

'The origin of wars' – US and Iran

Extracts from Reflections by Fidel Castro, former President of the Republic of Cuba, on July 11th

"In the case that concerns us: one of them is defending national, absolutely just interests. The other is pursuing illegitimate intentions and crude material interests."

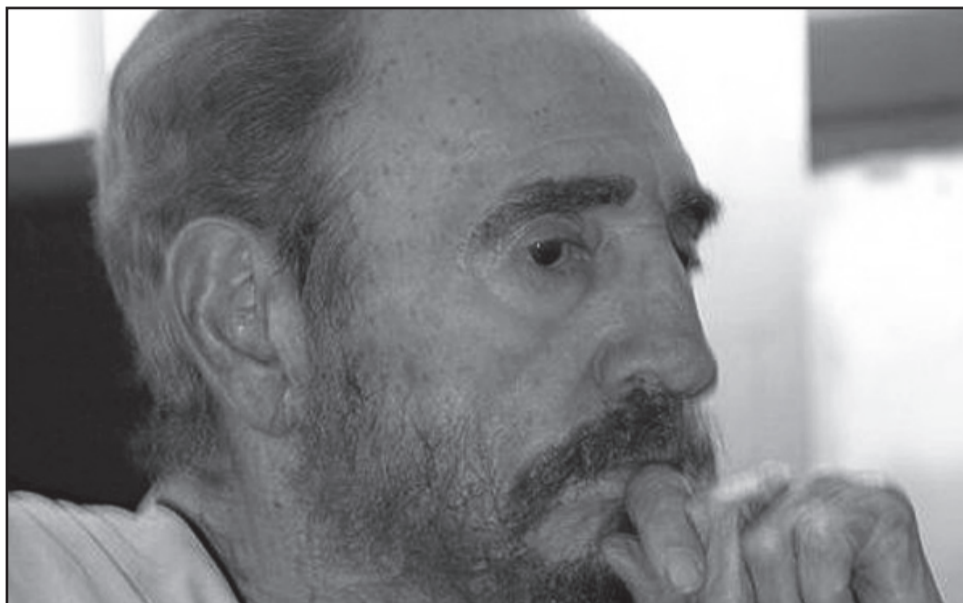
"Any illusion that, on this occasion, such objectives will be reached without the most terrible of all wars is absolutely vain.

"In one of the best articles published by the Global Research website on Thursday, July 1, signed by Rick Rozoff, he provides abundant indisputable arguments on the United States' intentions, of which any well-informed person must be aware.

"...Victory can be attained when an adversary knows it is vulnerable to an instantaneous and undetectable, overwhelming and devastating attack without the ability to defend itself or retaliate is what the United States thinks, according to the author.

"...A country which aspires to remain the only state in history to wield full spectrum military dominance on land, in the air, on the seas and in space.

"...To maintain and extend military bases and troops, aircraft carrier battle groups and strategic bombers on and to most every latitude and longitude. To do so with a post-World War II record war budget of \$708 billion for next year.



"It was ...the first country to develop and use nuclear weapons...

"... the U.S. retains 1,550 deployed nuclear warheads and 2,200 (by some counts 3,500) more in storage and a triad of land, air and submarine delivery vehicles.

"He (Rozoff) explains the commitments to NATO and the reinforced cooperation with Near East allies, primarily, read Israel. He says, *The U.S. is also intensifying space and cyber warfare programs with the potential to completely shut down*

other nations' military surveillance and command, control, communications, computer and intelligence systems, rendering them defenceless on any but the most basic tactical level.

"He speaks of the signing in Prague, on April 8 of this year, of the new START Treaty between Russia and the United States, which *does not contain any constraints on current or planned U.S. conventional prompt global strike capability.*

"He notes that ...*The Department of Defence is currently exploring the full*

range of technologies and systems for a Conventional Prompt Global Strike (CPGS) capability that could provide the President more credible and technically suitable options for dealing with new and evolving threats.

"The *yankis* believe that Iran's rendition is already close. The European Union is expected to announce a sanctions package of its own to be signed on July 26.

"From Tuesday, July 5, in the face of the European reiteration that they are to promote additional measures against Iran, this country has responded that it will not negotiate until September. Every day the possibilities of overcoming the insurmountable obstacle are reducing further. The 60-day period given by the Security Council on June 9 to receive information on compliance with the Resolution expires on August 8.

"Two powerful states with authority and prestige did not exercise their right to veto the perfidious UN resolution. It was the only possibility of gaining time to seek some formula for saving the peace, an objective that would have afforded them greater authority to continue fighting for it.

"Today, everything is hanging from a tenuous thread."

The US role in Haiti's continuing misery

by Jim H.

Being already one of the poorest nations in the world, the impact of the devastating earthquake of January 12th was horrendous for Haiti. From this alone, one might have expected that the aid promised by the most powerful nations would have flowed in and made a real difference.

No such thing. In a country where four out of five people live in poverty and more than half in abject poverty, lack of sufficient aid can be a matter of life and death.

A study by the Inter-American Development Bank estimated that the cost could be between \$7.2 billion to \$13.2 billion, based on a death toll from 200,000 to 250,000. The toll was later revised by Haiti's president to upwards of 300,000.

Haitians see that instead of providing aid for them, a substantial part of the inadequate funds coming in are eaten up by open corruption, or the more subtle kind, where the money going to major voluntary organisations is eaten up in administration.

Many Haitians continue to live in tent shanties, while officials go around in comparative luxury.

While many international workers

who have gone to Haiti are genuinely motivated by a desire to help the desperately poor country rebuild, they constantly come up against the reality of the nation's neo-colonial and repressive legacy. It has a huge impact on what they are trying to do.

For a more than 200 years Haiti has been under the heel of US imperialism. As a result of the activities of American owned agribusiness, especially over the last two decades, deforestation has been widespread and over-farming has left much of the land barren. Subsistence farming has been undermined and food prices driven up.

US interference stepped up when Haiti was first militarily occupied by this superpower in 1915. The US supported the brutal regime of François Duvalier (Papa Doc) and then his son Jean-Claude Duvalier (Baby Doc), from 1957 to 1971 and then 1971 to 1986, when the regime was finally overthrown. US interference continued. Haitians were denied the right to take control over their own country. This is the situation that remains today.

A special commission which was established in March to oversee use of the \$5.3 billion pledged for Haitian reconstruction is co-chaired by the Haitian Prime Minister Jean-Max



Bellerive (current US puppet), but real power lies in the hands of the American co-chair, former president Bill Clinton, and the Obama administration. Through this, funds are diverted to pursue the interests of US imperialism, rather than meet the needs of the people. It is the main reason why the money donated is not having an effect on the ground.

It is Washington that calls the shots on the use of the aid money, despite the fig-leaf of Haitian participation. The Commission did not even meet officially until June 17th, more than five months after the earthquake, and then only because the onset of hurricane season made it necessary to approve a mere \$31 million in projects to build hurricane shelters for a small fraction

of the population.

The declared purpose of the aid is to encourage private investment in Haiti, and toward that end policies to ensure the profits of the banks and corporations, especially those of the United States, are being systematically promoted and applied.

Consequently, there is growing discontent amongst the suffering people, which will likely lead to a lifting of the ongoing struggle for independence and self-determination. Haitians do not want to continue to live in squalor. There have been protests. There will be more. Anger could well turn to rebellion. It is by ridding itself of the bloodsucking connection with US imperialism that Haiti will finally be able to raise itself.