

# WIN WITHOUT WAR



## Progressive Foreign Policy Debrief

*Intel for Advocacy*

### PROGRESSIVES ARE FINDING THEIR VOICE ON FOREIGN POLICY

There's no doubt that Donald Trump's foreign policy has been an absolute disaster and moral abomination. From his Muslim Ban, withdrawing from the Iran nuclear deal and the Paris Climate Accord, and cozying up to authoritarians, to perpetuating the humanitarian crisis and enabling war crimes in Yemen, alienating our European allies, casting aside the rule of law, and making the prospect of nuclear war more likely, Trump and his team of neocons, war hawks, and right-wing ideologues have done nothing but make the United States and the world less safe.

Despite this grim picture, it appears as if the tide is beginning to turn. Progressives on Capitol Hill and beyond are leading by not only standing up to Trump and pushing back, but they're also promoting a more peaceful, progressive foreign policy vision and doing so from positions of power. We saw this dynamic play out this week particularly, when lawmakers, both newer members and [longtime progressive champions](#), forcefully challenged Trump officials on a wide variety of national security issues.

Both Democrats and Republicans followed progressives' lead and [condemned](#) Secretary of State Mike Pompeo's proposal to slash the State Department's budget during a House Foreign Affairs Committee hearing this week, saying it showed a "[contempt for diplomacy](#)." But that was just the tip of the iceberg:

- Committee chair Rep. Eliot Engel began the proceedings by demanding to know why Pompeo's point person on Iran, Brian Hook, **allegedly purged the State Department of career employees** who were [purportedly](#) disloyal to Trump's agenda.
- A handful of lawmakers [took Pompeo to task for going easy on Saudi Arabia and Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman](#) in the wake of Washington Post columnist Jamal Khashoggi's murder. Rep. Gerald Connolly grilled Pompeo for meeting with MbS shortly after the murder and [smiling for the cameras](#). "At what point do Americans...insist that the inalienable rights enumerated in our Declaration of Independence...when do they trump diplomatic niceties?" he [asked](#).

(It should be noted that one day later, Pompeo was so moved by the criticism that [he](#)

# WIN WITHOUT WAR

[met with the Saudi official responsible](#) for luring Khashoggi to the Saudi embassy in Turkey where he was then murdered -- not to talk about Khashoggi, but to discuss confronting Iran.)

- Freshman Rep. Abigail Spanberger, a former CIA officer, cornered Pompeo by wondering whether he agreed with U.S. intelligence assessments that Iran is adhering to the nuclear deal (Pompeo of course demurred), and she [forced Pompeo to admit that he doesn't believe that climate change is a national security threat](#). (Spanberger [co-sponsored a bill](#) introduced this week requiring the U.S. to re-enter the Paris agreement.)
- Pompeo got testy when another new House Member, Rep. Tom Malinowski, wondered **why Trump so often publicly says how much he likes Kim Jong-un and what a good guy he is**. After noting North Korea's gross human rights abuses and the recent death of American citizen Otto Warmbier, Malinowski [asked](#), "What's to like about Kim Jong-un?"
- Rep. David Price [chastised Pompeo](#) for the **Trump administration's plan to "totally alienate and marginalize" the Palestinians** by cutting aid and eliminated key diplomatic initiatives. Trump "can no longer claim to be an honest broker for a Middle East peace deal--they've undercut Palestinians at every turn," Price later [said](#).
- Rep. David Trone [cornered](#) Pompeo on unwavering U.S. military and political support for the Saudi-led coalition in Yemen that continues to kill civilians, most recently by [targeting a Save the Children hospital](#). A flustered Pompeo revealed his true leanings by preposterously claiming, "The death...in Yemen is not because of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia."

Elsewhere on the Hill this week, Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez's dressing down of a Trump official claiming climate change is an elitist concern [went viral](#).

Rep. Barbara Lee [called out](#) the DOD Comptroller for the Trump administration's ridiculously over-the-top Pentagon budget proposal.

Rep. Adam Smith, chair of the House Armed Services Committee, told acting-Defense Secretary Patrick Shanahan that Trump's request to repurpose appropriated funds to build a border wall [is denied](#).

# WIN WITHOUT WAR



Rep. Deb Haaland continued her [advocacy](#) for transgender service members, telling Shanahan that Trump's policy to ban transgender troops from the military "[makes a mockery](#)" of the Defense Department's commitment to the strength of diversity.

Over in the Upper Chamber, Sen. Elizabeth Warren ripped Energy Secretary Rick Perry for [approving secret authorizations](#) to sell Saudi Arabia nuclear technology. She [tweeted](#) video of the exchange with Perry. "The last thing we should be doing is giving Saudi Arabia the tools to make a nuclear bomb. That's why we have a law that requires Congress to review the sale of nuclear technology to foreign govts. But [Perry] seemed confused by that law – so I helped him understand it."

And of course, with the help Reps. Ilhan Omar, Rashida Tlaib, and others, progressives are increasingly showing support for both Israelis *and* *Palestinians*, which has changed the conversation surrounding the conflict and highlighted a widening divide within the Democratic Party between more established lawmakers and younger progressives. Omar herself noted [this dynamic](#) by pointing out that she -- not the massacres in Pittsburgh or Christchurch, for example -- was a primary focus of ire at this week's annual AIPAC conference.

But it's not just this week. Progressives have been asserting themselves on foreign policy with greater frequency throughout the past few months, for example, on [Yemen](#), the [Iran nuclear deal](#), [North Korea](#), [Venezuela](#), [Saudi Arabia](#), and the [Pentagon budget](#). And it's noteworthy that grassroots activists have had a hand in this, particularly [on Yemen](#), which shows how those in positions of power, and leadership, can harness this energy to build progressive power and in turn mobilize more people for positive change. Indeed, just this week, dozens of progressive groups -- including Win Without War -- urged lawmakers to oppose procedural tactics that might [jeopardize historic passage](#) of a resolution aimed at withdrawing the U.S. military from the Saudi-led intervention in Yemen.

And don't worry, we're just getting started!

## **BURIED LEDES**

**It's time to rethink the American quest for global military supremacy** and consider how it [contributes](#) to our endless wars.

**War is a bad investment.** According to a [new study](#) from Brown University's Cost of War Project, the U.S. missed out on creating 2 million jobs thanks to endless war as "for the same amount of spending, clean energy and infrastructure create 40 percent more jobs than the military, healthcare creates 100% more, and education 120% more."

# WIN WITHOUT WAR



In the wake of Trump's proposal to give the military 62 cents on every dollar, the Poor People's Campaign [is launching its](#) "vision for a moral America: **a moral and constitutional budget that reminds Americans what decency and democracy really look like.**"

The Golan Heights is home to thousands of people [who will be directly hurt](#) by Trump's decision to recognize Israeli annexation, and "Palestinians will also bear the brunt of an emboldened Israeli far-right wing, **making peace in the region seem less and less achievable.**"

WATCH how an activist legally [prevents authorities](#) from detaining two undocumented immigrants he was driving away from a courthouse, where **ICE agents typically wait to nab immigrants for deportation.**

There's [nothing like](#) cavalierly talking about using nuclear weapons.

After international condemnation, Saudi authorities have **temporarily released three women's rights activists who protested the country's ban on women driving.** However the charges [have not been dropped](#) and many more remain in jail.

We all know about the bargain conservative Christians have made with Trump to get right-wing Supreme Court Justices. But "[l]ess noticed is how the Trump administration, **particularly when it comes to foreign policy under the deeply religious supervision of Mike Pompeo and Vice President Mike Pence,** [continually pitches itself](#) to the Christian Right."

POD DON'T NUKE THE WORLD: "[What's it say](#) when we as a country are investing in weapons of mass destruction that will kill millions of people **instead of in things that will better the lives of us here at home?**"

Al Jazeera [this week released](#) a 3 year investigation into how **the NRA is helping a far right Australian political party** -- whose leader says Australia is under attack by Muslims -- weaken gun laws.

And finally, given the sheer madness that is Donald Trump's foreign policy, we suppose we [shouldn't be surprised](#) **that it has now gone full science fiction novel.**