

# NATO

## 60 years of imperialist crimes



**World Federation of Democratic Youth**  
**"Youth unite, for lasting peace!"**

[www.wfdy.org](http://www.wfdy.org)

## Introduction

The year of 2009 brings the 60th anniversary of one of the most significant tools of imperialism: NATO.

As a contribution for the new generations, who have always heard of NATO as necessary instrument, the World Federation of Democratic Youth has decided to publish this small brochure, where the real character, history and future of NATO are exposed, denounced and fought against. We want this brochure to be an instrument to awake people and the youth especially to make them realize the necessity to fight against NATO, and any other imperialistic instrument.

Despite the fact that the dissolution of NATO would not mean, per se, the end of imperialism, our struggle for its dissolution is as up to date now, as it was at the time NATO was created and faced the resistance of the youth of the world, and particularly from Europe and North America. It is difficult to analyze the role of NATO without speaking of specific countries (such as USA or European Union members) or

specific elements of their particular imperialist instruments, of all times, such as the CIA, the USA 4th Fleet, the Portuguese colonial war, or the so called “Partnership for peace”.

Therefore, it is most relevant that all young people are as prepared as possible to fight, not only against NATO, but against imperialism as whole, and all its instruments, that spread death, exploitation, depression of human and democratic rights, inequalities, poverty, hunger, destruction and war all over the world.



WFDY poster against NATO activity

## The international context in which NATO was created

After the Peoples' Victory against Nazi fascism, the whole world changed and the air of freedom, national liberation, and sovereignty of people and countries blow all over the world. On the one hand, despite the massive damage and the large number of victims, killed and wounded, Soviet Union had defeated the Nazis and their allies and was now ready to increase its power and deepen the achievements brought by the glorious October Revolution (1917), and that is obvious, as one can understand by looking into the living conditions of the Soviet people in the decades after the II World War.

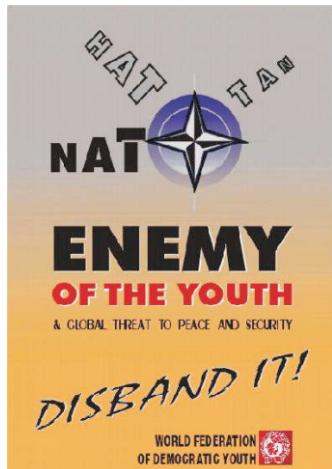
At the same time, in Eastern Europe, a socialist block was rising as in many countries the



*WFDY poster celebrating the Peoples' Victory against Nazi Fascism*

people was taking the power in their own hands, expelling the dominant class and starting processes of building socialism. Moreover, still in Europe, particularly in its heavily destroyed Western side, despite the dominant class remained the reactionary bourgeoisie, the popular movement was growing and there was a clear "danger" for the imperialist allied ruling classes that, from one day to another, things would turn around. Among other reasons, this increasing strength of the popular movement and its struggles "obliged" the ruling classes to incorporate some measures, such as paid holidays, employment policies, deepening

*WFDY poster against NATO*



of the social security systems, massification of access to health and education, among others.

In the rest of the world, the situation didn't look any better for imperialism. In numerous places of the world, the liberation and democratic movements were growing and putting too much pressure on their colonizers. Particularly in Africa and Asia, the struggle for independence, democracy and to end colonialism, were threatening the imperialist domination, specially the colonial bounds that still oppress millions of people. In this framework, the physical destruction of many of the

countries in Europe (the "traditional" imperialist forces like United Kingdom, France, Germany, Spain, Portugal and Italy), the nearly not harmed by the war United States of America arised as the dominant force in the imperialist field.

Since, the scenery was not good for imperialism, so USA had to take measures to show to the world their strength (one of the main reasons for the nuclear bombing of Nagasaki and Hiroshima) and to guarantee the defense of all those who, for some reason, were not committed to socialism – this means, to protect the ruling class of all countries where the popular movement had not conquered the power.

Being so, despite the consequences brought by the rise of fascist forces and the fact that the war against this forces had only soon been won, USA and the ruling classes of the imperialist countries started coming together, promoting anti-communism and recycling many of the fascist leaders and promoting back into the politics of the countries.



*WFDY solidarity poster  
against colonialism and war*

# The creation of NATO: Goals and actions of the first 50 years

In April 4, 1949, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization is officially created.

The twelve countries that initiated the process by signing a treaty full of references to “democracy” and “defensive character” of NATO were Netherlands, Luxembourg, Belgium, Norway, Denmark, Iceland, France, Italy, Portugal, Canada, United Kingdom and USA.

For all those who could still believe in the polite words of the text, the composition of NATO made immediately clear what would be its political orientation. The colonialist France, Netherlands and UK, the fascist Portugal and, later, the military dictatorships of Greece and Turkey, as well as the neofascist Germany Federal Republic clarified very openly the character and goals of NATO. Over the first fifty years of



*WFDY international solidarity demonstration  
Cyprus, 1981*

existence, NATO always played a very relevant role supporting the imperialist field, both at national and international level. The support to the colonialist wars of Portugal and France, both by political means and military equipment to the oppressing forces, as well as the sabotage of the Italian revolutionary forces and the support to the dictatorships imposed to the peoples of Latin America, are strong signs of the political line of NATO, which was also a very strong tool of propaganda against the danger of the so called “Soviet Invasion”.

Also Cyprus was and still is one of the many victims of NATO. In the Lisbon meeting of NATO in 1974 the decision for the coup d' etat from the Greek junta and the invasion from Turkey was taken. A few months later the chauvinist



*USA signing the Treaty that founded NATO  
April 4, 1949*



*Portuguese troops after one r massacre*

and nationalist puppets of NATO in the island, were contributing in the realization of this decision for division of the island and the people. The results of the destruction exist until today, 250000 refugees from both sides, more than 2000 missing people, violation of the human and democratic rights of the legitimate inhabitant. Catastrophe of the infrastructure, the land and the cultural heritage, separation of the people, creation of hostility among the two communities is results existing and serving the imperialist until today.

*USA young people struggling against the war*



With the collapse of the Soviet Union and the socialist countries, there should be no reason for NATO to keep existing, however, in a total contradiction with its alleged goals (the defense from the Soviet "danger"), NATO not only seized to exist, as it took the opportunity to reinforce its structure, increasing the offense against the peoples' rights, both in Eastern and Western Europe, to expand its political, ideological and economical domination and the alignment with the USA foreign policies.

This fact would strongly mark the coming years of NATO and have serious impacts in all the world, and serious consequences in the respect for the International Law or even the United Nations' structure.

It is rather relevant that, after the imperialist promoted conflicts that dismantled the once peaceful and stable Yugoslavia, NATO forces were sent to the area to ensure that the imperialist allied forces would rule, after dividing, as can easily be understood by analyzing the new born countries of the Balkans.

# Bombing Yugoslavia The 50th Anniversary dark celebration

With the collapse of the Soviet Union, the last decade of the twentieth century was a moment for NATO expansion, clarification of its goals and reasons of its existence. Following the line of the imperialism's triumphalism (theories like "Capitalism is the end of history") NATO became stronger and stronger in the ex-socialist countries, leading to the affiliation of Hungary, Poland and Czech Republic (the first ex-socialist countries to join NATO) in 1999, obliging them and all other new members of NATO to buy new military equipment from the USA, so that all military equipment of NATO forces is the same.

In that very same year, facing the resistance of Yugoslavia (already after its parcial desagregation) committed to its imperialist goals, NATO bombed the Yugoslavian



NATO "democracy" falling from the skies



Youngsters of FYROM against NATO

cities, schools, hospitals, bridges and other infrastructures, killing hundreds of people and merging the country in a complete crisis. All this happened soon after a NATO Summit that took place in the USA and where NATO decided to change its character, removing the "defensive" references and opening the possibility for NATO to intervene outside the borders of its member states.

In accordance with the new doctrine adopted on 1999 regarding the official open aggressive strategy of "action out of zone", NATO deployed "preventive attacks" against peoples and countries that do not submit to the imperialist plans. The pretext was to "counter terrorism". A particularly dangerous strategy is that of imperialist interventions that invoke what is called "self-

determination" as a pretext to stir up minority issues and create protectorate states like Kosovo and change the borders.

The bombing of Yugoslavia was, in a way, a dark celebration of the 50 years of NATO and a putting in practice of the fresh new principles agreed by the imperialist forces gathered in NATO. Yugoslavian authorities stateted that more than 2,000 civilians have been killed and more than 7,500 wounded.

The bombing was indiscriminate, killing farmers, suburbanites, city dwellers, factory workers, reporters, diplomats, people in cars, busses and trains, hospital patients, the elderly and children. Indeed, NATO bombing raids have killed more than 200 children and brought death, diseases and suffering to thousands more, through environmental factors, such as poisoned water supplies and lack of electrical power to run vital hospital

*Cartoon against the "defensive" war of NATO*



## The present and future of NATO

Ten years after the begining of NATO “new era”, it is now even more clear for the people of the world what kind of deadly instrument NATO is.

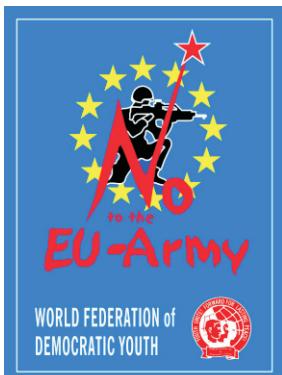
The bombing of Yugoslavia, the troops sent to the Balkans region, the bombing and occupation of Afghanistan after the September 11, were firm steps on the way of NATO to confirm itself as, probably, the most dangerous military structure in the world. In the present time, the goal is clear: to implement their interests and policies at any place in the world and at the same time to control or depress any country or other force that might be a danger to them.. USA and NATO are increasing its military presence in the area of the Eastern Europe by building the “anti-missile shield” in the borders of Russia, inside the borders of the fresh new members of NATO. Moreover, it is pushing countries who are in the

borders of Russia, but that are not (yet) members of NATO to become one, such as what is now happening with Ukraine and Georgia.

Once again, it is rather deceiving the term to designate such strategy, as the defensive element is mentioned just as way to justify the siege or an attack starting from one or more of these NATO/USA military bases..

Specific actions such as: Expansion of NATO, the creation of protectorate states such as Kosovo, the building of the “anti – missile” shield, the new NATO bases in Poland, Czech republic or the Baltic area reflect the intra-imperialist rivalries, that are evolving between NATO and upgrowing forces such as Russia, aiming at, above all, the control of the sources and pipelines of oil and natural gas. The Caucasus, Balkan and East Europe regions are becoming a hot zone of NATO/US-Russian competition, entailing new dangers of a more general conflagration in these regions. Under these conditions, the US and NATO are deploying new missiles in Europe; while the US fomented the Georgian offensive against South Ossetia in August 2008 that provoked the response by Russia.

*WFDY sticker  
against the  
EU Army*



offensive against South Ossetia in August 2008 that provoked the response by Russia.

All these elements are worrying and challenging for Humanity as whole and for the young people, in particular. It is undeniable the connection between NATO, the reactivation of the 4th Fleet (to control the growing popular movement in Latin America) and the USA's African Command (generally known as AFRICOM), which is based in Germany, and all of them are nothing but new or older shapes of imperialism organizing itself to detain or prevent the emancipation of the peoples and youth of the world.

Moreover, during last years it became more obvious that NATO and EU are unions serving the same interests. So it should not be any illusion that the militarisation of EU by building the EURO-army is a positive step for people that could stop NATO aggressiveness. Besides EU members are also NATO members. EU often undertakes the "dirty work" of

NATO, as it was proved in the case of the dissolution of Yugoslavia and now in the case of the declaration of independence of Kosovo. Undoubtedly, there are partial differences and competition between EU and USA. Nevertheless such differences are connected with the loot sharing. The creation of the Euro-army, the next step of CFSP (Common Foreign and Security Policy) of the EU, and its close collaboration with the NATO that is provided from the outset, confirms this point in our view.

Among others, the clear evidences of this can be considered the strategic link proposed in the already dead proposal of European Constitution (also known as Lisbon Treaty) as well as in the very recent agreement of cooperation signed by NATO and the United Nations' General Secretary (about which it is important to mention, the Security Council member Russia claims to never heard about before reading about it in the international media!).

# **Struggling we will defeat imperialism and NATO!**

As History shows, and everyday we can confirm in the schools, in the workplaces, in the neighbourhoods, the only way for the the youth and people to conquer rights and to ensure a future different from the present is the organized and militant struggle.

The worldwide situation will sharpen as long as inter-imperialist competitions and interests exist. The hopes of the people for a peaceful and safe world are linked with the struggle for the overthrow of the imperialist plans, the disengagement from the imperialist bounds and the imperialist unions like NATO. The struggle against NATO and its new expansion, the “anti-missile shield”, NATO bases and changes of borders, against the participation in the so-called “peacekeeping missions” (no matter how they will be called in the future) in Caucasus or elsewhere in the world,

against all obligations deriving from the participation in NATO and the EU that engage each country militarily directly or indirectly, against the presence of foreign troops in Afghanistan , Iraq , Balkan countries or elsewhere will continue and will be victorious. As anti-imperialist young people we are sure that we will win, building a world free of imperialism, where the welfare of Humanity is the center of all policies, where the access to education, employment and labour rights, culture, sports, health, enviromental protection, international solidarity, friendship and cooperation of the Earth will be the foundations of a world where democracy is not an empty word, but an expression of the freedom and hapiness of all mankind.

With our struggle, we can be sure that WE WILL DEFEAT IMPERIALISM!



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