

# Trump's Imperialism Atop Western Warmongering



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01-10-2025 ~ *The hypocrisy of the so-called “highly-developed” or “rule-of-law” democracies knows no bounds.*

Conflicts across the world's regions experienced a further surge in 2024, according to data provided by [Armed Conflict Locations & Event Data](#) (ACLED)—an independent, international non-profit organization that collects data on real time on locations, actors, fatalities, and types of all reported political violence and protest events around the world. While Ukraine and [Gaza](#) are considered the two major global hotspots of conflict, violence increased by 25 percent in 2024 compared to 2023 and conflict levels have experienced a two-fold increase over the past five years, according to ACLED. The intensity and human toll of armed conflicts are also on the rise as more civilians are exposed to violence and the number of actors involved in violence is proliferating.

What is also noteworthy about the data on violence collected by ACLED is that neither democracy nor more development appears to constrain violence. In fact, the data collected by ACLED shows that countries with elections in 2024 experienced much higher rates of violence than countries without elections.

Speaking of electoral democracies, warmongering talk is also sharply on the increase in developed nations, courtesy of major leaders of the western world, and comes with a rising militarism. Mark Rutte, NATO's recently appointed secretary-general, [warned](#) last month that “danger is moving toward us at full speed” and that the west must face the fact that “what is happening in Ukraine could happen here too.” He urged NATO to “shift to a wartime mindset” and

implored the citizens of NATO countries to tell their banks and funds that “it is simply unacceptable that they refuse to invest in the defense industry.” UK’s prime minister Keir Starmer has zealously endorsed the widening of NATO’s war against Russia and recently gave Ukraine permission to use [Storm Shadow](#) cruise missiles inside Russia. And Joe Biden delivered a warmongering rant at his final address to the United Nations (UN) General Assembly on September 24, 2024, urging an expansion of alliances against Russia and China and threatening Iran.

Warmongering is a constant element in the never ending obsession of U.S. presidents since the end of the Second World War to pursue a policy of what [Andrew Bacevich](#) described a few years ago as “militarized hegemony until the end of time.” Indeed, since the breakout of the Ukraine conflict, Washington has been more than eager to wage a [proxy war](#) against Russia while the U.S.-led western military bloc (NATO) has increased its military presence in the eastern part of the Alliance, seeks to expand its southern flank to [Africa](#) and looks toward the [Indo-Pacific](#) as part of its global approach to security. Meanwhile, all major western states have been behind [Israel](#) in its destruction of Gaza, offering the Jewish state an extraordinary level of support (weapons, cash and political support) as it carries out [war crimes and crimes against humanity](#).

Of course, as militarism and warmongering are pushed to new heights, the rhetoric of peace also goes into full swing. Western hypocrisy knows no bounds. Biden spoke of the need for a peaceful world in his final address to the UN although he has done everything in his power to prolong the war in Ukraine and ensure Gaza’s destruction. His administration has vowed to fight Russia to the last Ukrainian and has fueled Israel’s war in Gaza, making the U.S. complicit in war crimes in Gaza.

The Biden administration did very little to [prevent](#) Russia from invading Ukraine as it totally ignored the question of Ukraine’s membership into NATO and has denied massacres, genocide and ethnic cleansing taking place in Gaza by the Israel Defense Forces (IDF). In fact, Biden himself called the International Criminal Court’s decision to issue an arrest warrant for the Israeli prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu “[outrageous](#).” The icing on the cake was when Biden’s Secretary of State, Anthony Blinken, who will go down as the worst Secretary of State since World War II, had the audacity to write in a recent essay in [Foreign Affairs](#) that the United States is a country that, unlike Russia and China, seeks a “world where international law, including the core principles of the UN Charter, is

upheld, and universal human rights are respected.”

Unsurprisingly, geopolitical forecasts for 2025 are grim. ACLED projects an annual increase of [20 percent](#) in levels of violence in 2025. And then there is Trump’s return to the White House which surely adds another layer of unpredictability to an already volatile and highly dangerous world.

Trump’s second administration seems set on advancing a new version of Manifest Destiny with [threats](#) of retaking the Panama Canal, which the U.S. ceded to Panama in 1999, forcibly buying [Greenland](#), which is controlled by Denmark, and calling Canada “the 51<sup>st</sup> State,” a remark he repeated shortly after Justin Trudeau’s [resignation](#).

Imperialism seems to be Trump’s new theme, but his overall vision of power is reminiscent of U.S. imperialist attitudes of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. He seems to believe that territorial expansion of the boundaries of the United States would make the country safer, stronger, and more prosperous. Of course, this could all just be a symptom of Trump’s arrogance and ignorance, but there can be no denying that imperialism is embedded in U.S. political culture. The U.S. has been preparing for a future global conflict for quite some time now, first with Russia and then with China.

The U.S. set the theater for a conflict with Russia by orchestrating the 2014 coup in Ukraine, treating the country in turn as a NATO ally [in all but name](#) and subsequently engaging in military provocations with the hope of inducing Russia to embark on a full-scale invasion of Ukraine, which finally occurred on February 24, 2022. And it has been following the same scenario in the Asia-Pacific region by making Taiwan and the South China Sea the fuse for conflict.

The truth is that U.S. imperialism never died. And how could it when the U.S. still maintains around [750 military bases](#) in at least 80 countries and territories (U.S. bases represent over 90 percent of the world’s foreign bases) and spends more on defense than the next [nine](#) countries combined, which include major powers such as China, Russia, India, Germany, France, and the United Kingdom? There are more active-duty U.S. Air Force personnel in [Britain](#) than in 40 U.S. states.

Of course, imperialism has taken new forms in the 21<sup>st</sup> century and the dynamics of exploitation have changed. But imperialism is still about world hegemony and a

struggle for the control of strategic resources. Military and economic/natural resource interests are interrelated, and the major capitalist states are all caught in an inescapable struggle for survival, power, and prestige. In its turn, the U.S. continues to exercise imperial power by using all its available tools and weapons to make the world conform to its own whims and wants as it tries to shore up its declining economic dominance. But with Trump's return to the White House, and armed as he appears to be with a new version of Manifest Destiny, U.S. imperialism may become more aggressive and even more dangerous to world peace. If that turns out to be the case, the world is headed for an even more violent future.

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