

# A BASIC PRINCIPLE ON THE WAR IN UKRAINE

Certainly, the big power bullying and aggression by Russia, with its invasion of Ukraine a clear example, is something that all decent people should oppose. But no decent person should be joining in with the U.S. imperialists in their rivalry with Russian imperialism. For reasons I will get into here, it is utter, disgusting hypocrisy for the U.S. imperialists, and their media mouthpieces and other representatives, to be self-righteously condemning this Russian invasion, when *the U.S. is the country which has, by far, carried out the most invasions and other acts of violent interference in other countries....*

For those of us who are *not* willing to be blinded by this [GTF\*], we can and must confront and analyze reality as it actually is, and draw the necessary conclusions. Besides the fact that the U.S. is today, and has historically been, allied with many “authoritarian” governments throughout the world (and, in fact, has forcibly installed such governments in many countries), the even more fundamental fact is that the essence of the conflict between the U.S. and countries like Russia and China is not one between “democracy” and “authoritarianism,” but is a matter of *rivalry among imperialist powers*, all of which are monstrous oppressors of masses of people, and none of which represent or act in the interests of humanity. What is called for, and urgently now, is to oppose all imperialist marauders and mass murderers, and all systems and relations of oppression and exploitation, while giving particular emphasis to opposing “our own” imperialist oppressors who commit their monstrous crimes “in our name” and seek to rally us to support them on the basis of a grotesque American chauvinism, which we must firmly reject and fiercely struggle against.

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Of course, this act of imperialist aggression by Russia deserves to be condemned. But especially for people residing in *this* country—which, again, by far holds the record for such acts of aggression—it is a matter of basic principle and profound importance *not* to be echoing the positions and serving the aims of “our” imperialists, and instead to be making very clear our opposition to the aims and actions of these (U.S.) imperialists, *who are using opposition to the Russian invasion of Ukraine, not as a way of promoting “peace,” or “the right of nations to self-determination,” but as means of furthering U.S. imperialist interests, in opposition to the rival Russian imperialists.* So, in keeping with this crucial principle, any opposition to the Russian invasion of Ukraine, particularly by people in *this* imperialist country, *should be accompanied by a clear and definite stand of also opposing the role of the U.S. in the world, including the wars it continually wages, and other ways it violently interferes in other countries.*

## **Bob Avakian, Revolutionary Leader and Author of the New Communism**

Excerpts from:

- “Shameless American Chauvinism: ‘Anti-Authoritarianism’ as a ‘Cover’ for Supporting U.S. Imperialism”
- “Imperialist Parasitism and ‘Democracy’: Why So Many Liberals and Progressives Are Shameless Supporters of ‘Their’ Imperialism”

*These articles provide invaluable orientation and are available on [revcom.us](http://revcom.us).*

\* Bob Avakian notes earlier in this article: “... I have referred [previously to] the GTF, the Great Tautological Fallacy, the ‘round and round in a circle argument’ that America is a force for good in the world—and whatever it does is good, or at least done with ‘good intentions,’ because America is... a force for good.”

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