

WORLD MILITARY EFFERVESCENCE

The above contradictions, together with the shifts in the balance of power and the rupture in the distribution of the world, are reflected in the military sphere, which we will summarize below.

Imperialist clashes in Africa and the Middle East

European imperialism has been expelled from the Sahel (like American imperialism from Afghanistan and Iraq). Several coups d'état have imposed governments close to Chinese, Russian and even Turkish imperialism (Burkina Faso, Guinea Conakry, Niger, Chad, and Sudan, with a Russian naval base). The last two imperialisms increase their military deployment, after supporting opposing sides in Libya. Russia deploys its Wagner paramilitary force in Central African Republic (where it exploits mines) and Mali. The EU tried unsuccessfully to sanction the Wagner group, which has no official headquarters.

Clashes resumed between Morocco (supported by the US, and now also by Spanish imperialism) and the Polisario, supported by Algeria. Despite being a competitor for gas, Russia maintains close historical relations with Algeria, which is one of the first buyers of Russian weapons in Africa. The worldwide military effervescence makes this lucrative business grow.

In Ethiopia, Western imperialism is trying to halt its loss of influence by supporting the Tigray Front, confronted with the central government itself supported by Turkey, UAE and China (its foreign minister visited Eritrea, an ally of the Ethiopian government, in January). The attempt to slow down interconnection and Chinese investments has so far failed to stop the New Renaissance dam, fought by Sudan and Egypt.

Hostilities have intensified in Yemen, by Saudi Arabia against the Iranian-backed Houthis. The Houthis have responded by hijacking an Emirati ship loaded with weapons and successfully bombing Abu Dhabi with drones.

Iranian imperialism has a military presence directly or through militias or related governments in Syria, Lebanon, Gaza, Iraq, Yemen, Qatar, Bahrain or even Afghanistan. The possibility of lifting sanctions on Iran if the nuclear pact is signed, pushes the UAE and Saudi Arabia to rearm by buying weapons from the US. This rapprochement has also occurred with Qatar, which has signed several weapon and aircraft contracts worth \$20 billion with the US.

Increased military tension in Asia

North Korea has continued with long-range missile launches on an almost weekly basis, a warning to the world of China's technological capability, demonstrated via this protectorate of Beijing. China launched a hypersonic missile that *"circled the globe before speeding towards its target, demonstrating an advanced space capability that caught US intelligence by surprise."* (Financial Times, 16-10-2021) and Russia launched another one in October from a submarine. (El País, 05-10-2021). NATO countries are lagging behind in hypersonic missile technology but France tried to compensate by launching a nuclear-capable missile. (La Vanguardia, 26-03-2022).

In July 2021, Chinese capitalist imperialism threatened with a *"bloodbath"* to any foreign force that *"harasses, oppresses or subjugates us."* Russia and China signed a manifesto on

February 4, 2022 in which they *"denounced American influence in Europe and Asia, called for the containment of NATO and the dissolution of the Aukus and considered the US a destabilizing factor in the world."* (La Vanguardia, 05-02-2022). Russia supported the Taiwan claim and China acknowledged Russia's "legitimate security concerns," and that there would be "no forbidden areas of cooperation." Taiwan recently approved the allocation of 7.7 billion euros to buy weapons, while Chinese fighter flights over the island continue, reaching 150 in three days during the week of the Chinese national holiday.

Western imperialism is supporting the Burmese opposition's latent civil war against the military government, which has the explicit support of Russia and China. In March 2022 the US has started joint military exercises with the Philippines, while China has announced a "security agreement" with the Solomon Islands, to establish a base just 2,000 km from Australia.

Increasing military tension in Eastern Europe

In "The Internationalist Proletarian" no. 6 we exposed how European support to the Belarusian opposition to stop Chinese penetration, launched Belarus into Russian hands, increasing its military integration (also with Crimea, Donbas and Transnistria).

Especially since June 2021, explosive potential has been building up around Ukraine. In the meantime, Ukraine demanded accession to NATO and Moldova chose a pro-European government. This has been the perfect excuse to resuscitate NATO (which Macron considered "brain dead" a few months ago) and to escalate mutual provocations:

NATO ships conduct military maneuvers in the Black Sea with warning salvos (June 2021). Russian fighters fly over the Baltic countries (July 2021). Military maneuvers of the Ukrainian army with NATO countries (July 2021). NATO summit in Kiev with 47 countries demanding that Russia leave Crimea. Mutual arrest of spies (August 2021). Russian attempts to prevent passage through Ukraine to supply gas to Europe, force final opening of Nord Stream 2 and negotiation of long-term contracts with Germany (September 2021). Russian troop build-up on the border with Ukraine. Mutual expulsion of diplomats between EU and Russia (October 2021). Russian-Belarusian (with fighter-bombers) and NATO maneuvers (November 2021). Calls for Russia to withdraw its troops from Ukraine's borders. Mutual sanctions and demands (December 2021). Daily US statements on Russian invasion intentions. Mutual meetings and calls. Sending of NATO weapons and troops to Bulgaria and Romania. Announcement of further maneuvers (January 2022). Cyber-attacks, mutual media shutdown (February 2022). Pro-Western coup d'état in Kazakhstan (January 2022) and successful Russian intervention by sending 2,000 troops almost immediately, without having to move others from Ukraine, Syria or Africa.

All this accumulated potential has been unleashed on February 24, 2022 with Russia's offensive on Ukraine, after recognizing the Donbas republics and staging the flight of refugees. For the time being, the war is dragging on while the EU and the USA provide economic means and weapons to Ukraine to prolong the bloodbath. **Russia has put its nuclear capability (4,447 warheads) on alert.**