



**Talk at IPAN Rally
No War on China – Sunday 3 July 2021
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I would like to acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of country throughout Australia and their connections to land, sea and community, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. I also acknowledge that these lands and sovereignty has never been ceded.

My name is Romina and I am speaking on behalf of the Campaign for International Cooperation and Disarmament (CICD).

CICD has a long history of 62 years of campaigning for peace, Nuclear Disarmament, Social justice and much more.

It is unfortunate that we are still needing to campaign for peace. Last year we were campaigning for “No War with Iran” and today we are here to campaign for “No war with China.

This is not the first time that the USA and other capitalist powers want to attack China. For 5,000 years, China was one of the world’s most advanced societies in culture, art and technology. It came under attack in the 18th and 19th centuries from powers whose rapid capitalist development gave them a temporary advantage in military and industrial power. This advantage led to several hundred years of the colonial looting of China and much of the East and South Asia. Unequal treaties and military occupation reduced China to a country of staggering poverty, famines, social chaos, enforced underdevelopment and war.

Most people may not know the past intervention by the U.S. and other imperialist countries into China. In the 19th century, armed units from the U.S., Britain, France, Germany, and Japan imposed their will on Chinese cities. The U.S. Navy had fleets of ships patrolling Chinese rivers and coastal waters.

This most brutal gunboat diplomacy imposed unequal treaties to reinforce their military occupations, while making China pay these imperialist countries huge indemnities. With U.S. participation, Britain unleashed two Opium Wars on China to enforce its “right” to sell opium. They called it “free trade.”

The past 20 years of U.S. wars in Afghanistan, Iraq, Libya, and Syria have proven by every measure an absolute disaster for U.S. imperialism’s dreams of defeat and recolonization. Unfortunately, Australian governments have followed the US into every war and Australia is preparing with the support of mainstream media to go to war with China.

U.S. imperialism is incapable of matching China's incredible humanitarian effort. So, it is hardly surprising that China's global aid is repeatedly criticized by the U.S. corporate media and Washington think tanks. And the Australian Strategic Policy Institute.

The Australian Strategic Policy Institute (ASPI) is a defence and strategic policy think tank based in Canberra. Was established by the Australian government, in 2001 under Prime Minister John Howard and partly funded by the Australian Department of Defence. In addition to domestic funding, it is also funded by foreign governments such as the United State Department as well as military contractors.

ASPI's 2018-19 annual report stated that it received some funding from the Embassy of Japan, as well as from state governments and defence companies, such as Lockheed Martin, Raytheon Technologies and other military contractors.

There is a change underway on how wars are fought. It's called the JADC2 (Joint All-Domain Command & Control), a globally networked, cloud-based command centre, overseen by the recently scoured U.S. Space Force. It was for this that the Space Force was created.

However, targeting China with this new model for mass destruction will not bring about global security. Even if it were to somehow not culminate in a nuclear conflict, the ecological and climate costs of commanding war from outer space would be devastating.

The Australian people do not want to go to war with China.

Politicians pushing Australia are not doing so in the interests of the Australian people.

The Australian public would gain nothing and has no interest in going to war with China.

Experiences in Vietnam, Iraq and, especially, Afghanistan have proven that wars against countries that pose no threat are counterproductive and pointless.

We should all be screaming: enough is enough no more wars and "No War with China".

Thank you.