

AGAINST ALL WARS
AGAINST ALL GOVERNMENTS
AGAINST ALL OPPRESSION



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Understanding the US-Iran War

No amount of brute force can hold the neoliberal global order together—and Trump is not trying to hold it together. Rather, he and his fellow nationalists aim to ensure that the conflicts that succeed the neoliberal order will play out along ethnic and national lines rather than uniting everyone against the ruling class that he represents. Case in point: the Iranian government, threatened by massive unrest scarcely two months ago, can now use the escalating conflict with the US to legitimize its authority domestically. In response to the machinations of the Iranian and US governments, we aim to identify and resist every effort to turn us against each other.

We aim to build solidarity across national, ethnic, and religious lines while doing everything we can to topple authoritarian governments from DC to Tehran. Our hope is that revolutionary movements will break out on both sides of every border. Escalations in state violence are calculated to make this impossible—to substitute war for revolution. In a world headed towards ever more diffuse wars, goaded on by nationalist strongmen, our best chance of survival is to build ties between combative social movements like those in Lebanon, Egypt, Iran, Hong Kong and Chile. Let us fight those who would make us die on their behalf, not each other.

This stands in stark contrast to the strategy implied by the approach of certain authoritarian leftists, who, always looking for an authority to affirm, have settled on legitimizing the Iranian government. Let's be clear: to do so is to spit on the graves of the 1500 people the Iranian government killed to put down the recent uprising. It is to legitimize all the prisons and police in Iran and every form of tyranny that Iranian people rose up against. We don't have to affirm the legitimacy of the Iranian authorities to condemn Trump for attempting to goad them into targeting us. If there are any natural allies for us in this situation, it should be those who resist the authority of the Iranian government in the same way that we oppose Trump's authority.

We stand with those in the Mideast who have declared that "opposition to U.S. imperialism's air strikes and war threats against Iran and Iraq can only be effective when rooted in solidarity with the progressive and revolutionary forces in the Middle East and North African region and full opposition to all the authoritarian governments and imperialist powers in the region."

We'd like to see others put more energy into learning about anti-authoritarian resistance movements in Iran and elsewhere in the Mideast, and less energy into trying to rehabilitate Soleimani as an "anti-imperialist" hero. Both sides that wish to force the false binary of "Trump or Iran" on us are symmetrical in that they are counting on the threat represented by the alternative to force us to side with them. We have to make another option thinkable: a shared road to freedom.

The authorities on both sides would make us fear each other, but we know they are our chief enemy.

— from Crimethinc, *crimethinc.com*

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