

# The New US "Security" Strategy

*"It was the rise of Athens, and the fear that it instilled in Sparta, that made the war inevitable"* (Thucydides).

Last December, the National Security Strategy (NSS) was published by the White House, which sets out the interests, priority actions and objectives of US imperialism over the next few years, politically, diplomatically and militarily, as well as state spending.

The NSS developed by Trump's staff is based on "principled realism", American exceptionalism and global competition. It paints a "Hobbesian" world of imperialist and capitalist states armed against each other for the affirmation of their own interests; an unstable, divided and conflicted world in which only the US with its military force can secure the capitalist order (which coincides with its own order).

Within this gloomy vision lies the return to a more crude, provocative and aggressive foreign policy, which stipulates a paradigm shift with respect to the phase marked by the strategic optimism of the "end of history," the "cooperative" approach and the propaganda of the affirmation of Western "democracy."

The United States no longer presents itself as the bearer of "welfare and prosperity" in the world, it no longer imposes "global dreams," but puts the restoration of its greatness at the center of its strategy, even at the cost of an atomic war, obviously to save peace.

While Obama was aiming to strengthen the system of alliances, Trump magnifies "America First", which promotes the vital interests of US imperialism through a chauvinist and warlike policy, aimed at reaffirming its own world supremacy in the face of the strengthening of rival powers. This has nothing to do with isolationism and the abandonment of the historical US role.

The imperialist circles in the US are aware that the US economy and influence are rapidly declining (today the US controls only 16% of the world economy). They know that the last major crisis weakened confidence in neoliberalism, that the "Pax Americana" does not rule in many areas of the world. They realize that the rise of China is inevitable and its structural and super-structural resources are relevant to gain more influence.

In the NSS this awareness translates into three defined groups of threats that the US must fight to maintain its world leadership.

The first is constituted by the "revisionist" powers, that is, the imperialist countries that are dissatisfied with the current status quo and therefore want to break it, eroding the declining US hegemony, increasing their own influence and aiming to create a world order that is contrary to the interests and values of the Yankees. These rival powers are China and Russia, presented as

aggressive and threatening, bearers of values incompatible with those of the United States (even if the strategists of the Pentagon do not exclude tactical collaboration in areas of mutual interest, that is to suppress the revolutionary processes).

The second group includes the "rogue states" such as North Korea and Iran, which are destabilizing important regions and threatening the interests of the US and its allies.

The third includes transnational terrorist organizations, mainly Islamist organizations.

The areas in which this challenge is concentrated, carried out with economic, political and military actions, are the Indo-Pacific region, Europe, the Middle East and Central and South Asia. It is no coincidence that these regions are traversed by the ambitious expansionist Chinese project called "One Belt One Road," aimed at obtaining a clear strategic advantage in Eurasia and the exploitation of Middle Eastern and Central Asian energy resources. The signal given to China is clear.

The NSS does not say it openly, but there are other imperialist and capitalist powers that are for now allies of the USA (Germany, Japan, France, Great Britain, India, South Korea, Australia, etc.) that endure with difficulty the domination and oppression of the US superpower.

The message sent to these countries is: woe to you if you plan to establish alliances or agreements with China, Russia, Iran or North Korea! Those who oppose US policy will see their aid cut off, they will be considered an opponent country and turn into a target.

The more US foreign policy becomes aggressive and belligerent, the more the relations with their allies (including those of NATO who are called upon to bear a greater weight in the military budget) will become complicated and conflicted. Looking ahead, the differences and mutual mistrust will deepen.

The key point for the US remains that of preventing a Germany-Russia-China alliance by any means, which would change the balance of power in the world. It should be remembered that one of the permanent objectives of US foreign policy since the post-war period has always been to divide Germany and Russia, a design that proceeds today through the formation of a belt of buffer States from the Baltic to the Adriatic (the enlarged Visegrad group {the Central European states of the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Hungary and Poland}) .

In the NSS the disregard of supranational institutions and treaties is evident. The Trump administration wants to deal directly with States on a bilateral or multilateral basis without going through other channels. There are two main reasons for this choice.

First, the US wants to unconditionally defend its interests and privileges without binding its hands, making alliances to oppose its rivals and openly violating the rights of peoples.

Second, in the last decades the US has seen the failure of the policy of containment / integration of their rivals in supranational institutions and global trade, in which they have been strengthened. They fear that counter-alliances will be formed within these institutions that will undermine their hegemonic position. They therefore aim to divide states by presenting themselves as the protectors of their sovereignty in the face of Chinese and Russian expansionism.

A significant concept appears in the new NSS: military security is seen as the equivalent of economic security. This means that together with military aggression we must expect greater aggression in the economic sphere. They are preparing a war fought with the weapons of protectionism, attempts to bankrupt their rivals, to oust their competitors from certain markets, with the use of sanctions, anti-dumping measures, economic isolation, etc.

The second aspect of this economic war is the historical increase in US military spending (\$700 billion in 2018, a growth of 13% over 2017), especially for nuclear weapons, fighter-bombers, ships and submarines, high-tech combat systems and war in cyberspace. The US government wants to renew the base of the military and security complex with large injections of capital, avoiding any dependence on other countries. This will also have an impact on the economies of other countries, which will re-arm themselves, preparing for military struggle.

Another particularity to be noted is the promotion of the "resilience" of US citizens in the face of terrorist attacks and political, economic and military disasters: this is the form that fascist neo-corporatism and mass preparation for foreign wars takes in the document.

In all that, what role is Italy to play? The tricolor [Italian flag] is not mentioned in the document, but it is objectively implicated in the US strategy as a satellite state with an important geostrategic position from which a greater commitment is required against enemy powers, increased military spending, the permanent provision of bases, involvement in military adventures, as well as political and economic counter-reforms to undermine the workers' movement. From this point of view is not relevant for Washington whatever political party may be in the power (Renzi, Berlusconi or Di Maio).

Weak Italian imperialism, ruled by a class of pimps deprived of any strategic design, unable to bring the country out of its increasing decline and degradation, will face a situation of acute tension, because it will be prevented from developing economic relations with rivals of the USA while German pressure will increase and to the east it will find new obstacles.

The consequences of the emergence of new powers and the clash between giants, especially in Eurasia, will be increasingly severe. Thus, there will be a renewed aggressiveness of the Italian bourgeoisie in the areas that the United States and the European powers leave to its influence.

We conclude. Those who think that changes in US policy are limited and of little importance are wrong. The new doctrine of US "national security" will make the world more insecure, it

will worsen relations with Russia and China, it will cause an increase in international tension (which is already reaching alarming levels in the South China Sea), it will result in new provocations (such as that concerning Jerusalem), support for the most reactionary forces and devastating attacks (more than simple punishments and raids).

At the same time its contradictions and limitations (in containing Russia and China at the same time, underestimating the role of alliances, losing the role of "neutral" arbitrator) will lead to the further loss of US hegemony and influence.

The NSS report is a demonstration that the inevitability of wars between imperialist and capitalist countries continues to exist as a product of uneven development, as a consequence of the fact that the US, a declining imperialist power – but one that is no less dangerous and aggressive – does not they want to renounce world domination, while China, an emerging imperialist superpower, wants to grow without this dominance, it wants to displace the US.

Other countries will also try to disengage themselves from subordination to the United States of America, to break the status quo imposed by the US in order to get the road of independent development and achieve greater profits. All this will increase the dangers of war. Hence there is the need to form broad anti-imperialist and anti-capitalist fronts, with the working class at their head.

The epoch in which we live not only makes war inevitable, but also makes inevitable the combination of the proletarian revolution with the struggles for the liberation of the peoples into a single world front of the revolution against the world front of imperialism.

For this perspective, the only one that can guarantee peace, prosperity and progress, we must prepare ourselves tirelessly by working to break the imperialist chain on our country.

**Published on “Scintilla” # 86, February 2018**