

WIN WITHOUT WAR



Progressive Foreign Policy Debrief

Intel for Advocacy

Our weekly Progressive Foreign Policy Debrief will return to its regularly scheduled programming after the new year. In the meantime, we've compiled a list of recent interesting pieces for you to read over the holidays.

We hope that you all have a wonderful holiday season and wish you a happy and peaceful new year.

-- The Win Without War Team

P.S. If you've enjoyed the Progressive Foreign Policy Debrief please help spread the word! Simply share this email with someone you think would like to receive it and they can sign up [here](#).

[Progressives Have a Foreign Policy, and It's the Antidote to Rising Global Authoritarianism](#) (The Nation)

"The problems of today are evidence enough of the failures of the status quo. As progressives, we know that a better tomorrow is indeed possible, but only if we organize together to create a unified movement for change."

[From Arizona to Yemen: The Journey of an American Bomb](#) (The New York Times)

"Congress is again debating American involvement in the war in Yemen, but regardless of what happens in the future, the United States has already provided formidable capacity to the Saudi-led aerial campaign."

[The Saudi Lobby: How The Kingdom Wins In Washington](#) (Center for International Policy)

"Saudi money and influence have become entrenched in Washington politics and are unlikely to disappear after Khashoggi's death. For years, Saudi Arabia has employed an army of American lobbyists and public relations professionals to cultivate a positive Saudi image in the United States and steer U.S. foreign policy as they see fit."

[Iraq's Post-ISIS Campaign of Revenge](#) (The New Yorker)

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“The Islamic State has been mostly destroyed on the battlefield, but the war is far from over. Air strikes cannot kill an idea, and so it has fallen to Iraq’s fractured security, intelligence, and justice systems to try to finish the task. But, insofar as there is a strategy, it seems almost perfectly crafted to bring about the opposite of its intent.”

VIDEO: [The Lobby -- USA](#) (Al-Jazeera)

“Tony had spent five months inside the pro-Israel lobby in the United States. He had impressed colleagues of his understanding of the Middle East. ... We investigate the role of pro-Israel advocacy groups in this country in the first of a four part series on how the lobby is being drawn into Israel’s covert campaign to spy on American citizens.”

[A Texas Elementary School Speech Pathologist Refused to Sign a Pro-Israel Oath, Now Mandatory in Many States — so She Lost Her Job](#) (The Intercept)

“A children’s speech pathologist who has worked for the last nine years with developmentally disabled, autistic, and speech-impaired elementary school students in Austin, Texas, has been told that she can no longer work with the public school district, after she refused to sign an oath vowing that she ‘does not’ and ‘will not’ engage in a boycott of Israel or ‘otherwise tak[e] any action that is intended to inflict economic harm’ on that foreign nation.”

[The Suffocation of Democracy](#) (New York Review of Books)

“As a historian specializing in the Holocaust, Nazi Germany, and Europe in the era of the world wars, I have been repeatedly asked about the degree to which the current situation in the United States resembles the interwar period and the rise of fascism in Europe. I would note several troubling similarities and one important but equally troubling difference.”

[How McKinsey Has Helped Raise the Stature of Authoritarian Governments](#) (The New York Times)

“At a time when democracies and their basic values are increasingly under attack, the iconic American company has helped raise the stature of authoritarian and corrupt governments across the globe, sometimes in ways that counter American interests.”

[Preventing Endless War Requires Real Congressional Oversight—Not New War Authority](#) (Center for American Progress)

“The issue confronting Congress is not whether to authorize a new war—that was the question before it in 2001. Rather, Congress must now decide whether the current wars should continue,

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and if so, how? To answer that question, Congress must first conduct meaningful oversight of the multiple wars now being fought. It is only then that Congress and the American people will have a better understanding of these ongoing conflicts and the best path forward in each of them.”

[6 Questions to Ask Before Starting Your Next War](#) (Foreign Policy)

“The Yemen civil war will not be the last strategically misguided, irresponsible, or immoral war in which the United States is an active participant. Before Trump and his successors authorize the next (initially) limited intervention or full-scale war, here are a half-dozen questions for citizens to consider...”

[This Is the Man Who Recruited the 9/11 Hijackers](#) (The Washington Post)

“In his first interview with a U.S. news organization since 2001, conducted in the presence of the Kurdish guards who are holding him at a prison on the outskirts of the Syrian city of Qamishli, Zammar recounted his extraordinary journey. It was one that took him from the earliest days of the al-Qaeda camps in Afghanistan to the battlefields of the Islamic State in Syria, via a rendition suspected to have been ordered by the CIA.”

[The First Step Act Is Not Sweeping Criminal Justice Reform — and the Risk Is That It Becomes the Only Step](#) (The Intercept)

“More comprehensive criminal justice reform must be an agenda priority for the Democrat-controlled House. If not, conservatives will once again set the fulcrum of debate, and this minor reform will be framed as radical.”