

# WIN WITHOUT WAR



## Progressive Foreign Policy Debrief

*Intel for Advocacy*

DATE: January 21, 2022

SL: Reps. Jayapal and Lee's Bold New Vision

### The Takeaway:

- The “national security” status quo won't keep us safe. Wars, sanctions, arms sales, limitless Pentagon spending — this approach to foreign policy has failed, and will continue to fail in the face of grave non-military security threats like climate change.
- A new vision for U.S. foreign policy would put an end to these disastrous tactics, prioritize non-military tools like diplomacy and peacebuilding, and emphasize global cooperation for solutions to global problems.
- That is the goal of Rep. Jayapal and Lee's bold new Foreign Policy for the 21st Century Resolution. The [Foreign Policy for the 21st Century Resolution](#) plants a flag in the ground for a new approach to foreign policymaking. Now it's up to us to fight to make it a reality.

## A Foreign Policy for the 21st Century

Here at Win Without War, we've fought for years — day in and day out, each and every day — to end the United States' war-first approach to the world and building a *new* foreign policy rooted in peace, justice, and security for all. This week, Reps. Jayapal and Lee introduced a landmark new foreign policy resolution — and that fight took a great step forward.

### The Broken Status Quo

This isn't the first time we've said it, and it won't be the last: the U.S. foreign policy status quo is broken. Take a look at the last twenty years alone, and what do we see? Catastrophic [all-out wars](#) in Afghanistan and Iraq, broad-based sanctions that [suffocate entire countries](#) to penalize their leaders, arms sales and security assistance that [empower authoritarians](#) and stoke the fires of war in places [like Yemen](#), drone strikes and covert operations that have turned the entire world [into a battleground](#), a sprawling global network of military bases, and all of this funded by [skyrocketing budgets](#) for the Pentagon.

### Security for Whom?

Twenty years — at least — of this adversarial, war-first approach to foreign policy. And [what has it gotten us](#)? Trillions of dollars spent, millions of lives lost, many times more affected, injured, or displaced from their homes. Meanwhile, everyday people, here and abroad, are no safer than they were twenty years ago from some of the gravest security threats imaginable: pandemics, climate crisis, poverty, and authoritarianism, to name a few. With this track record, it's time to

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admit that the “national security” status quo is simply not made for the security of people like you or me. It sure has been kind to the wallets of [Big War](#), though.

## **There *Is* an Alternative**

It’s easy to look at the world and think: “that’s just how it is.” But that’s exactly what those who profit from the status quo want us to believe. The truth is: it doesn’t have to be this way. We envision a U.S. foreign policy rooted in solidarity and [shared values](#) of justice, equality, and security for all: where war is the *last* resort, not the first; where diplomacy, development, and peacebuilding are the primary tools of statecraft; where the people most impacted by foreign policy have a seat at the table; where the United States is held to the same standards it expects of others; where human rights and security are seen as two sides of the same coin; where global cooperation comes before global competition; and where “security” means security not for the few, but for the many.

## **The Foreign Policy for the 21st Century Resolution**

This is the vision that Reps. Jayapal and Lee are boldly pushing forward with their new [Foreign Policy for the 21st Century Resolution](#). Introduced just this week with 19 Congressional sponsors, and endorsements from 30 organizations including Win Without War, the Sunrise Movement, Public Citizen, the Working Families Party, and more, the Foreign Policy for the 21st Century resolution lays out concrete steps toward achieving this new foreign policy vision. That includes: cutting the Pentagon budget and investing instead in our communities, reducing the sale of arms to human rights abusers, ending broad-based sanctions, supporting reproductive rights internationally, making the rules of the global economy work for people and planet before corporate profit, pursuing a globally just transition off of fossil fuels, and much more.

## **Another World Is Possible... If We Fight For It**

The Foreign Policy for the 21st Century Resolution is an opportunity. Even if it can’t garner enough support to pass, this resolution demonstrates to the world what it means to make a foreign policy that works for everyday people, and is up to the task of confronting the 21st century’s greatest security threats. The vision can serve as a chance to prove to the critics that progressives do, in fact, offer a positive vision for U.S. foreign policy, to hold accountable those in Congress who claim the progressive mantle but fall short when it comes to foreign policy, and to illuminate the path forward for grassroots movements like ours. The Foreign Policy for the 21st Century Resolution plants a flag in the ground for the world we want to build. It’s up to us to fight for it.

**You can start by [taking action now](#) to tell your member of Congress to cosponsor the Foreign Policy for the 21st Century Resolution.**

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**Want to Learn More?**

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This Wednesday, mere hours after the Foreign Policy for the 21st Century Resolution was introduced, we had the chance to speak with both Congresswomen about the resolution and their vision for fixing our broken foreign policy. If you couldn't catch it live, you can still check it out [here](#) — be sure to stay through the end to hear from leading foreign policy experts from Win Without War, the Poor People's Campaign, Working Families Party, MADRE, and Justice Is Global.

**Can We Make Foreign Policy Work for the People?**



For far too long, the U.S. foreign policy status quo has benefitted elites and special interests, while hurting everyday people at home and abroad. How can we reimagine the solutions to U.S. security challenges to see the change that we need in the 21st century?

[winwithoutwar.org/fp4people](https://winwithoutwar.org/fp4people)

Watch Win Without War in conversation with Rep. Jayapal (WA-7) and Rep. Lee (CA-13), followed by an expert panel featuring MADRE, Justice Is Global & more.

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## BURIED LEDES

Responding to Russia-Ukraine tensions, the **Secretary of State** [said](#) that **“one country does not have the right to... a sphere of influence.”** What's that saying about pots and kettles? As Peter Beinart [says](#): “America's Delusions of Innocence Threaten the World.”

When it comes to China, the tired old hyper-adversarial tactics help no one. We need a new approach, not a new Cold War — that's why **we joined 30+ organizations in [calling on Congress to eliminate the most harmful elements of the big new “China bill.”](#)**

This week, Sens. Warren, Murphy, and Khanna [criticized](#) the **Biden administration for civilian casualties caused by U.S. drone strikes.** While they call for key improvements, we know one way to eliminate civilian casualties altogether: don't bomb them.

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**U.S. [strangulation](#) of the Afghan banking system has propelled a mass economic and health crisis in Afghanistan**; as a result, 22.8 million face starvation this winter. Economic sanctions are not an alternative to war; they *are* war.

In the interest of getting our point across, let's repeat ourselves. Sanctions are economic warfare. **Read [here](#) about how sanctions propel inflation, and ultimately, only succeed in harming everyday people.**

**This week, a [new report](#) explores the consequences that come from a systematic dehumanization of Iran and the Iranian people.** Surprise: militarism and racism go hand in hand.

Think nuclear weapons are a thing of the past? A distant threat? A reminder that **there are people — primarily Indigenous and Latinx — [dying](#) from nuclear weapons in the United States today.**

And finally, three weeks into January, and **2022 has us [feeling like](#)...**