

Break through the crisis of war created by the US-China confrontation!

Oppose the nuclear arms race between the US and China-Russia!

Build up solidarity among workers and people of the world against war and impoverishment!

The Executive Committee for the 57th International Antiwar Assembly

- Zengakuren [All-Japan Federation of Students' Self-Governing Associations]
- Antiwar Youth Committee
- Japan Revolutionary Communist League (Revolutionary Marxist Faction)

Comrades all over the world! We are holding the 57th International Antiwar Assemblies in Tokyo and six other cities in Japan on August 4th, with renewed resolve never to allow the same atrocities to be committed as in Hiroshima and Nagasaki, where hundreds of thousands of people were burnt in the nuclear blazes 74 years ago, for the first time in human history.

The world is in a critical, volatile situation. Imperialist America is ready for attacking Iran, while in East Asia, US-Japanese forces and Chinese (and Russian) forces are directing threats and intimidations against each other in the South China Sea and the Taiwan Strait by mobilizing their respective warships and warplanes in the forms of exercises and other operations. What's worse, US, Chinese and Russian rulers, who have already armed their states with tremendous nuclear weapons, have started a new race for further strengthening their nuclear capabilities, an arms race in outer space and cyberspace. US and Chinese rulers are clashing against each other over hegemony in the 21st century, so that the present situation is fraught with danger that could plunge the world into nuclear infernos. People all over the world! Let us rise in antiwar struggle now!

Here in Japan, with the G20 Summit in Osaka approaching, Zengakuren and the Antiwar Youth Committee staged resolute demonstrations under the banner, 'Stop US imperialism's military attack on Iran! Denounce the nuclear arms race between the US and China-Russia!' (on June 16th and 23rd). Militant workers and students levelled bitter denunciations against Trump, Xi, Putin and other criminal rulers as well as Abe of Japan, all of whom were to meet in Osaka. Comrades of the world! We call on you to fight together with us.

Stop US imperialism's military attack on Iran!

The Trump administration is watching for a chance to attack the Shiite Islamic Republic of Iran hostile to the US, having deployed an aircraft carrier strike group with B-52 strategic bombers in the Persian Gulf. We must not allow US imperialism to attack Iran.

US forces nearly carried out bombing on June 20th, right after Trump gave them an order to destroy Iran's radar facilities under the pretext of 'retaliation' for Iran's shoot-down of a spy drone that US forces intentionally flew into Iran's airspace. A week before this provocative action, at the time when Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe was to meet Ali Khamenei, the Supreme Leader of Iran, a Japanese tanker was attacked along with another one near the Strait of Hormuz. The Trump administration claims that Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps is responsible for the attack, but obviously this is a conspiracy engineered by US imperialist rulers themselves. Since



Zengakuren students marching against the G20 Summit Meeting and against a US military attack on Iran, June 23rd, Osaka.

Khamenei has been reiterating that Iran is not looking forward to war with America, it is impossible that the Revolutionary Guards under his control should attack a Japanese tanker in the middle of the Khamenei-Abe meeting.

We should keep in mind that conspiracies are familiar means that have been used by US imperialism to fabricate pretexts for launching wars on other countries. If America launches an attack on Iran, Israel and Saudi Arabia will join; the fires of war will spread all over the Middle East.

By saying it was a Japanese tanker that was targeted, the Trump administration will no doubt press Japan to send its troops to the Persian Gulf. Unless Japanese workers and people fight against the dispatch, the Abe-led Japanese government, which is chained to the new US-Japan military alliance, will accept it by exploiting the notorious war law dubbed 'legislation for peace and security'. It is just a month ago that Trump visited the military port of Yokosuka during his stay in Japan and reviewed hundreds of US and Japanese troops on the Japanese Maritime Self-Defence Force ship Kaga, which was due to be upgraded to an aircraft carrier. With Abe standing beside him, Trump addressed, 'The JS Kaga will help our nations defend ... in the region and far beyond', and '[Improving Japan's defence capabilities] also advances the security of the United States of America'. That was nothing other than a ceremony held before sending the US navy and Japanese troops under US command to the Persian Gulf.

Since its one-sided secession from the international nuclear deal with Iran, the Trump administration has imposed cruel economic sanctions, which have brought hardships to Iranian people, and is now preparing to launch a military attack.

Imperialist America is desperate to hit Iran, because Iran is rising in rivalry with pro-American countries, such as Israel and Saudi Arabia, by forming the so-called Shiite crescent together with Syria and Iraq. This drastic shift in the political dynamics in the region is a result brought about by the miserable defeat in Bush's war on Iraq, Obama's failed intervention by means of the so-called Arab Spring and the subsequent chaos, as represented by the rise of the self-styled Islamic State.

This is not all. Behind Iran and Syria stand Russia and China, which are in a bitter confrontation with the US. Iranian President Hassan Rouhani joined, as an observer, in the Shanghai Cooperation Organization Summit, where he asked Xi Jinping and Vladimir Putin for support. Because of this confrontation with China and Russia, Trump as the US imperialist ruler is hell-bent on suppressing the anti-American country of Iran.

The Trump administration openly supports Israel's occupation of Palestine and cruel bombardments on Gaza; it has even recognized Jerusalem as Israel's capital though it is a sacred place for Muslims. This outrageous attitude widely aroused indignation among Muslim people in the region. While pressuring Iran with armed force to give up its nuclear development, this administration tolerates Israel's nuclear armament. It has also sold a huge amount of US-made weapons to the monarchist regime of Saudi Arabia with the aim of bringing it over to an anti-Iranian network.

A bitter rivalry between the US and China for hegemony in the 21st-century world

The world in which we live has now entered a new phase. The militarist empire of America, irritated at the fact that it has fallen from the status of 'the sole superpower', is bent on making other countries servile to itself. On the other hand, China, the 'country of market socialism', which is ambitious to be a new hegemon in the world, is displaying 'Sino-centric' behaviour more than ever. The confrontation between the two over hegemony in the 21st-century world is heating up with an unprecedented intensity.

Aiming to seize command of the western Pacific Ocean from the US, Xi Jinping-led China has built up its naval power and is now expanding its range of military operations into the western Pacific, and further into the Indian Ocean, by using those artificial islands constructed in the South China Sea as its military bases. A Chinese aircraft carrier frequently sails between Japan's Okinawan islands and enters the Pacific Ocean. Even a near-collision occurred recently, after a bilateral Sino-Russian military exercise was conducted, in the Philippine Sea between a US warship and a Russian ship. Against these moves, imperialist America is bent on building up a military containment against China by mobilizing its allies, including Japan and Australia. Attended by Japanese forces, US forces are carrying out threatening actions in succession in the South China Sea, straight before Chinese forces, and even successively staging military demonstrations with US warships sailing through the Taiwan Strait.

This is not all. China has developed space weapons that can destroy US military satellites, indispensable to the reconnaissance, communication and commanding network without which the US troops cannot move. China, as well as Russia, has also developed and deployed ultra-supersonic missiles, which can break through the US forces' missile defence systems. Faced with China's catch-up that could undermine the US's overwhelming supremacy in

nuclear military power, the Trump administration is now taking steps to roll back, shouting that America will ‘reconstruct the world’s strongest forces’. This administration has launched a comprehensive military build-up, whose domains include not only land, sea and air but also outer space, cyberspace and electromagnetics. The nuclear arms race is thus being escalated with unprecedented cruelty. Small-scale nuclear bombs called ‘usable nukes’ have already been developed; also being developed are weapons of the type that automatically ‘recognize’ enemies and ‘decide’ whether to attack them or not depending on artificial intelligence installed in them.

The military confrontation between the US and China is directly connected with their struggle for supremacy in advanced technologies. The Xi regime is bent on developing high-tech industries under the special patronage of the state. In opposition to it, the Trump administration demanded that the Chinese government should abolish its subsidies to state-owned high-tech companies. The Xi government totally rejects this demand, considering that such a ‘structural’ demand is intended to undermine the very basis of ‘the country of market socialism’.

As President of the declining militarist empire of America, Donald Trump, under the doctrines of ‘America First’ and ‘Keep America Great’ (which are no doctrines at all), is pressing other countries to be servile to ‘the will of the state’ of the US, regardless of the differences in the nature of the state or in the ruling form — whether they are self-styled ‘People’s Republics’ (such as China and North Korea) or the ‘Islamic Republic’ (Iran), or even whether they are America’s allied countries or not. By regarding anyone who would undermine America’s status or act against it as being ‘evil’, Trump imposes military threats and economic sanctions on it. In this sense, the Trump administration — even though it does not adopt, in terms of military strategy and economic strategy, the strategy of preemptive attack or that of plundering natural resources, as adopted by the Bush presidency — holds *that* arrogant way of thinking replete with unreserved state egoism, as seen in the imposition of America’s state will on other countries by exercising influence resting on the military supremacy and financial sway, which are still held by US imperialism despite its apparent decline.

Xi-led China, on the other hand, is ambitious to be ‘the hegemon in the 21st-century world’ in place of imperialist America under the banner ‘great revival of the Chinese nation’. This ‘country of market socialism’ guided by the Communist Party of China, a neo-Stalinist party of the Chinese type, is hell-bent to safeguard its so-called ‘core interests’, which include the annexation of Taiwan and the possession of the Spratly (Nansha) Islands and the Paracel (Xisha) Islands. It is intent on building up a China-centred extensive economic sphere dubbed ‘One Belt One Road’ while domestically it is oppressing the toiling masses under the coercive ruling system. Ethnic minorities are suffering from cruel repressions. And maintaining close ties to China is Russia led by Putin, who wants the revival of his country as ‘a great power’.

Because of this head-on confrontation between the US and China, plus Russia, a military attack on Iran by US imperialism, as well as an armed clash between US-Japanese forces and Chinese-Russian forces in the South China Sea or in the Taiwan Strait, is pregnant with the real possibility of becoming the opening of a Third World War.

No to the strengthening of the US-Japan nuclear military alliance! Stop the revision of the Constitution of Japan!

On JS Kaga in May, Imperialist Japan’s Prime Minister Shinzo Abe pledged allegiance to Trump: ‘Japan will firmly fulfil its role with a view to further strengthening the Japan-US alliance’. That ceremony, which was held against the backdrop of a gigantic Stars and Stripes and a Rising Sun, was almost one for sending a combined US-Japanese force abroad, to war.

Trump is pressing one demand after another on Japan by saying, ‘Offer more troops and more money to America’ and ‘Buy US-made weapons more’. Abe is obediently accepting them, thus revealing that the Japanese state is in servitude to America under the yoke of the new US-Japan military alliance. His government has decided to buy a tremendous amount of weapons from the US, including 147 F-35 fighter planes (at a unit price of a hundred million dollar). It is forcibly constructing a new US base in Henoko, Okinawa, by violently trampling down the unbending anti-base struggle of the Okinawan people by mobilizing police and coast guard units.



Protesters blocking a gate of the US Camp Schwab against the new base construction, March 25th, Okinawa.

Right now, this government is building up the Japanese military called Self-Defence Forces so that the forces can fully carry out bilateral military actions under the command of US forces. This is the reason why Abe is scheming to scrap Article 9 of the current Constitution of Japan, which stipulates the renunciation of ‘the right of belligerency of the state’ and ‘the possession of war potentials’, as well as to add a provision for vesting the Prime Minister with emergency powers. Moreover, as a self-proclaimed ‘right-wing militarist’, Abe justifies the war crimes committed by Japanese militarism in the past, despite successive accusations from Korean people, including former drafted workers and ‘sex slaves’ for Japanese soldiers.

Create antiwar struggle based on proletarian internationalism!

In Japan, we are fighting to smash the reactionary offensives that the Abe government has launched, including constitutional revision, the drastic strengthening of the US-Japan nuclear alliance, and the further tightening of the neo-fascist ruling system.

Comrades all over the world! Let us fight hand in hand beyond borders.

Under the revolutionary slogan ‘Oppose the nuclear arms race between the US and China-Russia’, let us fight to break through the crisis of war created by the US-China clash, with an internationally united power of the toiling masses!

Let us oppose US, Chinese and Russian rulers bent on a space arms race and developments of AI weapons.

Denounce the Zionist Israeli regime for massacring Palestinian people!

Denounce the Assad regime for indiscriminately bombing Idlib!

Despite all this critical situation, no protest action is organized by the existing leaderships of opposition movements in Japan. The leadership of the Rengo [Japanese Confederation of Trade Unions] is even pressing workers not to join in antiwar actions, because it is controlled by labour aristocrats supportive of the government policies to build up ‘defence capacity’. The Japanese Communist Party’s central leadership is doing no work for antiwar struggle. It is immersed in vote-collecting for the coming national elections. Worse yet, having abandoned its opposition to the US-Japan Security Treaty, it has openly declared that a JCP-joined coalition government ‘will take a joint Japanese-US action in a national emergency according to the Security Treaty’. JCP leaders have totally yielded to nationalism propagated by the government in the name of ‘national defence’. Against this inexcusable degeneration of the existing leaderships of opposition movements, we are fighting to prevent a US attack on Iran and leading the struggle of Japanese workers and people against the constitutional revision.

Comrades all over the world!

In various countries, we are witnessing ‘mini Trumps’ hanging about and shouting ‘Our Country First’. While toiling masses are coerced into poverty amid multilayered contradictions arising from ‘the globalization of the capitalist economy’ and the EU market consolidation, those nationalists are attempting to divert people’s anger from the ruling class to immigrant and refugee workers. They are playing the role of dividing the working class. Let us smash exclusionist instigation with the united struggle of the working class.

We call on the workers and people all over the world.

Be aware of the imminence of a Third World War amid the present clash between the US and China! Fight to create an antiwar struggle! Smash the rulers’ propaganda for nationalism! It is only the united struggle of the working class across borders that can eradicate the crisis of war. Let all the warmongering rulers tremble before the internationally united fight of the toiling, ruled masses suffering hardships. Stir up the flame of antiwar struggle based on proletarian internationalism!

(June 30th, 2019)

We welcome your message of solidarity!

The central meeting of the Assembly will be held in Tokyo, and regional meetings in Sapporo, Kanazawa, Nagoya, Osaka, Fukuoka and Okinawa, on the same day, Sunday, August 4th. (Right: last year’s meeting in Tokyo.)

Contact:

The Executive Committee for the 57th International Antiwar Assembly
525-3 Waseda-tsurumakicho, Shinjuku-ku, Tokyo, 162-0041 Japan

Phone: +81-3-3207-1261

Fax: +81-3-5273-2351

antiwar@jrcl.org

