

An A-Z of US aggression

*Adapted by MIM from an article
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Below is a partial list of US military interventions throughout its history and around the world. This list provides an overview of and introduction to the systematic nature of US imperialism from its inception to the present time. It neither captures the full list of how many countries the US has plundered militarily to support its economic interests, nor tells the full story of each individual country. And we need to keep in mind that independent of any one military action, the status quo of US imperialism means violence, starvation, labor exploitation and death for millions around the world. —*MIM*



ANGOLA -- 1975: Civil war breaks out after Portugal is forced to withdraw. The US backs the right-wing Union for the Total Liberation of Angola (UNITA). Angola is invaded several times by South Africa with covert support by the US. Hundreds of thousands are killed.

BOLIVIA -- 1950s: the US armed and trained the Bolivian military, in a successful effort to make the country more favorable to US capital. 1967: Around 100 US advisers are part of the military force which murders Che Guevara and his comrades in Bolivia.

CUBA -- 1899: US occupies with 18,000 marines. 1902: Cuba is forced to sign the Platt Amendment, giving the US the "right" to intervene in Cuba's internal affairs at any time. 1906, 1916 and 1917: US troops invade and occupy Cuba. 1933: US government overthrows Cuban government. 1959: Cuban revolution. 1961: US attempts to invade Cuba to overthrow the revolutionary government. 1999: the US still maintains a blockade against Cuba and an illegal military base at Guantanamo.

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC -- 1965: The US sends 22,000 troops to support a military regime that had recently overthrown a civilian government.

EL SALVADOR -- 1981-92: US backed a right-wing military dictatorship in its war against the anti-U.S. Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN). 75,000 people are killed during this so-called civil war.

FIJI -- 1987: The US offers tacit support to the leaders of the military coup against the Fiji Labour Party government.

GRENADA -- 1983: US forces invade Grenada when conflicts within the government, including the murder of Prime Minister Maurice Bishop, created an opportunity to install a pro-US regime.

HAITI -- US invades in 1915 and 1918, leaving occupying troops to directly rule until 1934. The US then backs a series of dictators including the father and son Duvaliers, until 1990, when Aristide won a presidential election. In 1994, 6000 US marines invade Haiti to preserve U.S domination of the island.

IRAQ -- 1991: US uses its dominance of the United Nations to launch a war for oil profits and political-economic hegemony in the Persian Gulf. At least 200,000 Iraqi civilians are killed. US-imposed sanctions kill more than 1 million people. "No-fly zones" continue to be enforced over northern and southern Iraq.

JAPAN -- 1945: US drops atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. In the two atomic attacks alone, approximately 150,000 people were killed. Earlier in the war, conventional bombings of Japanese cities yield a death toll of 80,000 in one night alone in Tokyo.

KOSOVO -- 1999: the US-led NATO alliance bombs Serbia and Kosovo.

LEBANON -- 1958: 10,000 US marines invade. 1982-84: US sends troops to expel Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) fighters and Arab rebels.

MEXICO -- 1845-1848: US steals one third of Mexican territory, to become the state of California. 1914: US warships attack Vera Cruz and send troops to occupy the province.

NICARAGUA -- 1927-33: US forces occupy Nicaragua to fight revolutionary leader Augusto Sandino's liberation army. Late 1970s: The US backed Somoza dictatorship's National Guard kills tens of thousands of civilians in a war against the Sandinista National Liberation Front (FSLN), which overthrows Somoza in 1979. The US backs a covert war against the new government, arming and funding the contras until the Sandinista government loses the elections in 1990.

OMAN -- 1962: US oil companies discover oil in Oman. 1965: the people of Oman rise up and form the Liberation Front for the Occupied Arabian Gulf. The US pressures Iran to intervene. It is subsequently revealed that the sultan of Oman had signed a secret deal with the Iranian monarchy to aid the anti-guerilla war.

PANAMA -- 1901: After engineering Panama's separation from Colombia, the US takes control of the Canal Zone. 1918: US forces invade five cities in Panama. 1964: US troops attack protesters who attempt to fly the Panamanian flag in the Canal Zone. In December 1989 the US invades Panama, killing 2000 people.

QATAR -- 1995: US stores equipment to supply armored brigades in Qatar.

RWANDA -- 1994: the French-backed Interahamwe government commits one of the worst massacres in this century. During the 1980s, the CIA helped funnel arms to the Interahamwe through Zaire. US officials now admit that the US tried to cover up the extent of the massacre.

SOMALIA -- 1995: under the guise of a "humanitarian mission", 35,000 US-led troops occupy Somalia after food "aid" helped destroy the local economy. Troops land on a beach in Mogadishu to coincide with prime time TV broadcasts.

TIMOR -- 1975: the US dramatically increases its military aid to Indonesia, enabling the Indonesian government to invade to quell the East Timorese resistance. Until 1991, the US was the main provider of military aid and training to the Indonesian regime. More than 250,000 East Timorese have died since the Indonesian invasion. In 1999, following the East Timorese vote for independence in August, as many as 200,000 East Timorese have been driven out of their territory by the US-backed Habibie regime, and there have been reports that 10,000 have been killed.



USSR -- 5,000 troops were sent to the Arctic ports in 1919 and 10,000 to Siberia in 1920 in an unsuccessful attempt to crush the Russian Revolution.

VIETNAM -- 1954-1976: US initially sends military advisors to the occupying French government in Vietnam, eventually sending in hundreds of thousands of ground troops and conducting massive air raids against North Vietnam. The US drops the equivalent of 620 Hiroshima bombs over the next 10 years in an unsuccessful attempt to crush the Vietnamese revolution. The US kills more than one million Vietnamese and displaces millions more.

WAKE ISLAND -- 1899: US annexes Wake Island.

XIENG KHOUANG -- 1960s: US Special Forces established a base in this northeastern Laos province as part of its intervention in a civil war.

YUGOSLAVIA -- 1992: UN/US arms embargo allows the chauvinists backed by the Serbian regime to massacre the multi-ethnic Bosnian forces. US forces down jets over Bosnia in 1993. More bombing in 1999.

ZAIRE -- 1998: one of the world's longest serving dictators, Mobutu, backed by the US, falls. During the 1980s, the US loaned Mobutu over \$40 million a year.