

US IMPERIALISM AND THE ROLE OF OVERSEAS BASES IN US GEOPOLITICAL STRATEGY

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INTRODUCTION

From Pax Romana → to Pax Americana (Old and New Imperialism Compared)

They have the same aim: to expand the power and dominion of the imperial country to gain control/influence of the land and wealth of the target country and people. The imperial power then incorporates it as part of its empire.

OLD IMPERIALISM

Use direct conquest and use of force, coercion and intimidation.

The imperialists have also claimed other lands by the invented right of “discovery” of certain lands already occupied by other human beings.

JUSTIFICATION OF OLD EMPIRE BUILDERS:

- o. “Save Souls” -- converting them to the religion of the imperial power
- o. Teach colonized people good government and “civilized ways” (Kipling’s “White Man’s burden”)



MODERN-DAY IMPERIALISM: PAX AMERICANA

- o. US imperialist propaganda proclaims it's "noble" aims:
 - to promote democracy, freedom and human rights in the "world"; save civilian lives (e.g., Iran, Iraq and Afghanistan in the Middle East; and Somalia and Libya in Africa.)
- o. The invasion and occupation of the Philippines was called "Benevolent Assimilation"

MODERN -DAY IMPERIALISM

combination of methods from the use of outright force (invasion, occupation) to subtle schemes to expand territories; and/or use of newly acquired authority and influence over ruling elites/oligarchies *to plunder the wealth and resources of victim countries and exploit their peoples (they call it "development")*

What follows (as in the case of the Philippines) is the imposition of the imperialist ways in all spheres of human activity – the *economic, political, social, and cultural life* of the victim nation



Modern-Day Imperialist

- Improved and modified methods

Global Finance Capital is the main engine driving imperialist expansion

Driven by greed for more and more profits, the imperialist seeks:

A. the control of territories that are sources of cheap raw materials to feed their hungry factories: oil and gas, iron ore for making steel products, copper, silver, tin, nickel, manganese, etc.

B. the control of sources of cheap labor from the third world countries of Asia, Africa and Latin America---all former colonies of the West ---as the main targets.

C. the control of areas in the world where excess capital can be profitably invested, generating vast wealth and super profits which they bring home to their home countries, while leaving the masses of peoples in the countries they exploited, poor and hungry and their land devastated and robbed of its wealth and resources

D. Control of profitable markets for their manufactured goods, for business and for trade, usually the densely populated countries of the world with the targeted buying power

THE STRATEGY AND TACTICS OF US IMPERIALISM UNDER OBAMA

- o The May 2010 “National Security Strategy” White House Proclamation emphasizes:
 - “A Strategy for the World We Seek”
 - “Advancing Top National Priorities”
- o US Strategic Objectives---Same as Pres. GW Bush’s except Pres. Barack Obama’s has more deceptive rhetoric to camouflage his vain efforts to hide the real intent of US Imperialism.
- o.Sharing the costs of empire: Obama also seeks more involvement of regimes which are willing collaborators and accomplices of US Imperialism.
- p.More and more Use of Special Forces under the SOCOM GLOBAL COMMAND in conjunction with the “2009 COIN GUIDE.” Currently being tested in US Trng Centers and applied in Yemen and elsewhere.
- o. Goals are outlined in the QDR (Quadreneal Defense Review) Report of DOD of 2010. (Enumerate)



PROTECTING AND DEFENDING THE US EMPIRE



PRIMARY ROLE OF OVERSEAS US MILITARY BASES

At the end of WW II, the “Cold War” between the United States and the Soviet Union ensued. Arms race and the establishment. of numerous bases followed.

Cold War ended, US became lone “Superpower and established an estimated 800 to 1,000 military bases and the stationing of hundreds of thousands of US troops around the world

US divided the world into TEN GLOBAL US MILITARY COMMANDS and placed all US bases under these Commands.

After 9/11, “Global War on Terror” started. US used this as a “good” reason to wage COIN war, not only against Al Qaeda “terrorists” but also against people’s revolutionary movements which oppose US Imperialism, by branding them also as “terrorist” organizations.

US → became the self-appointed “Policeman of the World” who wantonly violates international law, the sovereignty of independent nations , and the UN charter

THE US GLOBAL COMMANDS

US UNIFIED COMMAND	YEAR	HQS	AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY
US African Command (USAFRICOM)	2007	Germany, Djibouti, Africa	All 53 African countries
US European Command (USEUCOM)	1952	Germany	Europe, former states of USSR, Greenland, parts of Atlantic & Arctic Oceans
US Central Command (USCENTCOM)	1983	Florida, US	Covers the “central” area of the globe between Europe and the Pacific Command
US Pacific Command (USPACOM)	1947	Hawaii	North Pacific Ocean, South Pacific Ocean to Antarctica, China, India
US Northern Command (USNORTHCOM)	Upgraded 2002	Colorado, US	Continental US, Canada, part of Arctic Ocean (to North pole)
US Southern Command (USSOUTHCOM)	1963	Panama (now Florida, US)	Caribbean, Part of Atlantic, Central America and South America
US Special Operations Command (USSOCOM)	1987	Florida, US	Anywhere in the world where needed
US Transport Command (USTRANSCOM)	1987	Scott AFB, Illinois, US	Anywhere in the world where Troops, war equipment & supplies are needed

Two other Commands with Global Jurisdiction were created, the US STRATEGIC COMMAND (USSTRATCOM) and the US JOINT FORCES COMMAND (US JFCOMMAND).



USAFRICOM



USEUCOM



USCENTCOM



USPACOM



USNORTHCOM



USSOUTHCOM



USJFCOM



USSTRATCOM



USSOCOM

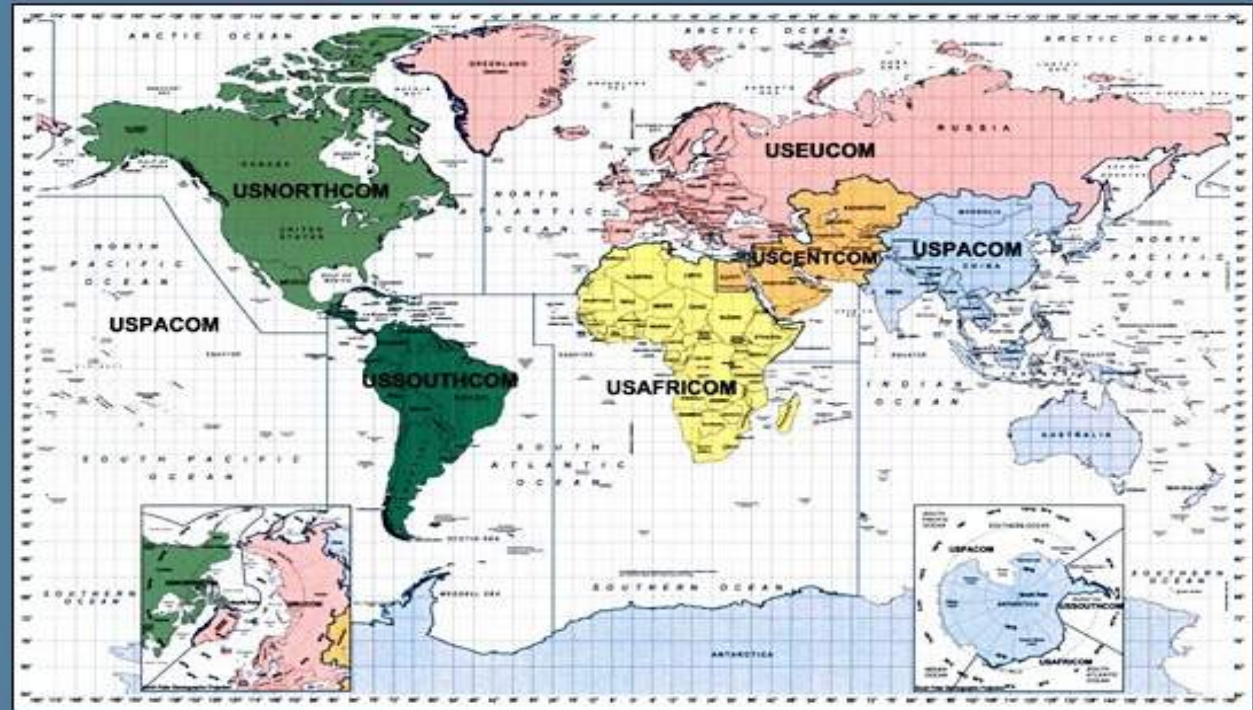


USTRANSCOM

UNIFIED COMMAND PLAN

The Unified Command Plan establishes the missions and geographic responsibilities among the combatant commanders.

COMMANDER'S AREAS OF RESPONSIBILITY



UNIFIED COMMAND PLAN 2011

The Department of Defense updated the Unified Command Plan, a key strategic document that establishes the missions, responsibilities, and geographic areas of responsibility for commanders of combatant commands. UCP 2011, signed by President Obama on April 6, 2011, assigns several new missions to the combatant commanders.



US MILITARY IN AFRICA



US MILITARY IN EUROPE



US MILITARY IN MIDDLE EAST



US MILITARY IN THE PACIFIC



US NORTHERN COMMAND



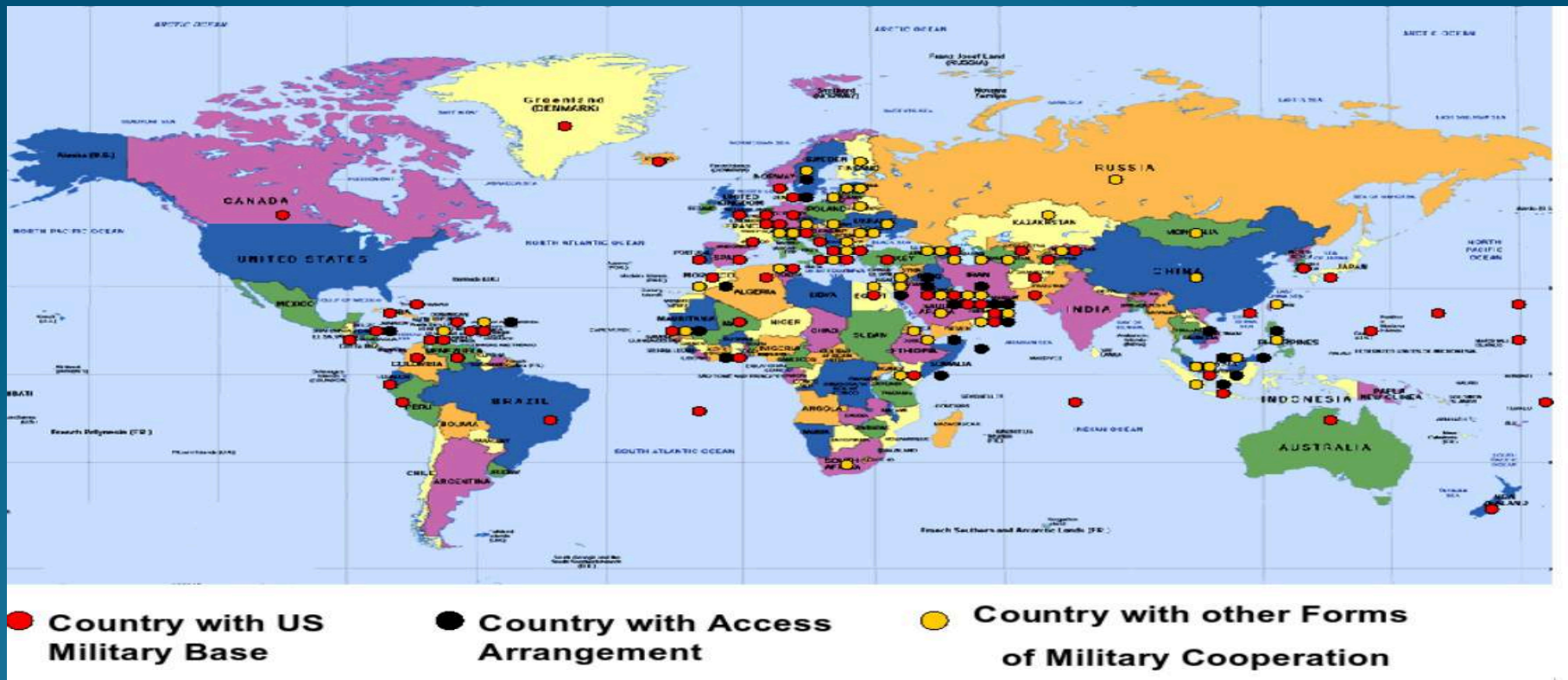
US SOUTHERN COMMAND



**US SPECIAL
OPERATIONS
COMMAND**

THE DOD BASE STRUCTURE REPORT (September 2008)

- The Report outlines the US military installations built around the world.
- A second DOD Report released on December 31 2010 shows the distribution of active duty US military personnel by regions and by country numbering 1, 429, 367 worldwide : 1,137,716 (US and territ.) and 458,500 in foreign countries. This Report also indicate that 101, 468 of these are “afloat” meaning that they are deployed in US Naval Warships operating around the world.
- **A New Development:** A few of the large bases has been reduced but an increasing number of “Access Arrangements” and other forms of Military Cooperation Agreements have been signed as shown in the map below (MLSA, Cooperative Security Location.)



THE GLOBAL STRATEGIC STRAITS (CHOKEPOINTS)

In order to protect and defend US strategic interests and hegemony throughout the world, the US and its allies have established control over strategic straits (chokepoints) around the world.

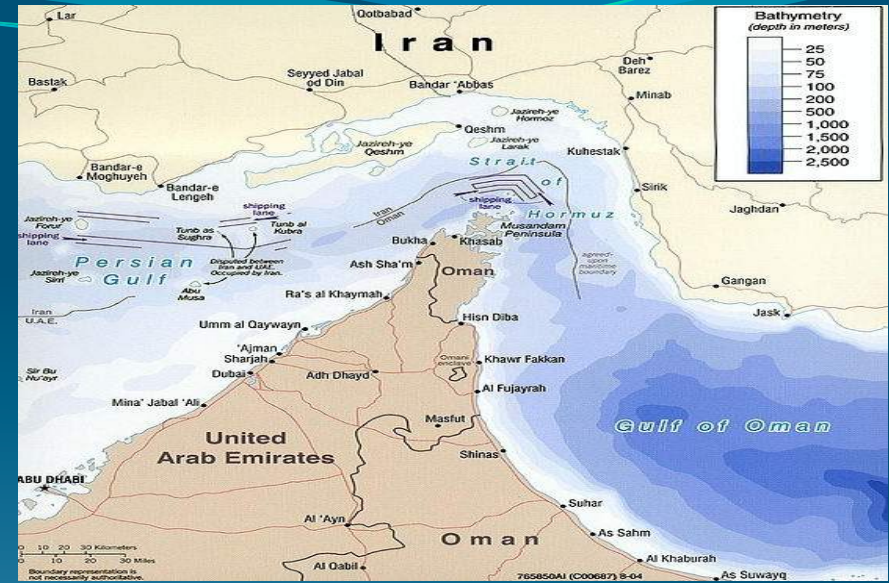
These chokepoints control the economic lifeblood of the world --- the shipping lanes where the commerce and trade of the world and the naval warships that protect such interests and commerce of the major powers pass.

The deployment of overseas US military bases globally is intended, among others, to provide protection and defense of these strategic straits.

STRAIT OF GIBRALTAR



STRAIT OF HORMUZ



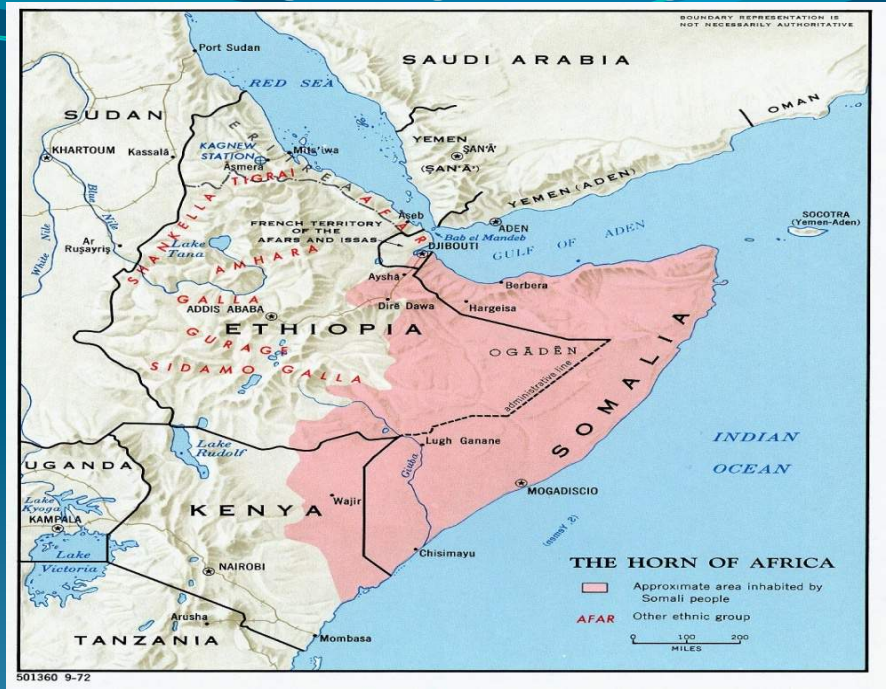
SUEZ CANAL



STRAIT OF MALACCA



HORN OF AFRICA



PANAMA CANAL



CONCLUSION

o. In protecting and defending the global interests of the US, Barack Obama and his strategic planners in the Pentagon and the State Department have shifted from the unilateral and arrogant “cowboy” approach of Pres. GW BUSH to a multilateral policy in which it tries to involve fellow imperialist powers before launching its defense of the Empire and its wars of aggression.

o. The US is now experimenting with a new form of warfare involving the collaboration of (1) Special Forces and (2) the CIA’s paramilitary units of its “Special Activities Division’ and (3) other units of the US Armed Forces. The Pentagon’s Joint Special Operations Command (part of SOCOM) runs the show. This new form of warfare is now being tested in Yemen, Afghanistan and Pakistan and in training sites in Fort Bragg, North Carolina (Home of Special Forces) and in Fort Benning, Georgia (Home of the Rangers)

o. This new form of warfare is complemented by the COIN shift from a purely conventional approach (the use of conventional forces) to the application of “Soft Power” (e.g. psychological and asymmetrical warfare). Initiated by Sec. Donald Rumsfeld and tried in several countries of Africa it has been expanded by Sec. Robert Gates and it is now being used in many countries . (See 2009 US Counter Insurgency Guide) (PH-”Bayanihan”)

o. Except for the major Headquarters located in continental US and abroad, the US is experimenting more and more on the use of ACCESS agreements (SOFA, MLSA, VFA, etc.), stationing smaller, housekeeping forces and highly trained Special Operations Forces to wage “asymmetrical” or “irregular warfare” against any non-state forces that are hostile to the interests of US Imperialism. Targeted enemies include revolutionary forces fighting for national and social liberation, which are first tagged as “terrorist” organizations to justify their “legitimate” inclusion against the US global war on terror.



Conclusion (cont' d)

- o. In the “US Global War on Terror,” US military forces are authorized by their superiors (civilian and military) to violate international law, the territorial integrity of independent and sovereign states (e.g. Pakistan, Somalia, the Philippines); conduct preemptive strikes, decapitate (assassinate) a countries’ political leadership, effect regime change, torture or kill civilian suspects, etc. (Examples: Haiti, Honduras, Grenada, Panama, Somalia, Iraq and Afghanistan; ongoing attempts in Libya and Syria by US and NATO (and most probably Israel’s notorious MOSSAD). Obviously these are all indictable war crimes but the International Criminal Court and the UN Security Council are turning a blind eye, pretending not to notice these gross violations of international law and crimes against humanity, or are just looking the other way! !
- o. Barack Obama differs from George W. Bush only on the emphasis in the use of “soft power” rather than the use of brute military force. Obama’s way, while more *subtle and deceptive*, also aims to protect the so-called “strategic interests” of US Imperialism.
- o. The peoples of the world must unite as one and resist these criminal violations of international law and the territorial integrity of sovereign and independent states by US Imperialism.
- o. There is an urgent need for the world’s peoples to unite in solidarity and wage a global campaign to eliminate all US military bases in the world and struggle against *all forms of intervention by US IMPERIALISM and its collaborators!*

