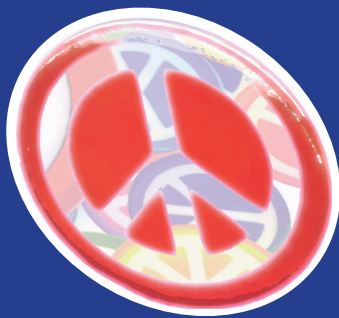




LE COLLECTIF ÉCHEC à la GUERRE

MILITARISM:
A nuclear threat
A social, ecological and humanitarian disaster

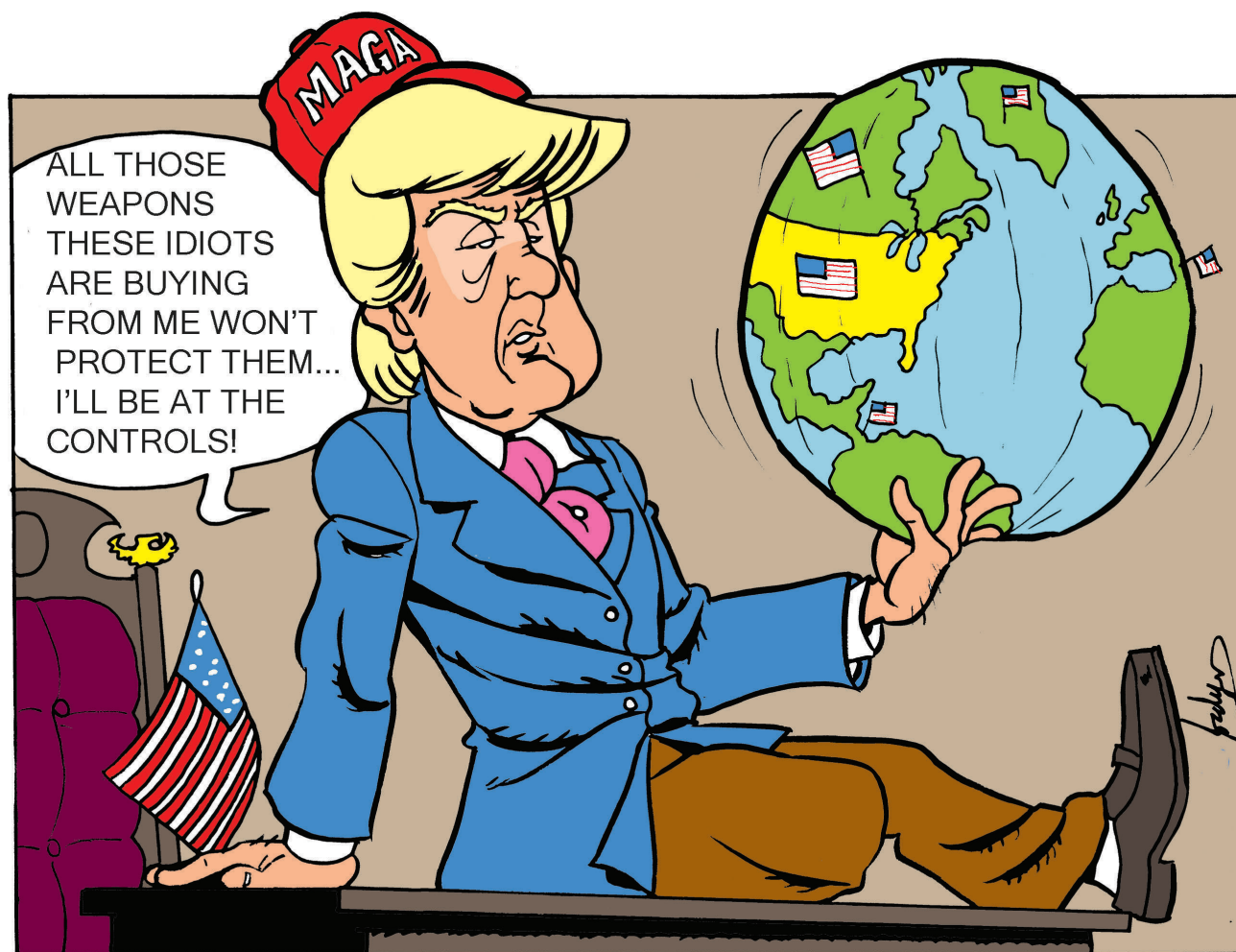


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Neither missiles, bombs, tanks, military jobs nor the rest of their machinery of death will provide the peoples of the world with the social services, daycare centres, housing, decent and meaningful jobs, and living and working conditions for which we've long been fighting.

Geneviève-Baril-Gingras, Collectif féministe antimilitariste de Québec, 1984.

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More info:

See the articles on militarism on the Collectif Échec à la guerre website:
<https://echecalaguerre.org/agir/non-au-militarisme-non-a-la-guerre/>

This booklet was produced by the Collectif Échec à la guerre to spark discussion and help mobilize opposition to the rapid rise of militarism.



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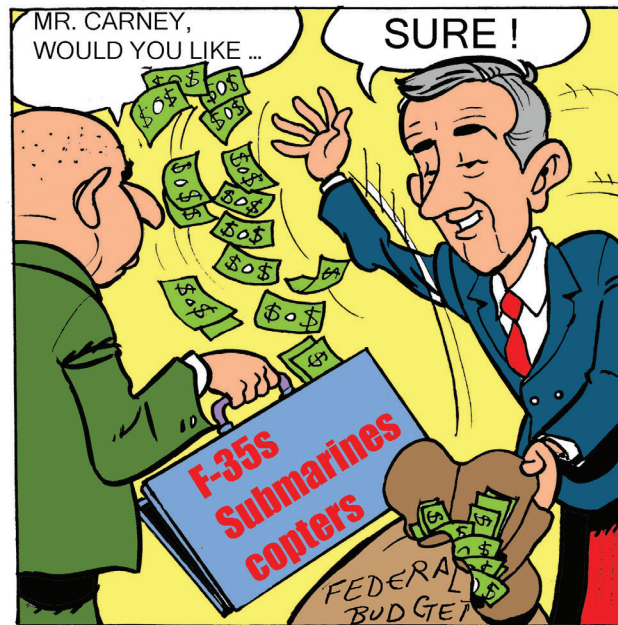
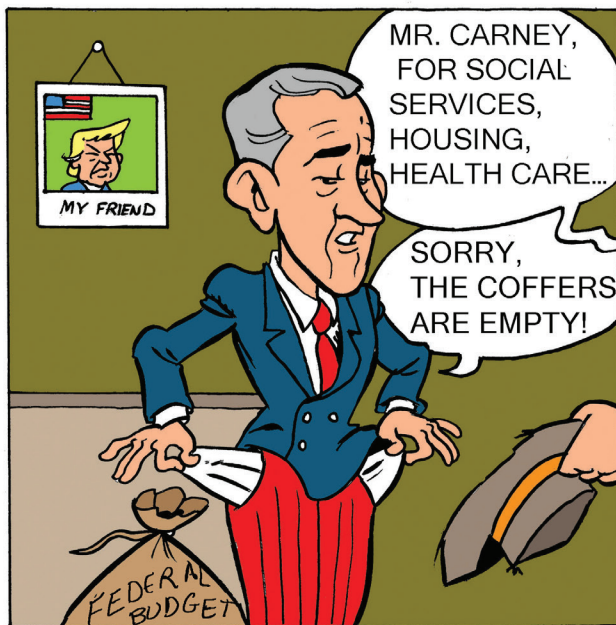
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MILITARISM: A nuclear threat

A social, ecological and humanitarian disaster

Against the backdrop of growing global tensions, the new arms race launched by the United States and its allies bodes ill for Canada and the world. It threatens to drive the final nails into the coffin of international law, leaving only the law of the jungle. It also risks plunging us into an even more dangerous cycle of sanctions, aggression and cataclysmic wars that could jeopardize the very survival of humanity.

With the drums of war beating, arms dealers are already rubbing their hands at the prospect of massive profits. But the colossal amounts that will be poured into armaments and war, in Quebec and Canada, will swallow up resources needed to meet basic needs: housing, food, health care, education, environmental protection and infrastructure. These needs are even more pressing for Indigenous peoples and the growing numbers of marginalized people in our society.



1. Militarism spreading at home and abroad

Since 1949, Canada has been a member of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), a U.S.-dominated military alliance that now stretches from the Pacific to the borders of Iran and Russia. For more than 20 years, the U.S. has pressured other member states to increase their *defence** spending to 2% of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP). After long resisting, Canada began boosting its *defence* budget, reaching 1.3% of GDP in 2024.

In 2025, under Canada's new Liberal government, the steadily building militaristic fervour in the Western world swept into Quebec and Canada. In February 2025, Mark Carney pledged, if elected Prime Minister, to increase Canada's *defence* budget to 2% of GDP by 2030. Nine days before the April 28 election, he unveiled a fiscal framework that would meet this NATO target by 2028–2029. Then in June 2025, after winning the election, he announced an additional \$9.3 billion in *defence* spending to hit the 2% target in the current fiscal year (2025–2026). The increase brought the total *defence* budget for the year to \$62.7 billion.

On January 7, 2025, even before his inauguration as President of the United States, Donald Trump demanded that all 32 NATO countries commit to spending 5% of GDP on *defence*! This target was adopted by NATO in June 2025 and is supposed to be met by 2035. On November 4, 2025, the first Carney budget, titled “Canada Strong,” stated that the government will “accelerate investments in the years ahead to put Canada on a path to meeting NATO’s 5 per cent *Defence* Investment Pledge by 2035.” This would mean an astronomical increase: meeting the 5% target today would require allocating nearly one-third of the federal budget to *defence*.

A directive dated May 2025 calls for examining how to expand the Canadian Armed Forces’ reserve forces from the current 30,000 reservists to 400,000 as part of the development of a “*Defense* Mobilization Plan.”

The aim is to mobilize all of Canadian society to respond to threats ranging from natural disasters to large-scale, high-intensity combat. Meanwhile, spurred by U.S. threats to Canada’s sovereignty—and probably even more by a 20% hike in starting pay—enlistments in the regular forces hit a 30-year high of 7,310 in 2025–2026.

* NOTE :

We italicize *defence* because much of Canada’s *defence* equipment and operations serve to wage wars in distant countries that have never attacked us, rather than to defend Canada’s own territory and population.

Three key points

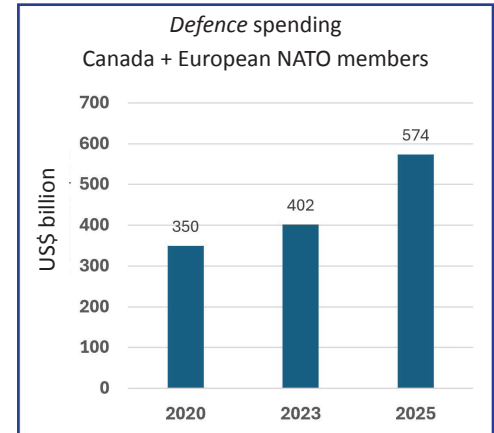
First, this would entail an exponential increase in military spending. To reach 5% of GDP under the current budget, nearly one of every three dollars of federal government revenue would have to go to *defence*. The Parliamentary Budget Officer (PBO) estimates that an additional \$334 billion in military spending will be required over the next decade to gradually reach the 5% target by 2035. By comparison, the 2025-26 federal budget allocates \$9 billion to the Department of Housing, Infrastructure and Communities, and \$3.1 billion to the Department of the Environment. Curiously, business leaders and neoliberal media commentators—so concerned about budget deficits when increases in social spending are proposed—have had little to say about the ballooning deficit the PBO projects from military spending.

Second, this transformation of Canada's economy into a war economy is happening without any electoral mandate or public consultation, but with the complacency of provincial governments and the mainstream media. Barely six days after the release of the federal budget, the Coalition Avenir Québec government unveiled its "new economic vision," built largely around the lucrative federal military contracts Quebec hopes to land. Investissement Québec and the Quebec Ministry of Economy, Innovation and Energy can now directly support *defence* projects.

Third, Canada's lightning-fast commitment to massive military spending, first at Trump's behest and then NATO's, stands in stark contrast to its repeated failure over the past 20 years to meet its greenhouse gas reduction commitments, and its 55-year failure to allocate 0.7% of GDP to international aid, a target it is still only halfway to meeting.

+ + + + +

To complete the picture, it should be noted that the military spending frenzy has spread beyond NATO members in recent years to the wealthy oil monarchies of the Persian Gulf, close allies of the United States, and most recently to Western allies in Asia-Pacific: Japan, Australia, South Korea and the Philippines. As if that weren't enough, significant currents of public opinion in some countries—and even majorities, as in South Korea—now favour acquiring nuclear weapons. In Canada, General Wayne Eyre, former Chief of the Defence Staff, is arguing that the federal government should consider this option.



The entire Western alliance is gearing up for war, led by the United States and its Commander-in-Chief Donald Trump, who has announced a 42% increase in U.S. military spending in 2027 alone, bringing it to.

**“My conclusion is this:
the only sure winner
is the gigantic U.S.
military-industrial
complex—not to
mention billionaires
who sow death and
destruction, who
aren’t all Americans.”**

Boucar Diouf

La Presse, October 29, 2022

Canada’s *Defence* Industrial Strategy and the *Defence* Bank

On February 17, 2026, Prime Minister Mark Carney unveiled Canada’s *Defence* Industrial Strategy (DIS) at the Montreal-based enterprise CAE, promising fabulous economic benefits: a \$500 billion windfall for Canadian industry from *defence* procurement, capital investments and economic spinoffs—plus 125,000 new, well-paid jobs.

Canada’s *defence* industry would be the big winner. Its exports would jump 50% and its revenues soar 240%. The DIS guarantees Canadian industry the lion’s share of the astronomical federal spending announced for this sector, plus privileged access to policymakers and the government apparatus, a myriad of special programs, and priority in workforce training and economic transition measures meant to mitigate the effects of U.S. tariffs. The promised \$500 billion has already boosted Canada’s military industry: in the space of a few months, membership in the Canadian Association of *Defence* and Security Industries (CADSI) has nearly doubled, from 700 to 1,300.

To support the DIS and the *defence* strategies of European NATO members, all caught in the grip of the same militaristic fervour, Canada is spearheading the creation of the *Defence*, Security and Resilience Bank (DSRB), a new multinational institution to be headquartered in Canada, possibly Montreal. Its purpose is to improve access to financing for small-and medium-sized enterprises within the NATO-member and allied states.

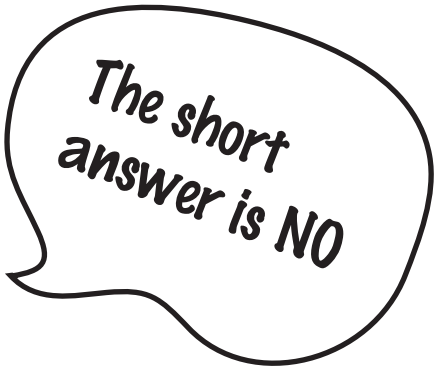
But it is easy to see that the DSRB will mainly serve big corporate interests. The most lucrative contracts will go to the major multinational arms manufacturers, mainly US-owned, which will draw on a multitude of small and medium-sized enterprises for their “supply chains.” The role of the DSRB will essentially be to provide loan guarantees. It will shoulder 85% to 100% of the risk, instead of the lending banks.

The lending banks will pocket the profits, while the DSRB’s member states (meaning us) will cover any defaults.

2. Are we really under threat?

To justify NATO's new military spending target of 5% of GDP, Secretary General Mark Rutte argued that NATO members would be "Russia's next target" and that they needed to act to prevent a war "on the scale ... our grandparents and great-grandparents endured" Really? Is Russia, struggling to occupy just the eastern part of Ukraine and needing help from North Korean soldiers, poised to invade all of Europe within five years? This wildly unrealistic speculation is the kind of scare tactic often used to justify colossal military spending to the public that will have to foot the bill. The spectre of "weapons of mass destruction" in Iraq in 2002–03 is a case in point.

Is the West—and Canada in particular—truly threatened and vulnerable? The short answer is no. Russia has neither the interest nor the capacity to conquer Europe. Talk of "rearmament" ignores the fact that NATO countries never actually disarmed after the Cold War and already spend far more on *defence* than any other group of countries.



The short
answer is NO

In 2025, the 32 NATO countries (out of 193 countries in the world) accounted for 55% of global military spending. As always, the United States topped this grim list with 33% of the total—as much as the next seven countries combined, including China (second at 12%) and Russia (third at 6.6%).

Experts are also sceptical of the currently popular argument in political and military circles that Canada's security in the Arctic is threatened by China and Russia, countries that have never made any territorial claims on the Canadian Arctic and have neither the intent nor the means to effectively challenge Canadian sovereignty there.

Canada enjoys an enviable geographic position, surrounded by three oceans. It would be extremely difficult for any foreign power, other than Canada's southern neighbour, to invade. Objectively, the United States has always posed the greatest threat to Canada's sovereignty and independence by virtue of the reach of U.S. capital and culture, Canada's export dependence on the U.S. market, and the deep integration of the two countries' armed forces and *defence* industries. In their partnerships with the United States, Canada's corporate sector has always been in a subordinate position. During the "war on terror," these forces sacrificed what remained of Canada's independent foreign policy to protect their access to the U.S. market.

President Trump regularly intimidates Canada, talks of annexing it and openly interferes in its internal affairs. Do we really believe that doubling or tripling military spending would enable Canada to defend itself against a U.S. invasion?

3. A new arms race to maintain U.S. hegemony

In 2018, during Trump's first term, the United States made "strategic competition" with China and Russia the core of its National Defense Strategy. NATO followed suit in June 2022 and Canada in 2024, accompanied by ever-more intense propaganda portraying China and Russia as existential threats to our values, our security and the "rules-based international order."

Initially, this was the rhetoric enlisted to promote the transformation of Western economies into war economies. Then, during his second term, Trump dropped this discourse in favour of unabashed imperialism, proudly seizing whatever he could by brute force: Ukraine's mineral resources, the Gaza Strip, Venezuela's oil. He also set his sights on Greenland, an issue that could yet again rear its ugly head. In 2026, the Israeli-U.S. war against Iran, which Trump had hoped would bring regime change, aimed unrealistically to seize control of Iran's enormous oil and gas reserves.

While the rhetoric has changed, the central issue for the United States remains the same: preserving and expanding its global hegemony, which is increasingly challenged by Russia, China, the

Global South, and—much more timidly—by some European countries. The U.S. pressure isn't only meant to push its allies to raise military spending to the new 5% of GDP target, but also to ensure that the money goes to buy weapons from the U.S. military-industrial complex, which already accounts for 43% of global arms exports, and that U.S. allies stand ready to fight new wars for the American empire.



What about China? What about Russia?

Our focus on the ruinous role of the United States is not to say that China and Russia, or other rising powers, are benevolent forces in the world. They too are imperialist powers, and their *defence* systems, which ostensibly exist to safeguard their populations, serve the same purposes as ours: surveillance, control, intimidation and warfare in service of the worldwide interests of their multinational corporations, private or state-owned. In short, the *defence* systems of China and Russia are not more fundamentally defensive than NATO's, as the war in Ukraine and the threats to seize Taiwan by force make clear.

That said, there are significant differences in scale among the major imperialist powers. Economically, the GDP of the United States is one and a half times that of China and nearly 12 times Russia's. The United States' exclusive control over global financial systems allows it to unilaterally impose crushing sanctions on countries that defy its dictates. The U.S. spends three times more than China and five times more than Russia on its military. The United States and Russia each possess more than 5,000 nuclear warheads, while China has 600.

With some 861 military bases in 95 foreign countries and territories, most of them ringing Russia and China, the United States is unrivaled both in installing their military around the world and in repeatedly using it in a long series of devastating wars. By comparison, Russia has 35 bases in 11 foreign countries, and China has 6 in as many countries.

Canadians should not be fooled by the propaganda of the imperialist bloc to which we belong. Our governments justify a new arms race by pointing to the threat of Russian and Chinese weapons, their interference in our affairs, and their allegedly bellicose intentions. But given how heavily the balance of power favours the United States, the Chinese and Russian governments could easily—and more convincingly—use the very same arguments to launch their own arms race.

Ending this vicious cycle of unbridled military spending fueled by fear-mongering is in the interest of all the peoples of the world.

**There are
significant
differences in scale
between the major
imperialist powers.**

4. What about the benefits we've been promised?

• Guaranteeing our security?

Boosting Canada's military spending will not protect Canadians. What the United States and its dependent allies, including Canada, actually want to protect is not the safety of their people but the profitability of multinational corporations' and billionaires' investments and their access to raw materials and global markets.

But even setting aside this basic fact, something else doesn't add up. Global military spending totaled US\$2.887 trillion in 2025. The 32 member countries of NATO, the Western military alliance to which Canada belongs, accounted for 55% of that figure. Not content with this dominance, NATO has launched a frenetic new arms race: in 2025 alone, its European members and Canada increased their *defence* spending by 20% over 2024! But once every country in the world has doubled or tripled its weapons stockpiles, how will that make us, or any other nation on the planet, safer? Logically, won't the result be the opposite of what our leaders claim?

• Reviving the economy and creating jobs?

Investment in military industries does not generate the same level of economic activity as other sectors. These are capital-intensive industries that require little labour. Every dollar invested creates far fewer jobs than the same dollar spent on social services (education, health care), housing construction or the transition to a green economy—all of which benefit society as a whole, unlike the military sector.

• Reducing Canada's dependence on the United States?

Bowing to Trump's demand that Canada increase its military spending to 5% of GDP can hardly be called standing up to U.S. demands. Nor is purchasing F-35 fighter jets, which are entirely dependent on the United States for mission-critical computer systems and software updates.

Trump's official rhetoric, pressuring NATO countries to up their military spending, has another objective: to increase sales of armaments produced by the U.S. military-industrial complex, home to the biggest players in the global industry. Canada and European Union (EU) member countries may indeed want their spending to strengthen their own military industries, but their priority is to maintain their access to the U.S. market by keeping tariffs as low as possible. The United States is therefore able to use economic blackmail to keep them dependent on U.S. energy and military supplies. This played out in July 2025, when the U.S. and the EU struck a trade deal that lowered U.S. tariffs on European exports in exchange for an EU commitment to buy \$750 billion worth of weapons, oil and gas from the United States.

It is difficult to escape U.S. control over the military sector. The 88 F-35 fighter jets ordered by the Canadian military are a striking example: they "cannot be operated without authorization from Washington, which controls the software, the flow of sensitive data and the aircraft's maintenance systems."

Guillaume Tremblay-Boily

Institut de recherche et d'informations
socioéconomiques (IRIS), 2026

5. Where does all this lead?

Before discussing the prohibitive costs of militarization for our own society, it must be said that other countries are likely to pay the highest price. The weaponry amassed by the United States and its allies, including Canada, has been mainly used not to defend our countries but to ravage and subjugate others—Iraq, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Libya, Syria, Yemen, Palestine, Iran, Venezuela and Lebanon, to name just a few. Between 2001 and 2023, the “war on terror” claimed at least 4.5 million lives and displaced more than 38 million people, almost exclusively in the militarily weak countries of the Global South.

In the current climate of growing tensions, where international law is openly scorned in favour of the law of the jungle, the new arms race launched by the United States, NATO and their allies is likely to increase the number of devastating wars and their victims.

- **Social costs**

The dramatic increase in military spending planned for the coming years will inevitably mean cuts to public services and a frontal attack on social gains. Women and marginalized people will be disproportionately affected. In July 2025, barely a month after Prime Minister Carney announced an increase of more than \$9 billion in military spending, Finance Minister François-Philippe Champagne asked all government departments to find 15% in “savings” over the next three years. The 2025 federal budget then set the target at \$60 billion in spending cuts over five years.

At a time when housing, health care and education are woefully underfunded in Quebec and across Canada, and we are being told to brace for more austerity, it is outrageous to see our governments open the financial tap for corporations eager to profit from murderous militarism.

The dramatic increase in military spending planned for coming years will inevitably mean cuts to public services and a frontal attack on social gains. The federal government’s target is to slash \$60 billion in spending over five years.

Did you know?

- > Wars are the main cause of hunger in the world.
- > 60% of the world’s hungry live in areas torn by war and violence.

UN World Food Programme (WFP), 2022

- In Canada, the greenhouse gas emissions of the Department of National Defence are estimated to be equivalent to those of 200,000 cars.



- In its first 30 days, the U.S.-Israeli war on Iran generated:
9 million tonnes
of greenhouse gas
emissions

“Acid Rain, Toxic Water, and Tons of CO₂: The Hidden Cost of the Iran War,” 7am Podcast, April 20, 2026

• Environmental costs

Global warming and the multipronged environmental crisis spawned by the global capitalist economy pose a grave threat to the security and indeed survival of humanity. These threats cannot be put on hold. But efforts to lower greenhouse gas emissions and support the energy transition were sidelined almost immediately after the election of the Carney government, which abolished the consumer carbon tax and backed new pipelines designed to turn Canada into a fossil fuel superpower. Quebec’s decision to push back from 2030 to 2035 its targeted 37.5% reduction of greenhouse gas emissions from 1990 levels fits the same pattern. It flies in the face of the consensus among the thirty civil society organizations consulted, which recommended sticking to the 2030 deadline.

The astronomical sums to be poured into military spending over the next few years will starve funding needed to address the climate emergency.

Mining Watch Canada fears that critical minerals needed for the energy transition will be diverted to military uses.

It notes that, in Canada as elsewhere, “weapons, drones, vehicles, tanks, submarines, ammunition and other equipment used by the modern military industry require an astronomical amount of materials and minerals.” The group is therefore concerned about “the announcements made by the Government of Canada and the provinces regarding critical minerals and national *defence*. These policies risk diverting the funds, resources and political attention needed for the energy transition.” Mining Watch warns that “increased mining production for military, national security, or national *defence* purposes will result in further harm to the environment and to the rights of Indigenous peoples and local communities.”

Armies, wars and military industries also contribute directly to global warming. According to a report released in May 2025 by the Conflict and Environment Observatory, armies and their supply chains account for 5.5% of global greenhouse gas emissions. (States are not required to report these emissions.) If the world’s armed forces were a country, they would have the fourth-largest carbon footprint on the planet. And that’s not counting the substantial emissions generated by wars and reconstruction of the infrastructure they destroy.

So, in and of itself, rising military spending can only worsen the climate crisis—even without taking into account the disastrous effects of military contaminants on drinking water sources, arable land and the health of oceans and waterways around the world.

• Impact on women

The militarization of our society promises nothing good for women. Armies glorify traditional values: the cult of the leader, strength, hierarchy, obedience, esprit de corps. Military culture tolerates and even promotes a toxic masculinity that trivializes violence against women. In 2015, Judge Marie Deschamps released an external review of the Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) that concluded its culture is “hostile to women...and conducive to more serious incidents of sexual harassment and assault.” In late 2023, Statistics Canada published the results of a survey that found there were twice as many sexual assaults in the CAF in 2022 as in 2016.

Violence against women rises sharply in times of war. Rape is used as a weapon to humiliate the enemy and demonstrate control or conquest of territory: in taking possession of the land, the warrior takes possession of women’s bodies. Rape and violence against women are also rampant in the camps where they seek refuge after their homes are destroyed. More broadly, as the ones who typically care for other human lives, women face terrible daily hardships in wartime. For example, when aqueducts and roads are destroyed, women are sometimes forced to travel dozens of kilometres to find drinking water or food.

In the aggressor countries, militarization drives up unemployment and poverty, disproportionately affecting women. And when the soldiers come home, there is an increase in rape and intimate partner violence.

Western countries have often claimed to wage war to defend women’s rights. However, according to the Costs of War Project, 20 years of war in Afghanistan produced catastrophic results for women. The percentage of the population living below the poverty line rose from 80% to 97%, the proportion of children suffering severe malnutrition rose from 9% to 50%, and two million Afghan women were left widowed. Rights don’t progress when an entire population is in survival mode. Militarism and war have never helped advance women’s rights—quite the opposite!

“The militarization of society is incompatible with the development of conditions that can protect the dignity of women.”

Andrée Michel

Féminisme et antimilitarisme, 2012

Women’s Global Charter for Humanity, Peace Section



Affirmation 1

Peace is achieved principally as a result of: equality between women and men, social, economic, political, legal and cultural equality, rights protection, and eradication of poverty, ensuring that all people live in dignity and free of violence.

Affirmation 4

All human beings have the right to live in a world free of war and armed conflict, foreign occupation and military bases. No one has the right to decide on the life or death of individuals and peoples.

“Faced with a pervasive state of war that threatens to become permanent, being ‘militarily incorrect’ is, more than ever, an urgent imperative on which feminist, anti-racist, anti-colonial and anti-capitalist struggles converge.”

Jules Falquet,
feminist author, 2012.

- **Backsliding on rights and democracy**

Unsurprisingly, a 2025 review of democracy indices found a decline to levels not seen in 50 years, particularly in Western Europe and North America. The factors evaluated were freedom of expression, attacks on democracy, the concentration of power, authoritarian measures, checks and balances, and respect for rights.

From September 11, 2001 and the “war on terror” to recent discriminatory bills against immigrants, we have witnessed a steady stream of repressive measures that undermine the right to equality for all. At the same time, mechanisms for consultation and protection of the public interest in areas such as the environment have been severely curtailed or even gutted.

The Quebec government has increasingly used the notwithstanding clause to sidestep the rights charters. Had its Bill 1 passed, government decisions would have taken precedence over the Charter of Human Rights and Freedoms—an erosion of checks and balances with disturbing autocratic overtones. The government has also adopted measures that violate the rights of certain groups based on their religious or political beliefs.

The rise of militarism is bad news for rights and freedoms. By definition, militarism rests on force and violence. One cannot claim the right to freedom of movement under a state of siege!

Militarism, which demands submission and obedience, is inherently incompatible with the rule of law.

What is militarism?

Militarism is a school of thought that gives primacy to military force in relations between states, and sometimes even in domestic governance. At its heart is the glorification of the military and its traditional values. Militarist ideologies typically rely on fear-mongering about supposed existential threats to “the nation” and make the constant expansion of military capabilities society’s top priority.

Fascist regimes and military dictatorships are the ultimate expressions of militarism.

• The Canadian arms trade and war crimes

Our leaders tout Canada's strict export controls on military goods and technologies, grounded in respect for human rights around the world. The facts tell a different story.

Canada's participation in the global arms trade makes it regularly complicit in war crimes, crimes against humanity and even genocide. A glaring example is Canada's sales of armoured vehicles to Saudi Arabia, which were used in its war against Yemen—a conflict that the UN says resulted in what was then the worst humanitarian catastrophe in the world.

More recently, Canadian arms shipments to Israel continued throughout the genocide in Gaza, despite the government's mendacious denials. Canadian arms sold to the United Arab Emirates were subsequently transferred to the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) in Sudan, a paramilitary force that a UN mission found responsible for genocidal acts in the city of El Fasher, among other atrocities.

These cases are not the exception but the rule. In fact, 69% of Canadian arms exports go to the U.S. and are not subject to controls of any kind. Those weapons can therefore be used in the United States' wars and its own arms trade.

The horrific crimes and appalling human costs tied to Canadian arms exports are bound to increase under the new *Defence Industrial Strategy*, which aims to boost these exports by 50% and "streamline" export licence approvals.

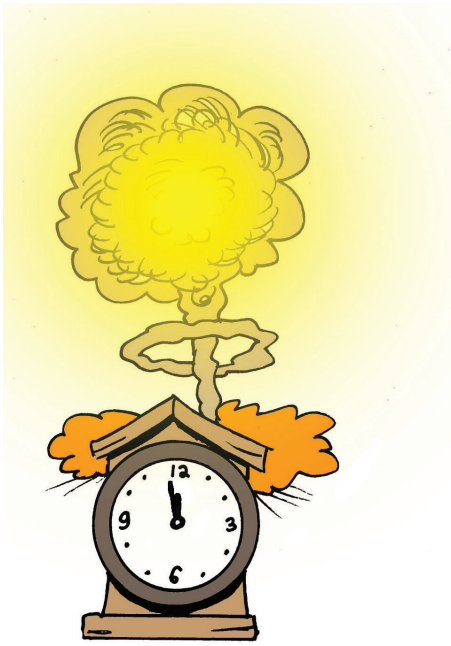
"This is all the more concerning because once you've accumulated so many weapons, you have to move the stock one way or another. (...) This tension could lead Canada to become more readily involved in military conflicts or to become a more significant player in international arms markets. (...) It is clear that the [military-industrial] lobbies will pressure the government to use [the weapons] or allow their sale to authoritarian or genocidal governments."



Audrey-Laurin Lamothe, IRIS, quoted in Francis Hébert-Bernier, "Le Canada est en voie de devenir une économie de guerre," *Pivot*, July 9, 2026

- **Increased risk of a nuclear conflagration**

The direction Canada and NATO are currently taking, towards increasingly open confrontation with China and Russia, can only lead to more numerous and more devastating wars, and potentially a nuclear holocaust. That isn't impossible. The danger is heightened by the escalating global tensions and the arms race. The New START treaty between the United States and Russia, the last guardrail limiting the two countries' nuclear stockpiles, expired on February 4, 2026.



Created in 1947, the Doomsday Clock measures the dangers threatening civilization, such as nuclear war, climate change, and, more recently, artificial intelligence.

The Doomsday Clock: 85 seconds to midnight

On January 27, 2026, the *Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists* set its Doomsday Clock to 85 seconds to midnight, the closest it has been in its history. They explained:

“Russia, China, the United States, and other major countries have instead become increasingly aggressive, adversarial, and nationalistic. Hard-won global understandings are collapsing, accelerating a winner-takes-all great power competition and undermining the international cooperation critical to reducing the risks of nuclear war, climate change, the misuse of biotechnology, the potential threat of artificial intelligence, and other apocalyptic dangers.”

6. The far right and new forms of fascism on the rise globally

The shift towards war preparations and the militarization of our economies is unfolding against a backdrop of resurgent far-right parties and movements around the world.

Currently or recently in power in many countries (the United States, India, Argentina, Italy, the Czech Republic, Chile, El Salvador, Brazil, Hungary and Poland, among others)—and, at the time of writing, on the threshold of power elsewhere, including France and the U.K.—these parties and movements deny the climate emergency, advocate untrammelled exploitation of the planet’s resources, and sneer at our shared humanity. They want to recover the lost greatness of the “nation” and the patriarchal family, and blame immigration, Islam, feminism, gender diversity and “woke” complacency about these scourges for what they see as the decline of civilization. The far-right glorifies force and fuels unabashed racism and toxic masculinity. Once in power, it attacks rights and freedoms, erases checks and balances, and turns to increasingly violent repression to rapidly impose its will on an entire society and crush resistance.

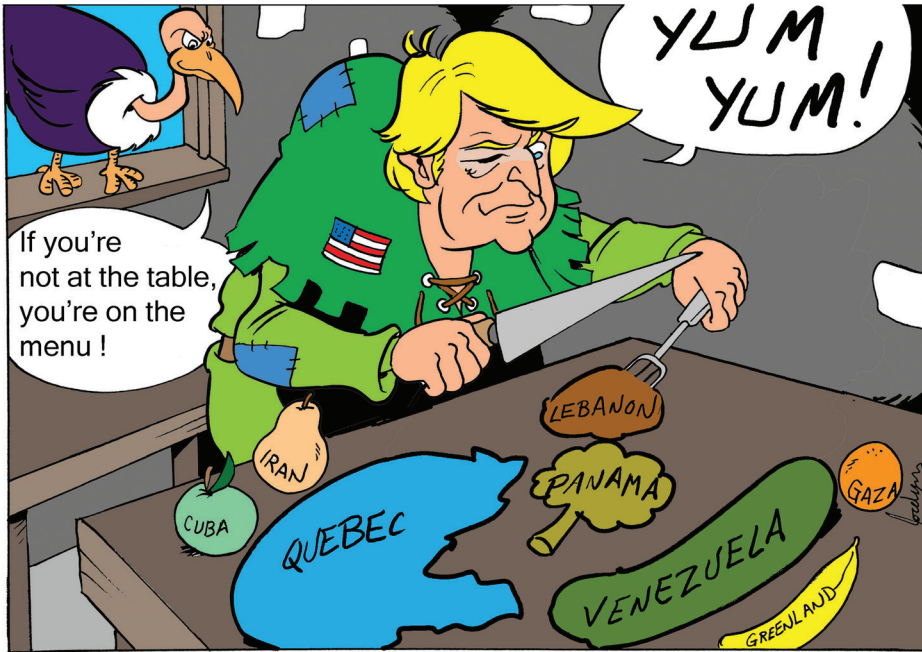
The fast-paced implementation of this far-right agenda in the United States since 2025 is particularly alarming for us and for the entire world, for it is driving the new global upsurge in militarism.

Donald Trump was elected partly on his promise to end the forever wars in which the United States had entangled itself. At the start of his term, he cast himself as the greatest peacemaker of all time, a candidate for the Nobel Peace Prize. Those days are long gone. Trump has become the man who:

- launched the illegal U.S. war against Iran;
- changed the name of the Department of Defense to the Department of War and wants to increase its budget by 42% in 2027;
- signed an executive order designating the U.S. anti-fascist movement as a domestic terrorist organization;
- ordered the Department of Justice, the FBI and other national security agencies to focus on “left-wing” political violence in the United States;
- summoned every senior military officer to tell them they must be ready to fight the enemy within;
- is sending the National Guard and ICE into Democratic-run cities to violently hunt down and deport undocumented immigrants (who he says are all dangerous criminals) and has tripled the budget of ICE and its masked thugs;
- is taking almost personal control of Gaza and Venezuela, while telling the world he doesn’t care about international law;
- openly interferes in the internal affairs of other countries to help far-right parties take power;
- has made self-aggrandizing rhetoric and the cult of personality a leitmotif of his presidency.

“It would be foolhardy to think we are immune to such institutional breakdown. The vulnerabilities that Donald Trump has exploited to dismantle American democracy also exist in Quebec and Canada. There is no lack of instruments for undermining our institutions: abuse of executive power, the party line, emergency measures, legal loopholes...”

Louis-Philippe Lampron
Law Faculty
Université Laval



**On the imperialist menu.
Trump the isolationist...
really?**

**The glorification
of brute force
and violence—a
hallmark of the
far right—has
reached new
heights.**

The glorification of brute force and violence, a hallmark of the far right, reached new heights in U.S. rhetoric during the U.S.-Israeli war on Iran in 2026. In a March 4 press conference, Secretary of War Pete Hegseth bragged about the U.S. military's performance, stating: "This was never meant to be a fair fight, and it is not a fair fight. We are punching them while they're down, which is exactly how it should be." On April 7, President Trump posted on his social media platform: "A whole civilization will die tonight, never to be brought back again. I don't want that to happen, but it probably will." He repeated the monstrous threat on May 17: "For Iran, the Clock is Ticking, and they better get moving, FAST, or there won't be anything left of them."

Trump has no more respect for democracy and its checks and balances than he does for international law. He openly tries to manipulate elections and discredits them in advance if he expects poor results. But we must not lose sight of the fact that his power is not the power of one man. Large sectors of U.S. big business, which profit enormously from his policies, stand behind him and rely on the sometimes brutal repression he practices to maintain those policies and the systematic diversion of public resources to the ultra-rich. Conditions are ripe for a fascist coup and the abandonment of any pretence of democracy.

Clearly, we are not in a similar situation in Quebec and Canada at this point. But the seeds are already visible. While claiming to stand up to U.S. bullying, Mark Carney's new Liberal government has moved quickly to introduce similar policies of its own. In Quebec, immigrants and refugees are being scapegoated for everything from the housing crisis and overstretched social services to a "culture of violence." Repressive laws have been adopted by both the Quebec and federal governments.

7. Reject the logic of war for the good of humanity

The astronomical sums our governments are preparing to pour into military spending should go instead toward meeting real human needs, at home and around the world. As the UN Secretary-General pointed out last year, less than 4% of current military spending would be enough to eradicate world hunger by 2030, and just over 10% to fully vaccinate every child on Earth. And funding is needed for the global transition to a green economy in order to ensure climate justice and the well-being of humanity and all living things.

At a time when housing, health care and education are woefully underfunded in Quebec and across Canada, infrastructure is crumbling and a new era of budget-cutting is setting in, increasing military spending and creating jobs in arms manufacturing is certainly not the answer to our pressing social needs.

Clearly, our priorities and those of our governments are not the same. The investments they champion—in the military, fossil fuels, data centres and artificial intelligence—will further enrich the ultra-rich and leave more people struggling to get by.

A broad mobilization across all sectors of civil society in Quebec and Canada is needed to fight the increase in military spending that jeopardizes the future of our society and all humanity, and to demand that this money be used for our many critical social, humanitarian and ecological needs. We are fighting on many fronts—against militarism, against the rise of the far right, for climate action, to preserve and expand our social programs, to protect our rights and maintain advocacy organizations—but always against the same foes. We must wage all these vital struggles together.

This is our only hope for a better future.

For a world of peace and justice, fight militarism!

To protect the security of all the peoples of the world, we must say NO to the logic of confrontation and hatred, exploitation and domination.



International Meeting Against War, June 20, 2026, London.



LE COLLECTIF
ÉCHEC à la GUERRE



“Every gun that is made, every warship launched, every rocket fired signifies, in the final sense, a theft from those who hunger and are not fed, those who are cold and are not clothed. This world in arms is not spending money alone. It is spending the sweat of its labourers, the genius of its scientists, the hopes of its children.”

Dwight D. Eisenhower, 1953

**Carney wants to devote 5% of Canada's GDP to war,
while social needs are SPIRALLING !**



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