

WIN WITHOUT WAR



Progressive Foreign Policy Debrief

Intel for Advocacy

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SL: Impeachment is a progressive foreign policy imperative

Impeachment is a Progressive Foreign Policy Imperative

After weeks of nonstop evidence piling up, there is no doubt that Donald Trump used the office of the president to subvert the will of Congress and pervert foreign policy for his own personal gain. **Given these indisputable facts, impeaching and removing Trump from office is not only a constitutional requirement, but also a *progressive foreign policy imperative*.**

That's why last week, Win Without War [declared our support](#) for impeachment by the House of Representatives, conviction by the Senate, and removal from office of Donald Trump.

A core principle of progressive foreign policy is that our nation's foreign policy should be made by and for the people. As we now know, Trump, with the support of his hand-picked appointees – Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, Chief of Staff and Director of the Office of Management and Budget Mick Mulvaney, and Ambassador to the European Union Gordon Sondland — used the massive levers of power that come with the presidency of the United States to aid himself.

Impeaching and removing a president is the only remedy the Constitution provides to protect against such abuses and the potential for him to do more harm.

THE THREAT TO NATIONAL SECURITY IS FROM TRUMP, NOT UKRAINE

Those of us who support impeachment must be clear about what is actually at issue. We certainly agree that congressionally-appropriated military aid should not be corruptly withheld. However, that does not mean that impeachment supporters must, or even should, approve of providing lethal military aid to Ukraine, which is a complex policy decision.

The provision of lethal, military aid is one that has divided Washington in the past. Progressives, including us, have been advocates of prioritizing diplomatic engagement and de-escalation over steps that could further prolong the fighting in Ukraine. But let's be honest and clear, there is not one drop of evidence to suggest that such concerns were behind Trump's efforts to withhold aid. Similarly, concerns over the longstanding challenge of corruption in Ukraine are legitimate, but nothing the Trump Administration has done in Ukraine or elsewhere would indicate even the slightest effort to tackle and weed it out.

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Given the evidence, it is now clear that Trump's actions had nothing to do with concerns over corruption, threats to U.S. national security, or any appreciation for the merits, or lack thereof, of lethal military aid.

WHAT IS THE *REAL* PROBLEM?

The actual threat to national security is Trump's abuse of power. By using U.S. military aid, official government acts, and political access as bargaining chips to pressure a foreign government into investigating his political rivals, Trump dangerously subordinated the interests and security of everyday individuals in the U.S., Ukraine, and around the world, to his own political whims.

Trump's latest abuses take the imperial presidency to its extreme conclusion. This is not only the antithesis of progressive foreign policy — it is everything Win Without War and our partners and allies are fighting against.

But Trump's actions, however egregious, did not emerge from thin air — they are emblematic of a much larger anti-democratic trend in U.S. foreign policy that far precedes the Trump presidency. Policymakers of both parties, and multiple administrations, have been responsible for backing massacres in Yemen for the profit of U.S. [weapons manufacturers](#). They have shaped Middle East policy at the behest of special interests, from [wealthy Gulf States](#) to [casino moguls](#). They have started entire wars, and continue to fuel those wars, despite the [nearly-incomprehensible costs](#), to keep oil flowing and pad the wallets of oil company and defense contractor executives. U.S. foreign policy has, for too long, prioritized the wealth and power of a few over the democratic demands of the many. Donald Trump merely seized on this legacy for his own gain.

WE MUST DEMAND ACCOUNTABILITY

To fight back and reverse the trend of undemocratic foreign policy, Congress must reassert its authority, rein in the imperial presidency, and end the domination of U.S. foreign policymaking by special interests. By holding Trump accountable for his clear abuses of power in the case of Ukraine, impeachment is an essential step toward this reality.

For more, read our statement [here](#), and take action with us to support the impeachment inquiry [here](#).

P.S.

You're getting this copy of the Progressive Foreign Policy Debrief at a slightly unusual time as we'll be taking time off to observe the holiday weekend around Thanksgiving. For those of you observing, we wish you and your loved ones a holiday full of love and warmth.

BURIED LEDES

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REMINDER: Any more than [zero](#) children in U.S. migration-related detention is **unacceptable, and violates basic human decency and international law.**

Iraqi protesters [push back](#) at **fake news being** spread by government spokesperson Gen. Abdul Kareem Khalaf about the protests **with humorous fake news of their own.**

The Assad regime and Russia [continue to commit apparent war crimes](#) in Syria, **killing at least 16 civilians and targeting a maternity hospital** last week.

The U.N. has [sent](#) an envoy to Bolivia after ousted president Evo Morales called for the international body to intervene and promote a peaceful solution. (Check out MADRE's [statement](#) for more.)

The under-the-radar progressive nonprofit **Momentum has [trained](#) over 1,500 progressive protesters who have been at the heart of some of the most important protests** in the past five years.

DEFUND THE PENTAGON. Calls to redirect spending from the DoD toward the State department and other programs that *actually address* the underlying causes of foreign policy issues, are going [MAINSTREAM](#).

2020 candidates are [taking anti-status quo](#) positions on the Pentagon's budget, but haven't yet realized that any budget cuts made in isolation will not set the DoD on a path to sustainability.

In case climate change wasn't scary enough, [945 toxic waste sites in the U.S.](#) are at risk of being flooded in the near-future, and the EPA doesn't seem to care.

The blob is whining about presidential commitments to right-size the Pentagon's budget. [They're wrong.](#)

Need another reason to take climate change seriously? **Rising temperatures worldwide are causing ammunition to [combust](#) without warning.**

A [new report](#) from Amnesty International echoes [our assessment](#) that **platforms like Facebook and Google are undermining human rights, freedom of thought, and more.**

Catch up, people! "The human cost of nuclear weapons [is not only a "feminine" concern.](#)"

And finally, **Bye Bye Bei Bei!** The giant panda, born and raised at the Smithsonian National Zoo, **safely [landed](#) in China.** At least Trump's disastrous trade wars couldn't get in the way of Bei Bei's safe trip.