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# Millions on the streets say **NO** racism war genocide



**T**he resistance to Trump, war and racism was on full display on Saturday, March 28 around the world.

In the US at least 8 million people came together in the largest single-day non-violent protest in modern American history - one million more than the No Kings protests in October.

In its top story after March 28th the lead headline in the *New York Times* was:

“Thousands of ‘No Kings’ protests unfolded across the country on Saturday. Many demonstrators were galvanized by the war in Iran, but the fighting in the Middle East was hardly the only issue on the minds of frustrated protesters.”

The protests targeted ICE, Trump, war and economic crisis. More than 3,300 communities participated, including 600 new locations in mostly rural, red communities. Over

200,000 people attended the flagship event in the Twin Cities.

These protests are not finished. Organizers are planning a country wide day of action on May 1st.

The protests were not confined to the US. On the same day, 500,000 marched in London UK against the far-right; 300,000 came out in Rome against war and racism; and there were many other protests in countries around the

world. This shows the possibilities of global resistance to the horrors of imperialist war, racism and ruling class destruction.

The Carney Liberals have shown that they are on side with the Imperial powers and their agenda of war and genocide. We need to take the lessons from the historic day of action on March 28 and apply them here to fight Carney’s racist, militarist and planet killing policies.

# Avi Lewis wins - prepare to fight the NDP's right wing

by: Bradley Hughes

**A**vi Lewis won the race for the leader of the New Democratic Party at their convention in Winnipeg. He received a majority — 56% of the vote — on the first ballot, cleanly beating the second place finisher, Edmonton MP Heather McPherson who secured 29% of the vote.

It was a decisive win that pushed against the party establishment who were largely championing McPherson. Other candidates represented the pull of the status quo of “respectable” politics. This vote was a clear rejection of that.

The leadership vote followed another upset as the continuity slate, championed by the union bureaucrats, for the officers of the federal party council came up short to a new slate closely tied to the Lewis campaign. This is another sign of how out of touch union leaders are from their members - both left and right members.

Lewis was able to build momentum by relating to the politics of the movements against the war on Iran and against the genocide in Palestine and by building platform planks on a green new deal style politics. He tapped into the anger bubbling up against the bosses calling for a public grocery option and to tax the rich to pay for social programs.

The left should applaud the victory as a chance to push for a left pole of attraction that can begin to go after Mark Carney and the Liberals who are enacting hard right neo-liberal policies — attacking immigrants, gutting social services and massively increasing military

spending.

The NDP and particularly the federal leadership paid a high price for propping up the Trudeau government as it attacked workers rights and trampled Indigenous sovereignty. That support made the NDP look irrelevant to the political scene in Canada.

Only NDP members can save Lewis from party insiders.

Even before the convention, NDP knives were out for Lewis. Provincial leaders who are in bed with oil and gas corporations have started sewing divisions in the party by attacking Lewis for being divisive. Back in February, Alberta NDP leader Naheed Nenshi told reporters that he had met with Lewis, McPherson and Ashton to warn them not to get in the way of his campaign against the Alberta Conservatives. In an interview with the CBC he said “We don’t have the luxury in Alberta to get caught up in ideological battles ... within our own party.”

Immediately after Lewis’s win, Nenshi told CBC that the direction of the federal NDP is “not in the interests of Alberta.”

Similarly Carla Beck, leader of the Saskatchewan NDP refused to meet with Lewis during the leadership campaign, and said, “it’s impossible to support — and respect — working people without respecting the jobs they have, not the ones you think they should have.... The positions you have expressed publicly... are antithetical to the values of a party built with and for working people.”

Of course, it’s impossible to respect working people if you place the need for oil and gas profits above the lives of the 600 people who died

in the 2021 BC heat dome that also created the wildfire that destroyed Lytton BC. This reverence for fossil fuel profits is also responsible for the wildfires that destroyed much of Fort McMurray and Jasper.

British Columbia NDP Premier David Eby, and Nova Scotia NDP leader Claudia Chender refused to even attend the national NDP convention.

The greatest danger for the federal

NDP right now is the party’s old guard who have successfully turned the NDP into a neoliberal party that looks after the interests of the 1%.

Lewis sounds different. It remains to be seen if he will moderate his tone as so many have before him. If he does not, then it will be up to the membership of the NDP to save him from the NDP apparatus. We saw with the campaigns of Corbyn in the UK Labour Party and Sanders

in the US Democratic party (which is not a social democratic party) that the right wing will organize to lose an election rather than see a left candidate win.

The prospects for the membership of the NDP being able to control their own party are not good. In BC, NDP Premier Eby has accelerated the slide to the right that has been necessitated by his government’s support for massive increases in fracked gas extraction and export.

Eby has stolen planks from the “freedom convoy” inspired by BC conservatives. He supports making it harder for accused to be released on bail and he has a plan to replace mental health care with incarceration. After the historic land claims win for the Quw’utsun (Cowichan) Nation he joined the racist right in denouncing the decision and says that the province will amend its own UNDRIP legislation so that it doesn’t apply to provincial laws.

After all this, he won 83% of delegates against calling for a leadership review. This shows how obedient the membership has become to a party that doesn’t answer to them.

In order for Avi Lewis to succeed he needs to empower the membership of the NDP to control the direction of the party. This will not be easy.

He will be faced with choosing building outside parliamentary channels or succumbing to the logic of parliamentary politics.

Speed is of the essence - they should launch socialist renewal forums in cities across the country to build up and prepare to defeat the right in the party and build opposition fights in the unions.



Lewis celebrates with supporters in Winnipeg

## OpenAI's never-ending identity crisis

by: Brie Santiago

**W**hen OpenAI was first introduced to the world in 2015, the company’s goal was to provide safe, not-for-profit research tools for everyone. Since then, under Sam Altman’s leadership, their mission statement has changed six times. OpenAI has evolved into a US\$730 billion company, whose ChatGPT alone burns through more energy than some small countries—a long way off from their promises in 2015. In March 2026, OpenAI announced the shutdown of Sora, their video generation program, due to controversy about deepfakes and consent. This also ended a hefty deal with Disney.

In late 2024, Sora was made available to the public. The Sora app reached one million downloads in under five days. Last December, OpenAI announced a three-year licensing agreement with Disney worth US\$1 billion in equity, centered on Sora 2. This deal would have allowed users to generate AI videos with over 200 licensed Disney characters. According to OpenAI,

the deal would make “a selection of these fan-inspired Sora short form videos available to stream on Disney+.” The announcement also claimed that Disney would be using ChatGPT to “build new products, tools, and experiences, including for Disney+, and deploying ChatGPT for its employees.”

However, OpenAI’s Sora and its successor Sora 2 have taken a lot of heat throughout their short lifespans. Shortly after Sora 2’s launch last September, Altman noted in his blog that OpenAI would “have to somehow make money for video generation.” According to Forbes, Sora was costing OpenAI an estimated US\$15 million a day. In the same blog post, Altman acknowledged that consent policies weren’t being enforced as intended, and even noted that he was “struck by how deep the connection between users and Japanese content is!”

Actor Bryan Cranston shared safety concerns regarding Sora 2 with SAG-AFTRA last October after he came across multiple AI-generated videos of himself, including a video reported by the LA Times depicting Cranston with deceased musician

Michael Jackson. According to OpenAI’s policy, people would need to opt in for the use of their voice and likeness, but Cranston had never given his consent. OpenAI also claimed in their initial Sora 2 announcement that they would use “Consent-based likeness using characters.” Reuters reported that OpenAI allegedly contacted various talent agencies and studios only one week before Sora 2’s launch to tell them that if they didn’t want their clients or copyrighted material to be used, they would have to opt out. In November 2025, OpenAI, SAG-AFTRA, Cranston and his representatives

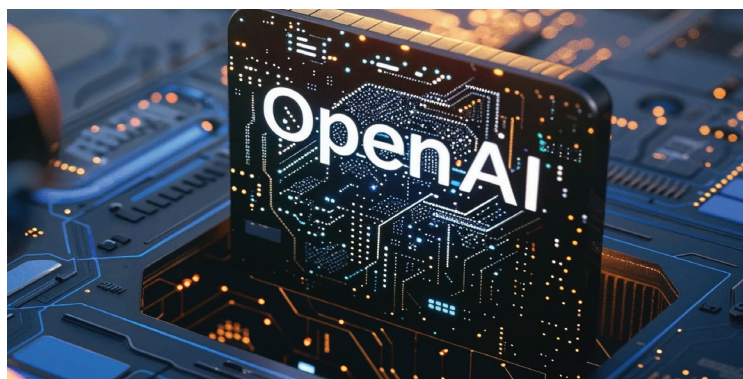
released a joint statement endorsing the NO FAKES Act—proposed federal legislation created to protect performers from unauthorized use of their likeness.

OpenAI has also been called out by the Content Overseas Distribution Association (CODA) regarding parallels between Sora 2’s generated content and common Japanese art styles used in anime and manga. While art styles cannot be copyrighted, CODA alleged that OpenAI had trained Sora 2 on copyrighted works produced by their member studios, such as Studio Ghibli, Bandai Namco, and

Square Enix, without permission. Minoru Kiuchi, Japan’s Minister of State for IP and AI Strategy, sent a formal government request warning OpenAI to voluntarily address consent concerns regarding Japanese content, or face action under their AI Promotion Act.

Under pressure, this March OpenAI finally announced that they would be shutting down Sora and Sora 2 on April 26, 2026. According to Reuters, Disney was informed of the shutdown only 30 minutes after a meeting with OpenAI teams, and no money had ever changed hands.

Last December Altman issued a “code red” to employees, acknowledging that OpenAI had lost its way and refocusing their efforts on improving ChatGPT and less on “side quests”. Along with Sora, their Instant Checkout project was canceled and an adult chatbot was postponed indefinitely. OpenAI, a company that once promised that ChatGPT would be a safe, not-for-profit research tool for everyone, has managed to burn through both its morals and the planet’s resources while wasting hundreds of millions of dollars on unsuccessful projects.



# Carney's Military Spending Impacts of a Blood-Soaked Budget

by: Kim McAuley

On March 26 in Halifax, Defence Minister McGuinty and Prime Minister Carney announced more military spending. This time more than \$3 billion in defence spending in "Atlantic Canada." Earlier in March in a similar trip to Yellowknife, Carney committed \$40 billion in "Canada's North and Arctic" for military infrastructure and "Northern Operational Support Hubs to the Mackenzie Valley Highway and the Grays Bay Road and Port project", which he referenced again in Halifax. This comes days after announcing that they are buying 65,000 new rifles. The first 30,000 rifles will cost more than \$10,000 each or \$307 million in total.

McGuinty and Carney padded their speeches with nationalist rhetoric, fear mongering and positioned themselves as white saviours. "Over the next decade Canada will unleash a half-a-trillion dollars in defence and defence-related investments; from submarines and aircraft to drones, sensors and radar systems. We will build the essential infrastructure for our security needs."

McGuinty opened by noting that "Canada needs to act with strength, purpose and urgency; we need to be ready to defend, lead and protect what "matters most"; he recognized the women and men of the Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) who when called upon, have always answered; and stated that we owe them and their families a great debt for their service and sacrifice." He didn't actually state what "matters most". But the words Canada, Canadian and Sovereignty were repeated over and over and over again. They both referenced sacrifices but didn't specify what they are. They didn't need to. We all grimly know.

Carney thanked members of the forces five times in his opening lines, paying lip service to their enormous responsibilities and sacri-

ifice and stating that we've relied on their dedication for too long, before outlining a commitment to pay them "properly" and arm them with the best equipment.

There has been no mention in any of the defence spending announcements of money to care for veterans - the next generation of traumatized service personnel - or their families.

Carney reassured and bolstered confidence by outlining his government's "ambitious plan to rebuild, rearm and reinvest in the CAF." He invoked sure victory and celebration - perhaps he sees himself carried on shoulders by cheering crowds in the street - by referencing that heady time after the fall of the Berlin Wall, literally stating "This is the first time since the fall of the Berlin Wall that Canada will be spending 2% of GDP on defence."

The feds have spent over \$60 billion on defence in ten months. NATO confirmed on March 26 that Canada has "achieved its 2% defence expenditure target". In Carney's words "the 2% is not a ceiling for Canada's defence investment, but rather the foundation". The 2026 Defence Industrial Strategy's spend of \$81.8 billion to "rearm", focuses on Arctic security, AI and cybersecurity "while creating roughly 125,000 jobs".

In reality, this is a staggering

diversion of public funds which will gut healthcare, housing, education, our environment, and our quality of life. It will hamper the rehabilitation, and prevent the "prosperity", of those most vulnerable in our society - the young, the old, the sick, the differently-abled and the institutionalized.

Meanwhile, Ontario is facing a \$13.8 billion deficit, and the province won't run a surplus until 2028-29. The economic uncertainty is blamed on Trump's tariffs on autos, aluminum and steel. Finance Minister, Peter Bethlenfalvy noted his budget is "prudent". The Globe & Mail describes this as a "red-ink-soaked budget", after budgets issued by BC, Alberta and Quebec, who will also spend billions more than they plan to collect in tax money.

It's more accurate to call these budgets blood-soaked. Impacts will be felt most by the already hardest hit in our society. The cuts to pay for war have already started. The federal government has slashed funding to prison libraries and mental health supports. The cuts to Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship - include defunding language training, credential recognition, and Interim Housing Assistance Programs. There is no serious effort to fund increasing costs for healthcare, housing, education. Highways are only invested in

because they're considered military infrastructure.

The government has already started the process of removing 40,000 jobs from the public service. At the end of January, the Public Service Alliance of Canada stated that cuts to public service will delay services like passports and Employment Insurance, noting "we will all pay the price through slower services, longer waits and weaker programs".

Carney's message was clear: if we want housing, a steady income with pay raises, and to have lived a life with meaning - we should join the military or work for Defence in some way. It's an historic tactic used by governments - slash jobs and drive people into the military. And it works very well in areas where there are few job opportunities. People with few options are viewed as dispensable "poverty recruits". Touted as indispensable when they are serving the navy and military, but truly seen as dispensable, whether they are killed "in the line of duty" or come home traumatized and wounded after the war is over. Ask a veteran if they feel they've received fair compensation and support for their sacrifice. Ask a person joining the military now, if they believe - if they come home from war but can no longer support themselves - they will be

adequately compensated or provided with the real support they will need, outside of their family unit.

Nous somme maîtres chez nous, Carney said (this is Liberal Party's electoral slogan from 1962, which opened with "maintenant ou jamais") - we are masters in our own home. He followed quickly in English "we control our destiny".

Carney poses as defending us from Trump, but he's really just another dangerous reactionary. He was practically giddy with hubris on Thursday.

What Carney, Trump and other war mongers of their ilk astonishingly still fail to recognize - especially when invoking historic white male domination - is that the vast majority no longer forgive arrogance and hubris and have moved firmly past the ideology of masters and kings. Carney and Trump are a vanishing breed, who know on some level they're living on borrowed time, before being silenced and relegated to history, by human-led social movements and the fight backs waged by those whose shoulders we stand on and alongside today.

We are most likely about to watch another generation march to war - not only in "foreign" wars, but defending "our own". We will not remain silent or still about it. We can look back and learn from movements like #ShutDownCanada in solidarity with the Wet'suwet'en nation, the anti-war movement that kept Canada out of the war on Iraq and forced the government to bring the troops home from Afghanistan, the Arab Spring, the uprisings against ICE and the Palestine solidarity movement. These lived examples provide proof that our destiny can be in our control.

We will offer alternatives. We will be in the streets to protest and call for NO WAR. While our politicians gird for war yet again, socialists call for broad, revolutionary organization and action to oppose it and create a better world for this generation and those to come.



Carney's massive increases in military spending are an attack on working people

## Carney attacks refugees while destroying medicare

by Michelle Robidoux

On Monday March 16 protests took place at federal Liberal MP offices across the country to call on the Carney government to enforce the Canada Health Act. The protests were a response to the unprecedented threat to Medicare posed by Alberta's recently adopted Bill 11, which blows a massive hole in public healthcare across the country.

In Toronto, dozens of people gathered during rush-hour in front of MP Julie Dzerowicz's office to demand action from the federal government against both Alberta and Ontario's violations of the Act.

A week later, dozens more protested in front of the same office - this time, demanding that the feder-

al government rescind cuts to the Interim Federal Health Program for refugees, to be enacted May 1st.

These cruel cuts will impact the most vulnerable in our society and have been denounced by healthcare providers and refugee advocates across the country. The Canadian Paediatric Society stated that the cuts "will create an insurmountable barrier to essential healthcare for some of the most marginalized families in Canada."

And the cuts are taking place at a time when federal Bill C-12 will mean thousands of people losing their status and facing deportation.

These two Toronto protests underline how the federal Liberals prefer to scapegoat refugees rather than tackle the all-out assault on public health care in Canada - an assault that they are aiding and abetting each day through their si-



Immigrant workers march against C-12 in Montreal

lence on Danielle Smith and Doug Ford's privatization juggernaut.

The federal government is proceeding with huge cuts to social programs and redirecting those funds to military spending. They are happy to direct anger away from themselves even if it fuels Pierre Poilievre and the far right.

To fight Doug Ford and Danielle Smith's attacks on public health care, we need to fight Carney's cuts to the Interim Federal Health Program and demand healthcare for all. The federal Liberals have been in power since 2015. In that time, they have allowed more and more privatization of health care services across the country. Their response to mounting pressure from health care advocates is to attack health care for refugees and allow the privatization of our health care system to continue unabated.

# War on Iran exposes US weakness

*The US-Israeli led attack on Iran is accelerating the decline of US power globally*

by: Sid Lacombe and Canaan Sahin

It is difficult to pin down the full aims of the US-Israeli war on Iran, but one thing is already clear: the war is not going to plan. The world economy is edging toward recession as disruption in the Strait of Hormuz throws global energy supplies into chaos. The US claimed it would destroy Iran's military capabilities, yet there is no sign that it has done so. Iran continues to launch attacks on Israel and on US assets in the Gulf. The second goal, regime change, has also failed.

As readers of this paper know, for years, we have argued that the US is in relative economic decline in relation to China. The productive foundations of US global power have been hollowed out. In 1945, the US accounted for roughly half of world manufacturing output. By 2024, China produced close to 30 percent of global manufacturing value added, while the US accounted for only about 10 percent.

China's reliance on Iranian fossil fuels has long made Iran a target in wider US strategy. US war hawks have wanted an attack on Iran for decades as a way to weaken the Chinese economy. Yet, these ambitions were repeatedly checked by planners in the Pentagon, who understood the scale of the risk. Iran is far larger and more militarily capable than the targets of previous US wars. It has advanced missile and drone capacity, almost one million soldiers, and difficult geography, surrounded by mountains and protected by terrain that makes invasion extraordinarily costly. Despite the onslaught, Iran has retained substantial military capacity. Therefore, the war on Iran is now revealing that the US economic decline also has a military dimension.

The US military has been the armed enforcer of its global hegemony so far, with naval and air power policing the sea lanes that hold global markets together. Yet, the Strait of Hormuz reveals a growing limit. The US cannot secure one of the most strategic chokepoints of the global energy and fertilizer market, making its decline more visible. Iran's strategy to disrupt the flow of 12.5 million barrels of oil per day and 11.5 billion cubic metres of natural gas has given it enormous leverage over regional and global energy routes.

None of this means that the US has ceased to be the dominant military power. Its destructive capacity remains without equal. It can devastate societies, sow chaos, and kill on a mass scale. These destructive capabilities do not amount to control. Iraq and Afghanistan already proved that overwhelming

firepower does not automatically bring political victory. The debacle unfolding around Iran feels like another episode of the same pattern, albeit with broader implications.

Martin, RTX, General Dynamics, Northrop Grumman, and Boeing. This concentration reflects decades of mergers and acquisitions. The result has been a dramatic re-

rious damage. Gulf states that were preparing to stabilise the region after the Israeli genocide in Gaza by jumping on the Board of Peace are instead facing the collapse of

USS Tripoli in the region, carrying around 3,500 sailors and marines, along with transport and attack aircraft. Yet, a ground invasion would be the most reckless move of all. Vietnam, Afghanistan, and Iraq already showed the limits of US military power when faced with sustained resistance. Iran is even harder terrain, more protected geographically, more deeply entrenched militarily, and far less likely to collapse under pressure.

## The Israeli plan

At the same time, Israel is using the fog of war to push its own expansionist project. The genocide in Gaza continues. Attacks in the West Bank have intensified. Israel has also launched another invasion of southern Lebanon, using the same scorched-earth methods seen in Gaza. As in previous invasions, it has met serious resistance. In the past, that resistance eventually made continuation politically difficult. This Israeli government, however, appears undeterred.

Since October 7, 2023, politics inside Israel have been transformed. Fringe far-right forces are not only in power, their ideas have become deeply embedded in public life. The Zionist state now operates through a maximalist political project aimed at building a "Greater Israel" through territorial seizure and permanent war. Protests demanding a ceasefire have taken place in Tel Aviv, Jerusalem, and other cities, but they remain marginal and immediately crushed.

## Global struggle against war, austerity and far-right

However, this aggression is also meeting another force. In the two and a half years since the genocide in Gaza began, global public opinion has shifted sharply against Israel. In the US, among young people, support for Zionism now appears to stand at only 15 to 17 percent. This helps explain the limited support within the US population for a war with Iran. The external limits of US hegemony are now colliding with internal anger over war spending, paramilitary repression over immigrants through ICE, and the increasing authoritarianism under Trump. Recent mobilisations in the US, the UK, Italy, Greece, and partly in Canada suggest that anti-war sentiments are increasingly merging with opposition to the far right and to the cost of living crisis exacerbated by the war.

The relative decline of the US and the collapse of global support for the US-Israeli war on Iran point toward a rupture in post-Cold War US hegemony. In such a period, our central task is to fight the monsters this breaking order unleashes in an internationalist struggle rooted in mass working class movements.



An Iranian man places a flag on top of bombed buildings in Tehran

## The aging US war machine

The war is also exposing the deeper weakness of the aging US war machine. When China held a military parade last year, analysts were struck by both the sophistication of the weapons on display and the manufacturing capacity behind them. Those displays likely did not even include China's most advanced systems. By contrast, the US military-industrial complex is bloated, corrupt, and increasingly incapable of meeting the demands of a prolonged conflict. The US and its allies are spending an average of \$5 million on an interceptor missile to shoot down Iranian drones each of which costs around \$20,000.

The decline in US manufacturing capacity has been sharpened by the organisation of capitalist production itself. In 1990, the US had 51 suppliers of major military hardware. Today, that number has shrunk to five giants: Lockheed

duction in the workforce in war industries, from around 3 million workers to a little over 1 million today. At the same time, the Pentagon has failed seven audits in a row, with trillions of dollars unaccounted for. Profit, waste, and lack of scrutiny have undermined the very base of US military power despite the enormous size of the defence budget, which is more than the combined defence expenditures of ten countries following the US.

## US power globally

This inability to project power will have consequences far beyond the battlefield. The Gulf states, with their petrodollar wealth funds, have been central to US domination in the Middle East and Central Asia. US security guarantees allowed these states to expand their economic power regionally and globally. Those guarantees now lie in tatters as Iranian missiles penetrate interceptor defences and inflict se-

any remaining illusion of order.

Egypt, Turkey, Saudi Arabia, and Pakistan now seek to broker an outcome with the least damage possible. Some Gulf states are also hedging by striking bilateral deals with Iran. Qatar and Oman have reportedly agreed to pay Iran for safe passage through Hormuz using the Chinese yuan, a move that further weakens US control over global payment systems. Given that the US hegemony today rests far less on productive supremacy than on financial domination with the dollar as the world's main reserve currency, the more the petrodollar system comes under greater strain and the more trade shifts into other currencies, the more the military and financial pillars of US hegemony may begin to erode together.

As the war has completed its first month, the option of a ground operation is now on the table. US Central Command (CENTCOM) has announced the arrival of the

# End the war and save the planet

by: Brian Champ

The horror of the war on Iran by Israel and the US continues to unfold, with over 2,000 killed overall – most in Iran. The brinkmanship by Israel and the US and the staunch Iranian resistance contains the threat of a much larger conflict as the inter-imperialist rivalry between the world's major powers – US and China – lies just below the surface.

War is not just a humanitarian disaster, it contributes enormous greenhouse gas emissions and leaves behind environmental destruction. This at a time when climate disasters continue to wreak destruction worldwide. Already this year, there have been record breaking heat domes in Australia and western US states, deadly wildfires in Chile and Argentina, massive flooding in South Africa and Mozambique – affecting 650,000 people there – and a deadly landslide in Indonesia. US fire officials warn that 2026 is already on course to be their worst wildfire season ever.

The war in the Persian Gulf is pouring fuel on the fire. Destroyed buildings and fuel depots contribute enormously to carbon emissions, as do the war machines. One F-35 fighter jet emits up to 17 tons of CO2 in a single combat run – the equivalent emissions of a passenger car over its lifetime. There have been 8,000 US combat flights launched as of March 24. While overall numbers are difficult to calculate, the Climate and Community Institute has estimated that in the first 14 days of the conflict, 5 million tonnes of CO2 equivalent was emitted – the total climate pollution of Iceland for 2024!

Similar calculations have estimated the war in Ukraine has release 311 million tonnes, and the

2-and-a-half-year genocide in Gaza, 32 million tonnes. The non-conflict related emissions from producing arms and operating military bases are also large, and with military spending increasing worldwide these emissions will increase. And none of these figures show up in UN carbon budgets.

One popular meme on social media complained: “World leaders do this, while I’m expected to save the planet by drinking from a soggy paper straw?”

to oil and gas supply have inflated their costs, as well as the cost of fertilizer inputs that rely on methane. This has compounded the cost of living crisis as these cost hikes are worked into prices at the pump and in the grocery store. Meanwhile tar sands crude producers see opportunity as high oil prices make their operations economically viable.

While China remains reliant on imported oil from the Persian Gulf – shipments that Iran continues to allow through the blockaded Strait of

ence last November, China’s Vice Premier Ding Xuexiang announced “China is willing to work with all parties to steadfastly promote green and low-carbon development.”

States seeking to insulate themselves from fossil fuel supply disruptions, especially those lacking their own domestic sources, will increasingly seek to join the ranks of electro-states.

At the other pole, petro-states such as the US, Russia, Saudi Arabia and Canada are doubling

Mark Carney who simultaneously maintains rhetorical commitments to climate targets.

This demonstrates what some analysts have called an “emerging energy bipolarity” and others an energy “cold war”. But within these rival geopolitical camps, there are massive contradictions. Saudi Arabia continues to export oil while ramping up solar energy for domestic use. Fossil fuels continue to provide more than half of all Chinese electricity generation even as they lead in renewables. Carney has proclaimed Canada’s ambition to be a “clean and conventional energy superpower”.

The war on Iran is motivated by US attempts to maintain their waning influence in the region and to control the supply of oil and gas – a strategy that appears to be failing. But the transition to renewable energy in solar, wind and battery power relies no less on extracting critical minerals worldwide. The rise of militarism raises the risk of future wars for control of critical minerals as well as fossil fuels. All of these destructive policies only benefit the profiteers.

Indigenous peoples are leading the struggles globally against destructive extraction that pollutes their lands, waters and the ecosystems on which they rely for survival – impacts that ultimately affect every human being on the planet.

It is important to win workers to support these struggles, and to fight for a future where the needs of people and the ecosystems we rely on are the basis of decisions, not the profits of a tiny minority – be they fossil fuel executives, the CEO of a mining company or the ruling classes of petro-states and electro-states.

Build the movement against the War on Iran and the War on People and the Planet for the sake of a livable future.



An oil refinery burns in Iran

On top of this the war is leaving environmental destruction behind, including oil slicks in the waters of the Gulf, toxic clouds that envelop the region and other contaminants such as spent radioactive depleted uranium shells.

And all this fighting is over who controls the oil and gas that continues to fuel the lion’s share of world economic activity. The disruptions

Hormuz – they have emerged as the leading “electro-state”: they already generate more revenue from green technology exports than US oil exports. They have installed more than 1,000 Gigawatts of solar capacity – half of all global installations. Most new cars sold in China are now EVs and the state has now committed to (modest) emissions reductions. At the Belém COP30 climate confer-

down on oil and gas production and undermining the transition away from fossil fuels. This goes along with varying forms of climate denial: from the explicit denial by US Energy Secretary and fracking entrepreneur Chris Wright when he said “There is no climate crisis, and we are not in the middle of an energy transition.”; to the undermining of effective climate policies by

## Iran, Palestine and the settler colonial Canadian state

Below we re-print the remarks by London based activist, *Mayar Alfarra* from a recent “Hands Off Iran” panel discussion

I want to start by saying that Canada is not neutral. It never was. Not in Palestine, not in Iran, and not here on this stolen land. Canada is directly involved: through its weapons sales, its trade deals, its mining companies, and its political alliances.

The same logic that drives Canadian colonialism here, such as the dispossession of Indigenous peoples, fuels violence and exploitation abroad.

If you were to remember one thing I said today I would want it to be this: imperialists have never cared about our wellbeing and they never will. They can’t be the ones to liberate us. Like Palestinians, the only way Iranians can achieve real liberation is through the organization and determination of their own people, not through foreign governments that are only interested in extracting resources and maintaining control. Whether it’s Washington or Ottawa, it’s the same imperial network at work. One presses the trigger, and the other quietly supplies the weapons.

One thing that Iran can learn from

Palestine is that imperialists and colonizers will always try to use our suffering for their own benefit. In the 1990s, some members of the Palestinian leadership - without real consultation with their people - signed the Oslo Accords. Those agreements were framed as a step toward “peace”, but they gave Palestinians only limited administrative control over certain areas, while leaving full

mutual respect or a voice in shaping the future.

But history teaches us that when the colonizer offers you a seat at the table, there’s still a knife to your throat.

There can be no true “negotiations” between an oppressor and the oppressed, especially when power is so one-sided.

Iranians can take that lesson to

another site of Western intervention or control. True liberation can only come from within: from the Iranian people themselves, through their own organization, courage, and collective vision.

Highlighting the connection between Iran and Palestine matters because both peoples face the same imperial system. When Canada supplies arms to Israel, renews military

environmental destruction, and state violence. Solidarity includes taking responsibility and understanding our role and part here in supporting Indigenous liberation movements. It means recognizing that resisting empire abroad also means confronting it at home. We can do that by demanding our government end arms sales to Israel and the US, speaking out against sanctions, and divesting from military and corporate institutions that profit from war. It means aligning ourselves with Indigenous struggles for sovereignty, because liberation anywhere is incomplete without liberation here.

People are dying in Iran because the Iranian government and the rest of the world has largely failed them. Their lives are bound up in the machinery of empire - a machinery that Canada helps sustain. Our solidarity must go beyond words; it must be material, organized, and rooted in a collection vision.

Free Iran. Free Palestine. Free Sudan. Free Congo. Free Venezuela. And let’s remember that our fight against imperialism abroad begins with decolonizing this land by dismantling borders, abolishing ICE, and rejecting the systems that profit from our division and suffering.



military power in the hands of Israel.

The result was a shift away from a fight for liberation toward a state building project limited by Western and Israeli interests and frameworks.

Some people believed that sitting down with the colonizer might bring

heart as well. Iranians don’t have to choose between the Islamic regime or a return to the monarchy. Both represent oppression in different forms. The current regime has unleashed horrific violence on its people, but that does not justify turning Iran into

contracts, or supports sanctions that devastate Iranians, it is actively part of that system.

The same colonial framework destroying lives in Palestine and Iran has also shaped so-called Canada through the theft of Indigenous land,

# The hidden history of Jewish anti-Zionism and radicalism

by: Clare Fester

The Radical Jewish Tradition tells the inspiring and lesser-known story of working class Jews—together with their non-Jewish neighbours—who took on the bosses, the Czars and the fascists. The authors Donny Gluckstein and Janey Stone will be on a cross Canada book tour during May. Please see the list of events below.

The book first makes the case that antisemitism is socially constructed to serve the unequal society we live in, not an immutable hatred that is generated from below and impossible to defeat.

In section two the authors share the history of Jewish radicalism—from the barricades in revolutionary Russia to London's anti-fascist Battle for Cable Street, from the garment strikes on New York's Lower East Side to the Jewish-led self-defence militias of Poland.

The third section tells about counterrevolution in Germany laying the foundations for fascism and details how the Nazis imposed antisemitism from above (rather than it being a mass movement from below), as well as the proud history of Jewish resistance in the most difficult of circumstances: in the ghettos of Nazi-occupied Europe.

Finally, the book looks at the settlement of Palestine and establishment of the Israeli state, where Zionism—particularly its left wing—hammered “the final nail in the coffin of the remarkable phenomenon of mass Jewish radicalism”.

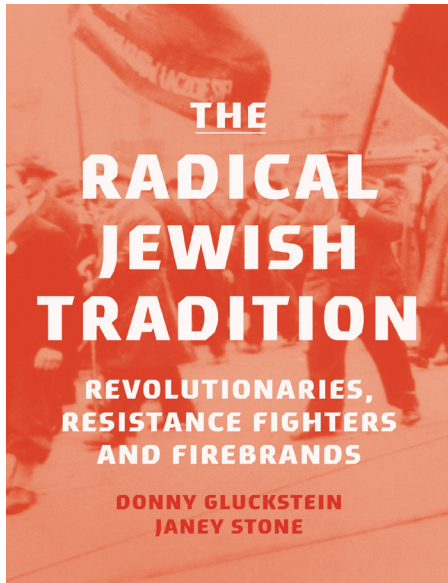
## Timely

Israel's genocidal campaign in Gaza continues, while Israel occupies parts of Lebanon and joins the US in bombing Iran. The book is a timely reminder that Zionism, the Holocaust, the Nakba and the horrors beamed into our phones 24/7 since 7 October were not foregone conclusions. Jews were involved (and often

statistically over-represented) in every major European revolutionary movement, and it was these movements that offered real possibilities for ending anti-Jewish racism and the system that relies on it.

Today a generation of Jews are breaking with the Zionist consensus, unmasking the Israeli apartheid state for what it is, and reckoning with the lies that a settler state in the Middle East ensures Jewish safety. The stories that Gluckstein and Stone tell were not only cut short by genocide—Zionism forcibly removed them from the canon of Jewish history.

The book is recommended reading for all



Jewish people scouring their histories for alternatives to Zionism. But all readers interested in uncovering the roots of racism, understanding the way ruling classes need scapegoats to divide and rule, and learning strategies for cross-cultural movements against oppression, will get something out of The Radical Jewish Tradition.

## Zionism

One of the book's most valuable contributions is its argument that Zionism has never had a strategy or practice of fighting anti-Jewish racism. In every case study, Gluckstein and Stone show how Zionist organisations and theorists ignored, discouraged and undermined any fight against antisemitism in Europe and the US, especially movements that united Jews and non-Jews.

This is one of many reasons that Zionism as an ideology and migration to Palestine as a practice were supremely unpopular among most Jews for a long time—they offered nothing to improve the lives of oppressed Jews in Europe.

The Revisionist Zionists (the forebearer of Benjamin Netanyahu's Likud party) categorically believed antisemitism could not be defeated in Europe. They agreed with the antisemites that Jews never belonged in Europe in the first place.

## The Left

In the context of claims there is a dangerous form of “left antisemitism” on the rise today, The Radical Jewish Tradition performs a political rescue mission. Socialists, communists, anarchists, unionists and leftists of all sorts believed antisemitism was a real threat to working people everywhere and took up the fight against it. How else can we explain the proportionally large presence of Jews in left parties, organisations and at the ballot box through the first half of the 20th century?

As the book demonstrates, it was their commitment to fighting antisemitism that made the left popular—more popular than Zionism—among Jewish people. On the eve of the Second World War in Eastern Europe, the Jewish Labour Bund was the most popular Jewish party and union movement in history.

The book recounts proud moments of this history, Cable Street being the best known. One honorable mention is the 1936 day-long strike and demonstration called by the Jewish Labor Bund responding to a pogrom in the town of

Przytyk. A quarter of a million people joined, including non-Jewish Poles organised in the Polish Socialist Party. Years of groundwork between the two organisations allowed working class Poles and Jews to see their common cause and fight the right together—chipping away at the Zionist myth that antisemitism cannot be fought.

Another is the story of the Minsk ghetto, where Jews were highly integrated in a multi-ethnic society and resisted the Nazis together with their Belarusian (and many other nationalities) neighbours.

Exploitation and oppression will not automatically teach people how to act in solidarity. Stalinism, sectarianism, nationalism and reformism—on all sides—undermined collaboration between Jews and non-Jews many times over.

Gluckstein and Stone don't tell about these moments of joint resistance to paint a rosy revisionist history. They do so to point to the possibility of anti-racist solidarity through class struggle. It was that kind of struggle that could fight back antisemitism and the capitalist system that breeds it in the 20th century and that remains the key to defeating them today.

As the authors say, “The battle for memory is also a battle for the present.” The Zionists don't want us to know there is a different answer to antisemitism than the Israeli state. The ruling class doesn't want us to know there are ways to defeat their divide and rule scapegoating. The Radical Jewish Tradition sets the record straight.

*This is a condensed version of an article that was originally published by Solidarity Online. You can read the original at [Solidarity.net.au](http://Solidarity.net.au) or on [Socialist.ca](http://Socialist.ca)*

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May 5 Vancouver - Spartacus Books  
May 13 Montreal - Librairie L'Eugéline  
May 15 Montreal - De Stiel bookshop  
May 17 Toronto - United Steelworkers Hall  
May 19 Toronto - Another Story Bookshop  
May 23 Winnipeg - McNally Robinson books  
May 24 Winnipeg - Event as part of Mayfest

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**LAND BACK!**

Territorial acknowledgment:

As settlers, we acknowledge our occupation of lands that are the Indigenous territories of Turtle Island. We support all struggles for Indigenous sovereignty in whatever forms they take by the hundreds of First Nations and Inuit communities that have resided here for many thousands of years, and by Métis communities that have developed in the last hundreds of years.



# Solidarity can beat Ford

by: Brie Santiago and Peter Votsch

**O**ntario Public Service Employees Union - Syndicat des employés de la fonction publique de l'Ontario (OPSEU-SEFPO) locals in the Peterborough and the Kawartha region gathered for a "Budget Watch" party on March 26 as the Ford government delivered their budget. Not that there was much to celebrate—that's what the games and the food were for. Locals 358, 351, 365 and 362 were there, representing workers from developmental services, Fleming College, Trent University and the Ontario Public Service (OPS) component representing those who work directly in the ministries. Activists, retirees from OPSEU and CUPE, OPSEU staff, representatives from Region 3, the OPSEU provincial executive and the OFL also joined.

Many who gathered are active in the "Worth Fighting For" campaign of OPSEU-SEFPO and CUPE members in the community sector, who have been organizing and planning for coordinated strike action—if necessary—to demand that the Tories raise their wages. The budget of the Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services was a slap in the face to these workers, being slashed by 2.4%.

Needless to say, the Ford Tories have provided no relief to any other sectors. Healthcare funding, the largest budget item, is slated to rise to \$97.8 billion. It sounds big, but only represents a 0.5% increase for 2025-26, and a 1.5% cut for 2026-27. Hospitals will be forced to continue borrowing privately to cover funding shortfalls. Chronic underfunding has also worsened the self-inflicted doctor shortage, as physicians leave for better-funded provinces, or move on to unaffordable private practices. The healthcare portion of the budget is good news, however, for private providers of public healthcare. "Private Pay" healthcare, for those who can afford it, has increased 38% between 2014 and 2023, with public funding lagging well behind. What we see is a shifting of healthcare costs back onto the public, combined with increasing public funding to

for-profit healthcare providers.

For students, recently hit by Tory changes to the Ontario Student Assistance Program (OSAP) that prioritizes loans over grants (increasing sky-high student debt), there are more cuts to post-secondary education. Funding, after adjusting for inflation and population growth will fall by 1.6% this year, and a massive 10.6% next year.

the province of \$1.4 million in needed funds, while mostly benefiting those buying homes valued above \$1 million and developers. There is no relief for workers entering the housing market at the low end, let alone for renters facing sky-high rents due to Tory legislation strengthening landlords (Bill 60).

With Spring and Summer comes the wildfire season for those living in Central and Northern

ing for the most vulnerable. These cuts also affect Ontario's ability to send firefighting crews outside of the province, at a time when the wildfire season continues to worsen out west.

Does it have to be this way? Let's go back to the OPSEU-SEFPO "Budget Watch" party, where the seeds of a solution can be found. Workers from different sectors and unions emerged from their silos to work together to fight Ford's corporate agenda. They turned up in force when students mobilized against the changes to OSAP, pulling students out of their silo. They are joining the fights for public healthcare and Disability Rights on the streets, and on the picket lines.

We've done it before – not by waiting for the next election, and the fine words from the NDP. But by doing what many of us did 31 years ago, when the Embarrass Harris coalition faced down the Tory government of Mike Harris, which, like the Ford Tories, represented the interests of the privileged classes – not workers. They were joined by anti-poverty campaigners, and most importantly, the might of the labour movement. One day general strikes were called in city after city. This was magnificent even though the union bureaucrats pulled back from calling a province-wide general strike, so as not to jeopardize the chances of electing an NDP government.

Nevertheless It worked – not in electing the NDP: the Tories won a big majority again. But it worked by pulling together millions across the province to push back the Harris Tory government cuts. We need to rely on ourselves as workers, and to rebuild that solidarity of a generation ago.

Here's a suggestion to our labour leaders – don't just passively support the Ontario Health Coalition mobilization at Queen's Park on May 28. Build it big – as a cross sector, cross fightback demonstration, with those fighting for affordable housing, against OSAP cuts, for Disability Rights, against racism and in support of Indigenous Nations fighting for land rights, and a livable environment. It could be the spark that lights the wildfire to the movement that we need to defeat the Ford agenda.



On housing, the Tories have once again shown their contempt for working class and poor people with a \$347 million cut in funding to the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing. They claim to offset this with a much publicized HST rebate. But this will rob

Ontario. The Ford government has cut \$344 million from the emergency fire-fighting budget, undoubtedly leading to hazier, smoke-filled days — forcing northern, especially First Nation, communities to relocate and making breathing difficult for many and life-threaten-

## Students, the arts, Indigenous Land: Nova Scotia rises up

by: Chantal Sundaram

**F**rom the French May of 1968 to the Quebec student "Maple Spring" of 2012, the end of spring term has been a good moment for students to rise up. This year Ontario students adopted the red-square symbol of the 2012 Quebec strike (from the French "carrement dans le rouge", literally "squarely in the red", or broke) to protest the same injustice, to protest the Ford government turning grants into loans.

There was a big echo from Nova Scotia students. For an entire week, from March 15 to 21, students staged the first organized, province-wide university student strike in the history of that province. This student strike, like others before it, was able to connect with other movements for justice.

The Nova Scotia Student Strike demanded not only affordable tuition – meaning a 20% decrease in tuition across the board – but university divestment of all funds associated with weapons, war, fossil fuels and exploitation of resources on sovereign Indigenous land. On the second point the Dalhousie University Students Union demanded divestment by Dalhousie University from weapons manufacturers, companies that produce fossil fuels and "entities which directly or indirectly sup-



port genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes."

Called by the Canadian Federation of Students Nova Scotia, the strike saw support from their profs, many of whom actively encouraged and facilitated participation.

The plan for the strike predated the tabling of a vicious austerity provincial budget that slashed grants to a long list of vulnerable groups in the community. But it coincided with protests against the budget from all sides from the beginning of March.

There were enormous protests over a 30% cut to operational funding for arts, culture, heritage and education.

On March 24, passage of the budget bill stalled when a group of singing protesters shut down the final vote to approve it.

And the Shoulder to Shoulder, We Are Treaty People saw a coalition of more than 60 Mi'kmaw and settler groups from communities throughout Nova Scotia call for a stop to selling off Nova Scotia to corporate interests and to respect Mi'kmaw rights.

This coordination may not have been pre-planned, but it came together with true solidarity, sewing the seeds for a united fightback against a provincial government that's putting profit before all in Nova Scotia.

## Students take on Ford cuts

by: Pam Johnson

**O**n March 4 thousands of students led by Canadian Federation of Students-Ontario descended on Queens Park to condemn the Ford government ending the tuition freeze and cuts to OSAP grants for post-secondary students. This is a slap in the face to students who are already facing high tuition and rising costs for everything else: housing, parking, books, etc. to attend school. It was the largest and loudest challenge to Ford's agenda since his party was re-elected a year ago.

Students rallied again on Mar 24 and four days later, on March 28, thousands rallied at Queens Park and in small and large towns across the province. The anger caused by the never-ending devastation and destruction of public services, public spaces, the environment, indigenous sovereignty and workers and human rights is boiling over into action.

The call put out on the internet for anti-ford protests on March the 28 became the organizing fulcrum for multiple rallies in large and small cities across the province. Over 30 cities held protests.



University of Toronto students march to Queens Park

Signs in Stayner, Ontario read Cut Ford not OSAP. Chants in Toronto called for a Ford Free Future and Schools not Spas. Trade unionists in Peterborough and Windsor brought union flags from OPSEU, Unifor and CUPE.

March 28 was also the day that millions in the US and around the world protested in No Kings rallies against Trump, ICE and war, and rallies against racism and the far-right. Many signs on the demonstration drew the connections between Ford and Trump.

A call for the next anti-Ford protest on April 25 went out immediately to keep the momentum going. Protests in 30 cities are already lined up. This is also the day that the Ontario Health Coalition is organizing protests to stop hospital privatization in multiple cities. In several of those cities, collaborations have begun to build toward April 25.

The Ontario Health Coalition has also called for a protest on May 28 at Queens Park. Participants will be coming by train from all over the province to march together.

The spark that started with the students and has spread through the province can culminate here in a massive event to shake the foundations of Ford and his cronies.

## London protest 'against the threat of U.S. private healthcare'

by: Morgan Oddie

**A**bout 45 people joined the Ontario Health Coalition protest outside of MP Arielle Kayabaga's office on Monday, March 16.

"We are calling for action from the federal government. Right now, they are sitting on their hands," said Peter Bergmanis, co-chair of the London Health Coalition.

The rally in London, Ontario was part of a nationwide day of action calling on the federal government to enforce the Canada Health Act, legislation that ensures access to universal publicly funded healthcare. Provinces and territories must adhere to the criteria of administration, comprehensiveness, universality, portability and accessibility to receive federal funds.

Alberta's Danielle Smith United Conservative Party government passed Bill 11 in December 2025, which created the first two-tier system in the country. "Dual practice" physicians can now work concurrently in the publicly funded system and the private-pay market. Under the new legislation, doctors also now have the power to decide whether patients need to pay out of pocket for services on a case-by-case basis.

Hospitals, which can now be for-profit corporations under the provincial changes, can also bill for both "non-insured" and "enhanced" services. These cost increases are coupled with encouraging larger private health insurance plans, including from U.S. companies.

Private payments for faster services are likely to increase public wait times for people who cannot afford to pay extra in the private system.

"Selling queue-jumping for those who have thousands of dollars available to pay contra-

venes the requirement that all Canadians have access to healthcare based on medical need not wealth," said Bergmanis.

In addition to reducing public system efficiencies in an already burgeoning system, the changes open the door for more for-profit insurance companies to benefit from privatization.

"Right now, we all risk losing public health care to U.S. for-profit insurance corporations if Alberta persists. Enormous transnational private health conglomerates, like notorious U.S. based UnitedHealthcare, are already advertising in Canada," said Bergmanis.

The Ontario Ford government is also taking unprecedented privatization measures. Private

hospitals were banned in 1973, but the province is seeing massive expansion of private for-profit facilities.

"Ontario patients are unlawfully being charged more than \$4,000 per eye in the private cataract surgery clinics that the Ford government has privileged. Not one extra dime has been offered to cash strapped St. Joseph's public Ivey Eye Institute," said Bergmanis.

St. Joseph's Ivey Eye Institute is the main referral centre for eye disease in Western Ontario and relies on public funding and private donations for operations. St. Joseph's is facing a \$21 million deficit, alongside the \$150 million deficit for London Health Sciences Centre. While public health care facilities face massive budget shortfalls, the Ontario Ford government is diverting more money into private for-profit providers.

"I've worked all my life and paid into the system. I can't afford to pay more and again," said June Weiss, a member of the Sarnia Health Coalition. Weiss retired last month after working 32 years in healthcare, mostly at a local hospital in Sarnia.

"To the healthcare workers out there, we stand with you," said Patti Dalton, President of the London and District Labour Council. "The Prime Minister needs to answer the question of why this is allowed to happen."

Bergmanis called Bill 11 and the Ontario Ford government's privatization measures an "outright war on healthcare" that will lead to unethical user fees, double billing, patient rights violations and privatization that threatens the fabric of the Canadian system to usher in U.S. multi-tiered healthcare.

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<https://antlerrivermedia.ca/london-protest-against-the-threat-of-u-s-private-healthcare/>

