

WIN WITHOUT WAR



Progressive Foreign Policy Debrief

Intel for Advocacy

DATE: October 29, 2021

SL: The Monsters in Our Closet

The Takeaway:

- The Pentagon is wasting our money on vampires (read: weapons contractors); the least we can do is have a little Halloween laugh at their 'expense.'
- The "BLOB" is a well known foreign policy (and horror) entity. This year, we're putting faces to the name.

This Halloween Season: Know Your Monsters

It's a very special Halloween edition of the debrief! Get spooked by the many faces of the Blob, that infamous mass of foreign policy elites. The monsters we're highlighting today are eerily familiar ones: John Bolton, H.R. McMaster, Henry Kissinger, and Max Boot. Feast your eyes on the horrors of federal spending on weapons contractors (vampires, in their own way.) Take a detour into some of the spookiest, scariest parts of our foreign policy process and answer two of the most elusive political questions:

Who's making our decisions? & **Where's our money going?**

A THREAD: WHO IS THAT INFAMOUS "BLOB" ?

The Blob: a group of (largely white, male) foreign policy elites working to keep the U.S. status-quo of bomb first, ask questions [maybe] later. But the reality is that most of us want education, housing, and healthcare... NOT WAR! Let's get to know some faces of the Blob! 🤪



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First up... JOHN BOLTON! 😱

Bolton is a Reaganite at heart (🙄). From crafting the Iraq war and advocating for war with Iran and North Korea, he's been behind many gruesome policies. 🐈🐈🐈



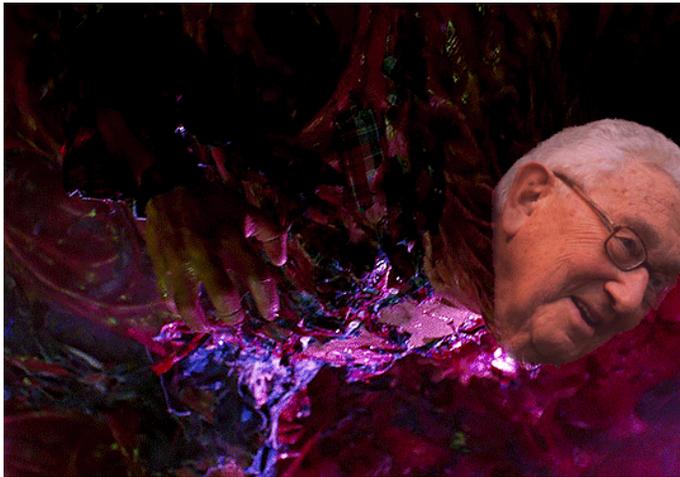
Next up, H.R. McMaster! 😭 As Trump's national security advisor, McMaster promoted the idea that ONLY those who have waged #EndlessWar and military interventions can opine on them... and NOW he's calling for MORE boots & bombs in Afghanistan! 😱😭



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A classic example of the blob, Henry Kissinger! 🙄🙄 Where do we even start? Kissinger helped Nixon sabotage Vietnamese peace talks, orchestrated a military coup in Chile, brought U.S. violence to Cambodia and East Timor, as well as SO MUCH MORE! In short, a war criminal! 🐈



It's not just government officials: take Max 'Remember our Indian wars' Boot. 🙄
Boot, a neocon, is one of the loudest cheerleaders for the Afghanistan and Iraq invasions. Rather than holding him accountable, @washpost gave him a column.



● It's time to #EndEndlessWar and end the Blob's hold on our foreign policy. Are you in? 🐈

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AN INFOGRAPHIC: WEAPONS CONTRACTORS HAVE FANGS (AND THEY'RE NOT AFRAID TO USE THEM)

This Spooky Season... Watch Out For Weapons Contractor Vampires!

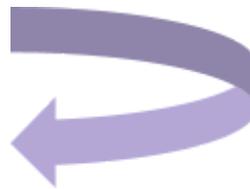


IT'S NO MYTH THAT THE PENTAGON WASTES HALF ITS BUDGET FUNDING THESE CREATURES. IN 2020, THE TOP FIVE WEAPONS CONTRACTORS ALONE - LOCKHEED MARTIN, RAYTHEON TECHNOLOGIES, GENERAL DYNAMICS, BOEING, AND NORTHROP GRUMMAN - SUCKED OUT MORE THAN \$150 BILLION IN FEDERAL FUNDING.

One cold blooded foe takes the lead – in 2020, Lockheed Martin was well fed: snatching up [\\$75.2 BILLION](#) in federal funding. The rest of the undead followed, with Raytheon at \$27.8 BILLION, General Dynamics at \$21.8 BILLION, Boeing at \$21.7 BILLION, and Northrop Grumman at \$20.3 BILLION.

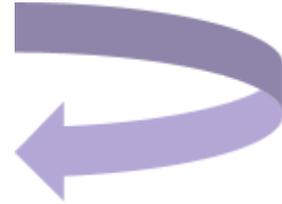
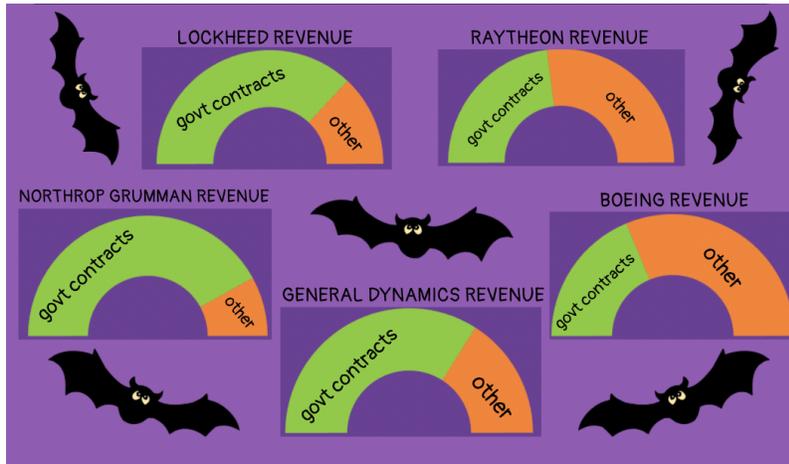


It's no wonder that the CEO's treated themselves to a snack of [\\$105.4 MILLION](#) last year. If you count other major execs, this 'little snack' is more like \$276.5 MILLION. For the price of a few execs' compensation, we could create [a world of new jobs](#) in infrastructure, in green energy, in health care, or in education. **How does your salary stack up?**



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These vampires don't have a very balanced diet; most of what they eat comes from our tax dollars. Even spookier, in each case, government funding makes up almost all of their [defense revenues](#).



In 2020, military contractors were given more than \$364 BILLION in taxpayer money (estimates lean towards 445 BILLION.)

With that money, we could tackle -

- **HOUSELESSNESS**
- **UNEMPLOYMENT**
- **HEALTHCARE**
- **EDUCATION**
- **THE CLIMATE CRISIS**
- **THE PANDEMIC**



[And with that detour - Back to our regularly scheduled programming →]

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BURIED LEDES

It's #LGBTHistoryMonth, and we're honoring some of the incredible **activists and organizers pushing for Queer liberation**. Get to know [them!](#)

The White House is touting its new "over-the-horizon" drone program as the future of counterterrorism, but we know there's [nothing novel \(or humane\)](#) about it. **["It's the same program that's been killing innocent civilians for more than a decade."](#)**

Merck, the manufacturer of a pill that helps prevent COVID hospitalizations and deaths, will [share its formula](#) so that developing countries can create a more affordable, generic version of its pill. Hey Moderna, Pfizer, AstraZeneca, J&J...you next??

The Israeli government has taken another plunge toward authoritarianism, unfairly [outlawing and criminalizing](#) six Palestinian NGOs. What's more, Israel's **labelling of the Union of Agricultural Work Committees — which supports Palestinian farmers — as "terrorists" has prompted international governments to [pull its funding](#).**

As COP26 gets underway, **the [U.N. is warning](#) that current climate plans won't curb the worst effects of climate change**. Even U.S. intelligence agencies have caught on that climate change will [worsen global tensions](#). **So how about we [don't choose extinction?](#)**

But don't worry: Big Oil will save us...NOT! While beloved polluters like ExxonMobil, Chevron, and Shell Oil have announced their "ambitions" to get to "net-zero" emissions, **these vague pledges are little more than [a smoke screen](#) distracting from real climate solutions**.

To add to the incredible hardship that migrants fleeing violence, poverty, and persecution face — many have also been **victims of sexual and physical abuse by U.S. federal agents**. [This disturbing news](#) is yet another reason to end our cruel, inhumane border militarization.

Get to know former U.S. Senator from Minnesota, **Norm Coleman, longtime [lobbyist for the Saudi government!](#)** Coleman leverages his government contacts to help whitewash Saudi Arabia's human rights record. And the revolving door just keeps spinning.

After years of U.S. covert operations and drone strikes in Somalia targeting Al-Shabab, not only have we killed many innocent civilians in the process, but **[Al-Shabab itself has only grown](#)**. **U.S. military intervention exacerbating violence?** Unheard of!

And finally, **muscle building...[for baby owls](#).**