

THE PACIFIC PIVOT
By Carol Urner, Co-Chair, Disarm/End Wars Issue Group

The Pacific Pivot has a large military component, apparently intended to back up the TPP and various business initiatives of US based multinational corporations. In actual fact, however -- whether or not it is the intent -- the US military buildup is already seriously destabilizing the area.

The United States has had an extensive presence in the Pacific, at least until 2007 (see *Nemesis* by Chalmers Johnson), with hundreds of existing bases, built or captured during World War II. Many of these have been closed since 2007, but controversial new bases are being built on Okinawa (Japan) and Jeju Island (South Korea). WILPF Disarm/ End Wars Issue Committee has been supporting the determined non-violent resistance of local populations. (See "*GN in the Asia Pacific*" **articles by Bruce Gagnon** <http://www.space4peace.org> for latest reports on Okinawa and Jeju Island.)

With the pivot the United States plans to move 60% of its military forces to Asia. This seems to be happening incrementally, with \$9 billion in funding in 2015 and an additional 22,000 troops expected to arrive during this year.

The joint Korean-United States war games off the China coast in the spring of 2015 was a massive show of force with air craft carriers, fighter jets and Aegis destroyers equipped to provide "missile defense". B-52s even staged mock nuclear air raids. China has no military equipment to compare with the US arsenal, and one can both regret and understand how "games" like this also led China into more extensive militarization.

The current US Administration has also been trying to lure NATO into the Pacific as a military partner, and is supporting the remilitarization of Japan. Taken together, all of this military activity could easily lead us into more upheaval and war.

Why can't Asian nations and the United States instead cooperate with each other in raising their own people out of ignorance and poverty and in updating their own infrastructure? That has seemed to be China's aim, and the United States also has many domestic needs on which the nine billion dollars could be well spent.

The Disarm/End Wars Issue Committee members have been very active in the AFSC generated coalition, facilitated by Cambridge based Joe Gerson, seeking to counter and transform the Pacific Pivot into a far less expensive peace building venture, rather than one which threatens to involve Asian nations in devastating wars like those that are still ravaging the Middle East. At least five of our committee members are participating in the **Working Group for Peace and Demilitarization in Asia** and other members have taken part in individual events.

IT'S NOT A PIVOT: Neoliberalism & Militarism Led by US
by Bernadette Ellorin
Remarks made Sept.13, 2015 on conference call about the TPP

The term 'Pivot' came up for the first time in an Oct. 11, 2011, Foreign Policy magazine article:

America's Pacific Century. The article was written by then Secretary of State, **Hillary Clinton** <http://atfp.co/1NPEpFk> It's not a pivot because the Pacific Command is the oldest and largest of the six current regional commands of the US military.

"The Pacific command was formed during the dawning of the Cold War in 1947. Its area of responsibility takes in over 50 per cent of the world – 105 million square miles – 36 nations and almost 60 per cent of the world's population. 300,000 troops from all major branches of US Armed Forces In charge of major defense treaties with Australia, Japan, New Zealand, the Philippines, and South Korea."

US SO-CALLED "REBALANCE" TO ASIA-PACIFIC REGION NOTHING NEW TO ASIAN-PACIFIC ISLANDERS

"The US government, through its imperialist wars of aggression in the region throughout the 20th century, laid the groundwork and developed infrastructure for total economic, political, and military hegemony over the region for the last 70 years. This includes puppet regimes and agents of local reaction throughout the region, including proxy military forces.

"'Rebalance' simply means deploying more US troops and public funds towards beefing up existent structures of reactionary violence in the region, including realigning the loyalties of US puppets, local agents, and allies in the region as well as provoke military antagonism to boost the US military industrial complex.

"The US government's policy over China is one of engagement and containment. Engagement as a major commercial partner and market for US corporate interests, and containment as a major economic super rival.

"There are raging peoples democratic movements for national and social liberation throughout the region that threaten US strategic interests."

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