.

The nuclear weapons most likely to be used in a limited war are “low-yield” weapons. Low yield means that these weapons may have as many as three times the explosive power of the 15-kiloton bomb dropped on Hiroshima in August of 1945, killing an estimated

140,000.¹ This kind of weapon was designed for use in the battlefield. Thousands of such bombs exist in stockpiles in nuclear-armed countries.

Many experts suggest that the explosion of even one low-yield nuclear weapon could rapidly lead to multiple explosions as each side retaliates against the other. If a conflict were to proceed in this fashion, as could conceivably happen in many places such as the Ukraine region, India/Pakistan, or Israel/Iran, the cities and military targets would transform into immense clouds of skyborne particles that block sunlight. If the initial attack were large enough – though with weapons far smaller than those in the arsenals of superpowers – say with a hundred low-yield weapons – nuclear winter could be initiated.

Let’s imagine what happens to a single vehicle or building or forest if it is exposed to a nuclear weapon explosion. Contrary to what many people assume, the object does not disappear. Instead, it, along with

many other affected objects, would transform into countless, possibly radioactive micro-particles injected high into the atmosphere. Cumulatively they would not only block the warming effect of the sun for periods ranging from months up to years, depending on the number, yield, and range of the weapons exploded, but would eventually “fallout” onto earth. Agricultural land and water would be reduced and contaminated. A large quantity of radioactive material could land on the aggressor nation, as well as the targeted nation.

If numerous enough, the blasts alone could trigger nuclear winter. The earth’s rotation of 1,000 MPH ensures that Mother Nature’s wind and water cycle will carry smoke, dust, and ash around the planet.

Imagine then if you had a vantage point from outer space: You would see massive amounts of dark material circling the tiny and fragile earth. No one would escape the effects.

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Fantasy Winter by Stefan Keller. Summer would not come again in a nuclear winter.

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Visions of nuclear winter are not often evoked now, but they were a cause of national and international concern when in 1983, Carl Sagan and some of his colleagues introduced the concept to the broader public through popular media.² This injected new energy into the antinuclear movement in which women activists in Europe and the U.S. had already begun playing a major role.

Why don't we hear very much about the real possibility of nuclear winter in the popular discourse today? That's at least partially because those who have had a vested interest in continuing the nuclear arms race have worked to create enough controversy about nuclear winter that it has all but faded from public consciousness.

Undoubtedly another reason the entire topic of nuclear war faded from discussion (until the rise of recent political tensions) was due to the 1991 dissolution of the Soviet Union, even as thousands of nuclear weapons remained on alert in Russia and the U.S. ready to be launched at a moment's notice and other nations continued to develop their own nuclear weapons. A 2015 public-interest report, "Nuclear War, Nuclear Winter, and Human Extinction," published by the Federation of American Scientists, posited that "perhaps the leaders of the nuclear weapon states do not want the public to understand that their nuclear arsenals represent a self-destruct mechanism for the human race? Such an understanding could lead to a demand that nuclear weapons be banned and abolished. Consequently, the nuclear weapon states continue to maintain and modernize their



If nuclear winter were triggered, smoke and soot could block the sunlight for months or years.

nuclear arsenals, as their leaders remain silent about the ultimate threat that nuclear war poses to the human species.”³

However, scientists have continued to study the concept of nuclear winter and develop new research. The results can be found in specialized journals. In August 2022, *Nature Food* published an article exploring various scenarios of famine due to climate disruption caused by soot resulting from the fire created by bomb blasts. Owen B. Toon, of the National Center for Atmospheric Research in Boulder, Colorado and a former student of Carl Sagan's, was among the ten scientists from research centers in various parts of the globe who collaborated to estimate the number of human fatalities that could occur. The researchers included the devastating effect on fish and livestock, as well as on agricultural crops, in their models.⁴

Toon and some of these scientists were among another group who had created models based on a nuclear conflict between India

and Pakistan, showing that “the environmental stresses related to climate changes caused by smoke produced from burning cities could lead to widespread starvation and ecosystem disruption far outside of the war zone itself”; their research paper was published October 2, 2019 in *Science Advances*.⁵

The concept of nuclear winter is made more accessible to the general public in a March 2020 *Nature* magazine article by writer Alexandra Witze, “How a Small Nuclear War Would Transform the Planet.” In it, she mentions an attempt that was made by a team from Los Alamos National Laboratory to debunk the idea of nuclear winter.⁶ [This is no surprise, as Los Alamos “national security” lab is where the atomic bombs dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki were developed; it recently worked on modernizing the low-yield B61-12 nuclear bomb. Los Alamos is currently developing a factory to create the “pits” (basically small nuclear bombs) that would trigger

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Nuclear Winter,
continued from page 5

larger ones in a modernized arsenal.] In August 2022, another *Nature* article by Witze warned about nuclear danger in “Nuclear War Between Two Nations Could Spark Global Famine.”⁷

Reaching wider audiences through mass media is not alarmist but imperative now.

Artistic visions and pop culture sometimes alert us to real concerns, as well. Apocalyptic films and video games abound everywhere today (at least one video game is about nuclear winter), but these vehicles convey the wrong messages as they show superheroes as saviors rather than people taking collective action against disarmament.⁸

A “winnable nuclear war” is one of the most inane and inhumane concepts ever voiced. The idea of nuclear winter shows it can’t be won. Hopefully, it gives the U.S. and Russia, or any of the other seven nuclear-armed nations, pause to consider what would

happen to their nation, along with the entire earth, if they attacked or responded to an attack with even a limited number of nuclear bombs. There is also the possibility of a terrorist or rogue military officer’s action or a nation mistaking another nation’s action for a nuclear incident. Here is another chilling thought: Since low-yield nuclear weapons are in the military’s toolbox and they aren’t prohibited by any treaties, could a commander in battle make his own decision about their use?

There should be a serious effort at nuclear disarmament – for example, by exerting intense public pressure for nuclear weapons states to ratify the International Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, signed by 86 other nations and ratified by 66.⁹ Sadly, the U.S. is not one of them.

In a 1984 *Scientific American* article, “The Climatic Effects of Nuclear War,” Carl Sagan and colleagues warned: “The long-term destruction of the environment and the disruption of the global ecosystem might, in the end, prove

even more devastating for the human species than the awesome destructive effects of nuclear explosions and their radioactive fallout.” It is high time for us to heed this warning.

Mark Bird is a retired sociology professor who has taught at colleges in Arizona and Nevada. He wrote the book 800 Laws in Sociology. He has written over 30 water-related articles and holds a green-seawater desalination patent. Mary Beaudoin, and Joel Weisberg, Emeritus Carleton College Professor of Physics and Astronomy, who also acted as a consultant, contributed to this report.

ACTION:

In the Twin Cities, check the WAMM calendar (online at womenagainstmilitarymadness.org) for local anti-nuclear events.

RESOURCES:

Back from the Brink Campaign: preventnuclearwar.org and/or call the WAMM office at 612-827-5364.

Nuclear Winter, continued on page 7

“Number of weapons on urban targets, yields, direct fatalities from the bomb blasts and resulting number of people in danger of death due to famine for the different scenarios we studied.” - Xia, L., Robock, A., Scherrer, K., Toon, O., et al, *Nature Food*, August 2022

Soot (Tg)	Number of weapons	Yield (kt)	Number of direct fatalities
5	100	15	27,000,000
16	250	15	52,000,000
27	250	50	97,000,000
37	250	100	127,000,000
47	500	100	164,000,000
150	4,400	100	360,000,000
150	4,400	100	360,000,000

100 “low-yield” nuclear bombs with a yield of 15 kilotons (the size of the bomb the U.S. dropped on Hiroshima in 1945) would kill an estimated 27,000,000 people.

WAMM QUIZ

by the WAMM Newsletter Committee

Can You Guess the Answers? Test your knowledge of historic and current events.

Answers on page 9.

QUESTION NO. 1:

Name three United Nations officials who spoke out against the Iraq War.

QUESTION NO. 2:

When Chelsea Manning (born Bradley Edward Manning) was court-martialed and convicted for slipping classified U.S. government documents and video to Wikileaks, what was her final sentence and how long was she imprisoned?

QUESTION NO. 3:

The United States has 5% of the world's population and what percentage of its prisoners?



Image: pixabay.com

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Endnotes

- 1 Many estimates are that 66,000 died instantly. The city of Hiroshima states that “the exact number of deaths from the atomic bombing is still unknown. Estimates place the number of dead by the end of December 1945, when the acute effects of radiation poisoning had largely subsided, at roughly 140,000.” city.hiroshima.lg.jp/site/english/9803.html Many estimates give the total for instant and year's end deaths at approximately 70,000 for Nagasaki.
- 2 Matthew R. Francis. “When Carl Sagan Warned the World about Nuclear Winter,” *Smithsonian Magazine*. November tinyurl.com/46286d2r
- 3 Starr, Steven. Nuclear War, Nuclear Winter, and Human Extinction. Public Interest Reports. Federation of American Scientists. October 14, 2015. tinyurl.com/yc4mcf9

- 4 Xia, L., Robock, A., Scherrer, K. *et al.* Global food insecurity and famine from reduced crop, marine fishery and livestock production due to climate disruption from nuclear war soot injection. *Nature Food* 3, 586–596 (2022). tinyurl.com/fupkxwn4
- 5 Toon, Owen B. *et al.* Rapidly expanding nuclear arsenals in Pakistan and India portend regional and global catastrophe. *Science Advances* 5, no. 10 (2019). doi.org/10.1126/sciadv.aay5478
- 6 Witze, Alexandra. How a Small Nuclear War Would Transform the Planet. *Nature*. Vol. 579. 485-487. March 26, 2020. tinyurl.com/3dfk5b56
- 7 Witze, Alexandra. Nuclear War Between Two Nations Could Spark Global Famine. *Nature*. Vol. 608, p. 661. August 25, 2022. online: August 15, 2020. tinyurl.com/yeh58pry
- 8 Pop culture critic Charlie Jane Anders bemoans the fact that “pop culture stopped warning us of the dangers of atomic devastation – and that’s too bad. . . . Mass media is already awash in

apocalyptic visions, but in addition to watching Thanos wipe out half of the universe with a snap of his fingers in the Avengers franchise, we need more stories that showcase the lunacy of policy ideas such as ‘instant retaliation,’ ‘ladders of escalation,’ and a brand-new nuclear arms race. And instead of looking to superheroes for our salvation, we could also use more positive stories about how ordinary people can work together to persuade our political leaders to go back to the negotiating table.” charliejaneanders.com

- 9 The International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN: icanw.org) is “a coalition of non-governmental organizations promoting adherence to and implementation of the United Nations International Campaign Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.” Women Against Military Madness was one of the first 25 organizations to join the coalition.

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not done. These events were well-publicized and served the needs of the right wing to delegitimize the whole campaign process.

The right-wing delegates tended to be politically experienced and well-connected to corporate and political elites. The political inexperience of the majority of left-wing delegates made it hard for them to craft a concise, clear document and involved some individual missteps along the way that hurt the legitimacy of the process and, as a result, the people who wanted a new constitution.

While the process was flawed, the main reason for the failure of the constitution was the massive propaganda campaign launched against it. The right wing spent twice as much as the pro-constitution forces and flooded the print and electronic media with propaganda. It was not just the money that mattered, although it did. It was also who controlled the media. Two media conglomerates own 90 percent of the print media in Chile: El Mercurio Group and Copesa. These conglomerates are, in turn, owned by two of the Ten Families that hold much of Chile's wealth, the Edwards family (which owns the Mercurio Group, banks, real estate, and mines) and the Saieh family, whose head, Alvaro Saieh, is the fourth richest person in Chile and the 729th richest person in the world.

The combination of money spent on advertising and organizing, along with the enormous bias of the media, turned many people against the proposed constitution. Voters were led to believe that the new constitution would mean that they would lose their homes, their

pensions, and their healthcare, when in fact the new constitution would have strengthened their rights to housing, healthcare, and pensions.

A third crucial factor was the provisions for a plurinational state in which indigenous peoples are recognized as members of distinct nations with autonomous governments. Many Chileans, including native peoples, opposed the creation of parallel judicial systems for different nationalities. A poll of voters who were Mapuche, the largest indigenous group in Chile, showed that only 24 percent of them favored this provision. Instead, they wanted equal protection under the law and an end to the killing and political repression of Mapuche activists by government forces. This repression was common under the previous right-wing government of Sebastian Piñera and has continued under the left-wing government of Boric.

Fallout

Immediately after the vote to reject, three things happened. First, President Boric shuffled his cabinet, removing some of his closest advisors and replacing them with more moderate political figures. This lurch from the left to the center happened within days. Second, the right-wing political parties claimed a great victory, which indeed they had achieved: The neoliberal order that benefitted the Ten Families (the ten richest extended families in Chile that control most of the country's wealth) and transnational corporations was saved, at least for the time being. And third, the government and progressive social forces started to plan a way forward to a new constitution.

What next?

While the rightwing political forces are emboldened and the progressive forces are searching for a way forward, we do not know what effect this defeat will have on the masses of the Chilean people. The Boric government is trying to restart a new process of constitutional reform, but as of this writing the right-wing political forces in the Chilean Senate and Chamber of Deputies are blocking all proposals. In addition, the Boric government has been weakened and the disapproval rating for Boric has climbed from 20 percent disapproval when he took office to 56 percent disapproval. Many fear that Boric will essentially be a lame duck for his remaining three and a half years in office. While he may recover politically, the true answer as to what comes next will be given by the majority of Chileans, who are still suffering from the neoliberal capitalist state.

Michael Livingston is a professor of psychology at St. John's University/ St. Benedict College in Minnesota. In the U.S., he is an antiwar and anti-interventionist activist. He has worked and lived in Chile, Spain, and Honduras, and has written for the WAMM newsletter.

WAMM Quiz answers

ANSWER NO. 1:

Denis Halliday, United Nations humanitarian coordinator in Iraq, launched a scathing attack on the policy of sanctions, branding them “a totally bankrupt concept.” Halliday resigned in protest in 1998 after more than 30 years with the United Nations.

Despite having voted for George W. Bush in 2000, by 2002 UN weapons inspector in Iraq **Scott Ritter** was an outspoken critic of the Bush administration’s claims that Iraq possessed significant weapons of mass destruction (WMD) stockpiles or manufacturing capabilities, the rationale given for the U.S. invasion of Iraq in March 2003.

Hans Blix, United Nations humanitarian coordinator in Iraq, whose 2004 book is called *Disarming Iraq*, says he became doubtful about the existence of Iraqi WMD in January 2003. He says UN inspectors visited locations in Iraq that intelligence had indicated were places where there would be weapons. “And in none of these cases did we find any weapons.”

ANSWER NO. 2:

U.S. Army intelligence analyst Chelsea Manning (previously known as Bradley Manning), was convicted by court-martial in July 2013, and sentenced to **35 years in prison** for espionage among other counts, after disclosing to *Wikileaks* nearly 750,000 military and diplomatic documents. Within the material disclosed was a CIA torture program cover-up, and what *Wikileaks* called *The Afghan War Diaries* and *The Iraq War Logs* – the latter revealed the infamous 2007 “Collateral Murder” video showing two U.S. Apache helicopter crews firing on and killing two Reuters reporters on a Baghdad street, followed by a doubletap strike in which they killed civilian rescuers; the crew could be heard on the video laughing about it.

In 2017, after **seven years of incarceration**, Manning’s sentence, the longest ever served by a whistleblower in the U.S., was commuted by President Obama following an extensive advocacy campaign on her behalf. In 2019, she refused to testify to secret grand juries against a case involving Wikileaks founder Julian Assange and was imprisoned again – this time for contempt of court. She was **held for 11 months**, sticking to her principles, and was finally released on March 12, 2020, when a judge stated a grand jury no longer needed her testimony. She was given a \$256,000 fine, which supporters immediately paid.

ANSWER NO. 3:

According to World Prison Brief, October 2021, there are more than two million prisoners in the U.S. nationwide, which is equivalent to roughly **25 percent** of the world’s total prison population. The U.S. incarceration rate of 629 people per 100,000 is the highest rate in the world. For a visual representation of incarceration comparisons by country in 2022, see *The World Population Review*, (<https://worldpopulationreview.com>), an interactive website.

How do individual states within the U.S. compare with one another for incarceration? For these more in-depth statistics, see *Prison Policy Initiative* (prisonpolicy.org). This website also looks at prison rates in a global context and compares individual U.S. states to entire nations. It shows that “even ‘progressive’ states like Minnesota, with incarceration rates below the national average, continue to lock people up at more than double the rates of our closest international allies.”

According to *Prison Policy*, since the 1970s and the decades that followed, it’s “revealed that the growth in the U.S. prison population can be more closely attributed to ideological policy choices than actual crime rates.”

The SCO: A Region Rises

by Mary Beaudoine

The inevitable is finally here. A large part of the world has had enough of living under U.S. dollar-based dominance.

The Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) met on September 15 and 16, 2022, in Samarkand, Uzbekistan, with the mission of maintaining constructive dialogue and peaceful cooperation while respecting national sovereignty and non-interference in a region that encompasses 40 percent of the world's population. China, Russia, India, Pakistan, and Central Asia: Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan are permanent members. Iran was accepted for full membership this year. Belarus is next in line. Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and Egypt are dialogue partners, and more countries are applying.

How are these developments seen through the eyes of seasoned diplomats?

Former Italian diplomat Marco Carnelos remarked in an opinion

piece in the *Middle East Eye* that “the 2008 global financial crisis raised doubts about a greedy, speculative, over-financialized and under-regulated economy” and that “what is clear now is that globalization is crumbling.”

Former Indian ambassador M.K. Bhadrakumar wrote in *The Tribune* of India: “A new international financial system is taking shape in the multi-polar world order.”

A younger voice, Aamna Khan, School of International Relations and Public Affairs at China's Jilin University, cautioned against being “overly optimistic.” The region is not exactly Mr. Rogers' neighborhood. Tensions and conflicts exist among some countries – e.g., India and Pakistan. She

wrote in *The Diplomat*, however, that she is confident that the SCO will “take coordinated steps to overcome the growing threats and challenges in Eurasia.”

We, in the U.S., need to stop fantasizing about cracks in the relationship between China and Russia and accept that we are no longer the world's hegemon. If we want to survive, we need to engage other powers with authentic diplomacy, not sanctions and military threats.



Leaders of China, Russia, India, Central Asia met in the SCO.

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WAMM Calendar

Please note that WAMM's provision of information on other groups' events is not meant to convey or endorse any action contrary to public policy that would be inconsistent with exempt purposes under Internal Revenue Code Section 501(c)(3), i.e., charitable purposes.

Ongoing Peace/ Justice Vigils

Check the WAMM calendar: womenagainstmilitarymadness.org or call the WAMM office: 612-827-5364 for winter dates.

Pipeline Blues Vigil (Stop Line 3)

Every Monday, 5:00 to 6:00 p.m., outside MN Governor's Mansion, 1006 Summit Ave., St. Paul. Co-sponsored by WAMM and Veterans for Peace Chapter 27. FFI: 612-827-5364.

Peace Vigil

Every Tuesday, 4:00 to 5:00 p.m. on the east side of the Franklin Avenue Bridge, Minneapolis. Sponsored by: Prospect Hill Neighbors for Peace. FFI: 612-379-7398.

Vigil to End War

Every Wednesday, 5:00 to 6:00 p.m. (Note time change as of Nov. 1: 4:00 to 5:00 p.m.) Lake Street/Marshall Avenue Bridge. Signs available on St. Paul side. Brief circle up for announcements after the vigil on St. Paul side. Sponsored by WAMM End War Committee. FFI: 612-827-5364.

Grandmothers for Peace Vigil

Every Wednesday, 4:45 to 5:45 p.m. 50th Street and Halifax (1 block west of France), Edina. FFI: 612-827-5364.

Vigil to End the Occupation of Palestine

Every Friday, 4:00 to 5:00 p.m., corner of Summit Avenue and Snelling Avenue, St. Paul. Sponsored by WAMM Middle East Committee. FFI: 612-827-5364.

Immigrant Solidarity Vigils

Every Tuesday, 7:30 a.m.

Vigil at the ICE entrance on 6000 Minnehaha Ave., Minneapolis. (Not far from Bishop Whipple Building where Immigration Court is held.) Park at the Ft. Snelling commuter light-rail parking lot. Sponsored by WAMM. Call Pepper at 612-701-6963.

Second Tuesday of every month, 7:30 a.m.

Vigil at 1 Federal Drive, Ft. Snelling, (Minneapolis/St. Paul), 55111, outside the Bishop Whipple Building, where Immigration Court is held for five-state area. Prayer, song, courtwatch. Sponsored by Minnesota Interfaith Coalition on Immigration. FFI: mnicom.org

WAMM Action Groups

Board Meeting

Third Tuesday of every month via Zoom, 4:00 to 5:30 p.m. FFI: 612-827-5364.

End Domestic Militarism

Times/Date pending
FFI: 612-827-5364.

End Military Madness Against the Earth

Time/dates pending.
FFI: 612-827-5364.

End War

First Monday of every month via Zoom, 6:30 p.m. FFI: 612-827-5364.

Middle East

Second and fourth Monday of every month via Zoom, 9:30 a.m. FFI: 612-827-5364.

St. Joan of Arc/ WAMM Peacemakers

Fourth Tuesday of every month via Zoom, 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. FFI: Call Barbara 612-722-4444 or Bill 612-926-8459.

Solidarity Committee on the Americas (SCOTA)

Every Friday via Zoom, 10:00 a.m. FFI: 612-827-5364.

Ongoing Events

Grandmothers for Peace

First Wednesday of every month, 12:45 p.m. via Zoom. Justice issue programs for understanding our role in changing systems. FFI: 701-260-7566.

WAMM Movies

During the pandemic, the Movie Committee is posting links to important movies available on line. Check WAMM's Calendar and Facebook page for details. FFI 612-827-5364.

Special Events

No U.S. Wars Rally and March

Saturday, October 15, 1:00 p.m., Mayday Plaza, 3rd St. and Cedar Ave. on the West Bank in Minneapolis. Part of National Days of Coordinated Local Anti-War Protests. Rally will be followed by a neighborhood march at 1:30 p.m. Stop U.S./NATO proxy war with Russia in Ukraine! No war with China! Say NO to the growing danger of nuclear war. End endless U.S. wars: Syria, Iraq, Somalia, Afghanistan, everywhere! No new wars – Korea, Iran, anywhere! No U.S. Aid to the occupation of Palestine – Free Palestine. Funds for human needs, not war. Initiated by Minnesota Peace Action Coalition. FFI: 612-827-5364.

Experiencing Palestine in 2022, a Talk

Monday, October 17, 6:30 p.m. Pizza, 7:00 p.m. program, Hybrid meeting: in person at 4200 Cedar Ave S., Minneapolis; online by Zoom, Facebook. Fred Rogers of Northfielders for Justice in Palestine/Israel recently returned from three weeks in the Middle East, including two weeks in Palestine. He shares his observations and insights. Sponsored by WAMM Middle East Committee and Northfielders for Justice in Palestine/Israel. FFI: 612-827-5364

Medea Benjamin Book Tour

Saturday, October 22, afternoon time TBA, East Side Freedom Library, 1105 Greenbriar in St. Paul. Hybrid meeting. In-person event limited to 25 people. FFI: 651-207-4926

Sunday, October 23, 6:00-9:00 p.m., 4200 Cedar Ave in Minneapolis. Hybrid meeting. In-person event limited to 100 people. FFI: 612-827-5364

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A delicate, full-bodied olive oil with a sweet, smooth taste; peppery finish. 750 ml bottle olive oil \$23 from Zatoun, a registered non-profit. All sale proceeds go to projects serving Palestinian youth education, planting olive trees in Palestine, promoting awareness of Palestine. Available at WAMM office. Call first: 612-827-5364.

Access Zoom events
through the WAMM
website calendar at
womenagainstmilitarymadness.org/calendar/ and at
facebook.com/WomenAgainstMilitaryMadness



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FREE ASSANGE!
*Revealing war crimes
is not a crime!*

national days of coordinated local anti-war protest



**NO U.S.
WARS**

In Minneapolis

SATURDAY

OCTOBER 15

1:00 pm

Gather at

3rd St. & Cedar Ave.

**(Mayday Plaza on the
West Bank)**

1:45 pm

Neighborhood

march to make

a visible

anti-war statement.

Initiated by

Minnesota Peace Action Coalition
Endorsed by: Antiwar Advocates of Minnesota CD2,
Anti-War Committee, Bikers Riding Against Police
Brutality, Climate Justice Committee, Freedom Road
Socialist Organization, Mayday Books, Minnesota
War Tax Resistance, Movement for a People's
Democracy-Midwest, Party for Socialism and
Liberation-Minneapolis, Socialist Action, Socialist
Party USA-Twin Cities Local, St. Paul Eastside
Neighbors for Peace, Twin Cities Assange Defense,
Twin Cities CPUSA (Communist Party), Veterans for
Peace Chapter 27, Welfare Rights Committee,
Women Against Military Madness

For more information 612-827-5364