

## Is this a New Era of UN Imperialism?

No!  
It's more of the same.

## The United States & Imperialism

- **The US is the foremost proponent of imperialism and leading antagonist of revolutionary change throughout the world.**
- **The United States is the prime purveyor and guardian of global capitalism.**
- **The U.S. empire is the most formidable in history**
  - **Judging by the size of its financial investments and military force**
  - **judging by every imperialist standard except direct colonization,**

## The beginning of the 20th Century

- **In 1907, Woodrow Wilson recognized the support role played by the capitalist state on behalf of private capital.**
- **Wilson noted that the United States was involved in a struggle to**
  - **"command the economic fortunes of the world."**

## At the End of the 20 Century

- The "Defense Planning Guidance" (1992), designed by Dick Cheney and Paul Wolfowitz at the end of Desert Storm, stated:
  - **The US would defend its status as pre-eminent military power by maintaining its lead over all others**
  - **It would reserve the right to "act independently when collective action cannot be orchestrated."**
  - **It promulgated the then novel doctrine of "pre-emptive" strikes against unfriendly states that acquired biological, chemical or nuclear weapons.**
  - **There was a howl of protest at the bellicose tone and unabashed unilateralism seemed a betrayal of the "New World Order."**

## At the Beginning of the 21st Century

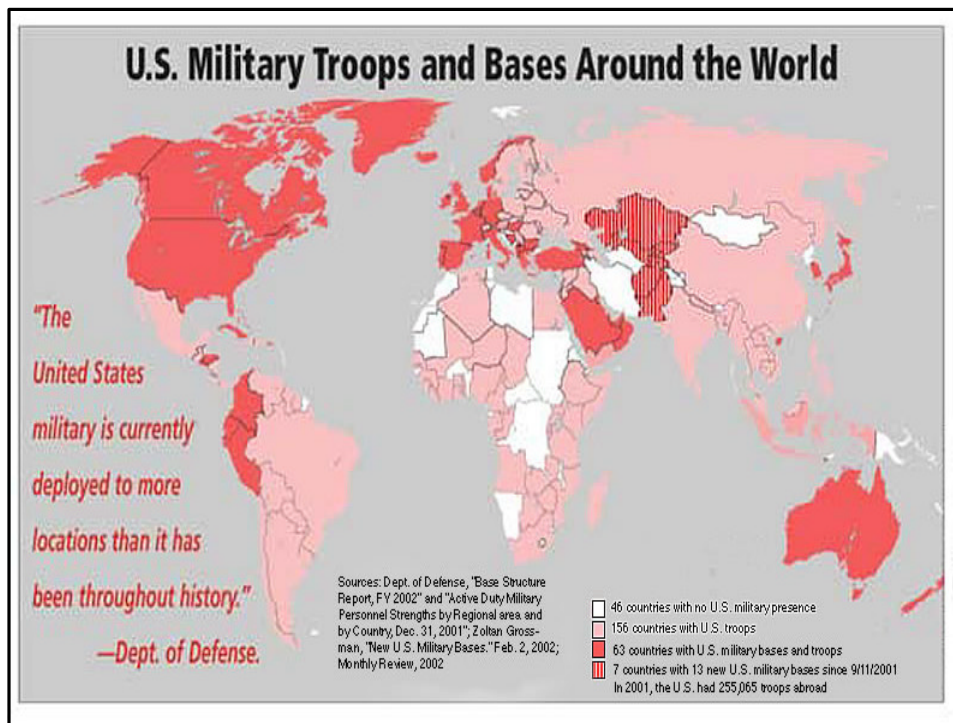
- **The Chaney/Wolfowitz plan of 1992 was submitted to Congress in September, 2002, as George W Bush's new "National Security Strategy."**
- **It urges the United States to:**
  - **Continue to dominate the international system by "discouraging the advanced industrialized nations from challenging our leadership or even aspiring to a larger global or regional role."**
  - **By maintaining this dominance, the Pentagon analysts assert, the United States can insure "a market-oriented zone of peace and prosperity that encompasses more than two-thirds of the world's economy".**

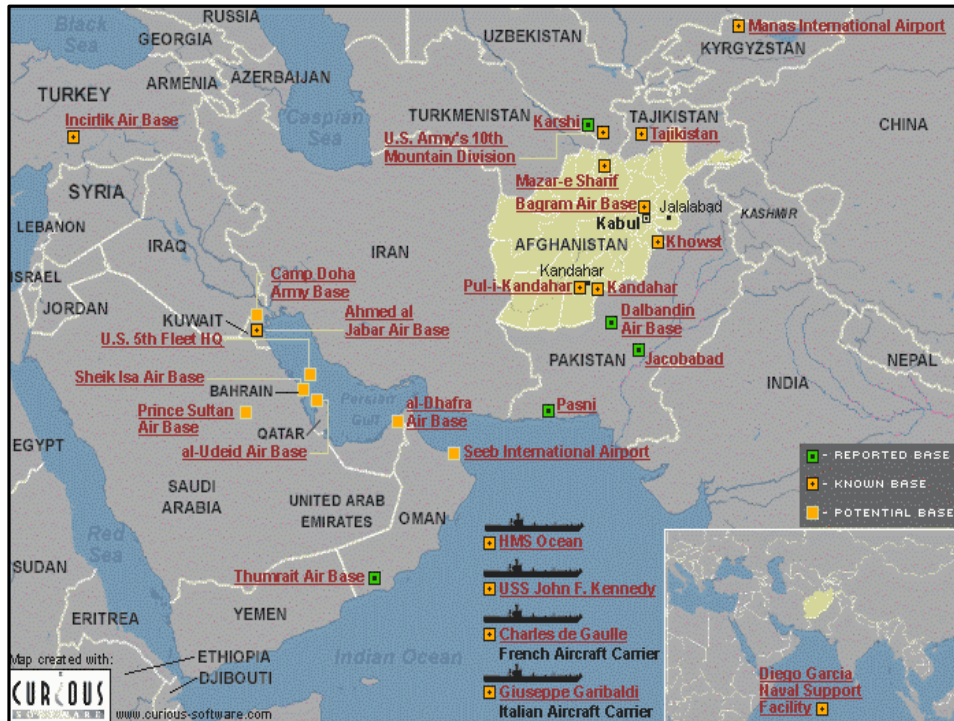
## A Global Military Empire

- According to Chalmers Johnson, author of *Blowback: The Costs and Consequences of American Empire*
  - **US military bases, numbering into the hundreds around the world, are today's version of the imperial colonies**
  - **Washington may refer to them as "forward deployment", says Johnson, but colonies are what they are.**

## A Global Military Empire - 2

- **Pentagon figures show that there is a US military presence, large or small, in 132 of the 190 member states of the United Nations.**
  - **The US has military bases, or base rights, in some 40 countries across the world.**
  - **This gives the US the same control as if it ruled those countries directly.**





## Ruling by Remote Control

- Since World War II, the U.S. government has given more than \$200 billion in military aid to train, equip, and subsidize more than 2.3 million troops and internal security forces in more than eighty countries.
- The purpose of this aid is:
  - **not to defend them from outside invasions;**
  - **but to protect ruling oligarchs and multinational corporate investors from the dangers of domestic anti-capitalist insurgency**
- **When the process works, you don't even have to resort to direct force; it is possible to rule by remote control, using friendly client states.**

## Current Example: The "Oil Corridor"

- "More than 70% of the total world oil supply is in the Oil Corridor (shaded area). The two most dangerous enemies of the West--Iraq and Iran--are in the exact center of it.
  - Virtually the entire area is Islamic, and battles between the West and the Islamic world have been fought here since the Middle Ages .
  - Oil experts say the Caspian Sea area may have as much oil as the Persian Gulf." [Copyright 1995 by Henry-Madison Research.]



## Current Examples in the Middle East and Central Asia

- The Atlanta Journal and Constitution [11/14/1999] said control over Caspian oil:
  - **"...would give the United States, Europe and Israel direct access to oil fields that could hold as much as one-fifth of the world's crude, providing a strategic alternative to Western dependence on supplies from the volatile Middle East."**

## Examples - 2

- In an article entitled "Blood and oil flow freely in Caucasus," The South China Morning Post [12/19/1999] notes:
  - **"The hands of the West can clearly be traced in the [Chechnya] crisis' origins - as the competing oil pipelines snaking through the region.**
  - **NATO has been destabilizing the region for the past decade - hinting at future alliances for central Asian republics.**
  - **They did it in Afghanistan and Iraq, they will do it on the Caspian - and it seems very much as though they did it in Chechnya."**

## National Security vs Imperialism

- It has been argued that access to oil/energy is a national security issue for the US...NOT an example of imperialism.
- If this were, the case, why wouldn't our security policy have continued to embrace "energy independence policies" begun under the Nixon Administration, during the oil crises of the 1970s.
- Instead, "alternative energy" & "energy saving" research and support was half-hearted and eventually scrapped in favor of oil dependence.

## Not all interventions occur where the US has investments

- **Critics argue economic factors have not exerted an important influence on U.S. interventionist policy:**
  - they claim most interventions are in countries that have no great natural treasures and no large U.S. investments, such as, Grenada, El Salvador, Nicaragua, and Vietnam.
- **This is like saying that police are not especially concerned about protecting wealth and property because most of their actions take place in poor neighborhoods.**
  - Interventionist forces **do not go** where US capital exists as such; they go where the capitalist system is threatened.