

February /
March 2026
Price \$5.00

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*“Democracy
dies in
broad daylight”*

War is a Racket

Trump's \$1.5 trillion military budget

Arms industry assembles army
of 1,000 lobbyists on the Hill

By William Hartung

In usual Trumpian fashion, in January our president chose to announce a major policy shift on Truth Social. In this case it was his desire to boost the Pentagon budget from an already enormous \$1 trillion this year to an obscene figure of \$1.5 trillion next year.

Steve Ellis of the nonpartisan watchdog group Taxpayers for Common Sense has emphasized just how misguided the new proposal is.

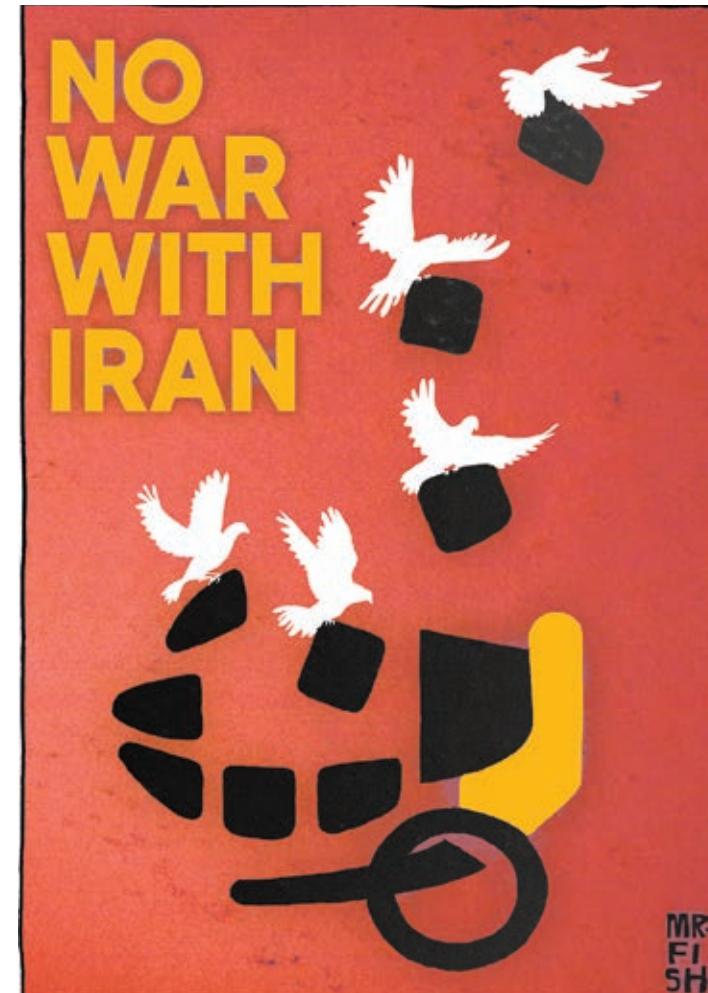
“President Trump’s proposal to explode the Pentagon budget with a 50 percent hike next year is as wasteful as it sounds,” Ellis said. “We’re over \$38 trillion in debt. We have real needs, at home and abroad, none of which will be easier to meet by hitting the gas pedal on the debt crisis.”

Nor will the Trump proposal meet with wide public support.

A recent poll by the Institute for Global Affairs found that 40% of Americans believe we should reduce Pentagon spending, while only 10% favor an increase.

There is no precedent for such a huge year on year increase in Pentagon spending since the height of World War II, and there is absolutely no justification for doing so now. Much of the current \$1 trillion allocated for the Pentagon is being wasted on pipe dreams like the Golden Dome missile defense initiative, the dysfunctional F-35 combat aircraft, a new generation of nuclear weapons, and \$13 billion aircraft carriers that can likely be taken out with one modern missile. Spending on these systems alone amounts to tens of billions of dollars per year.

Virtually every expert who is not on the payroll of the arms industry or the Pentagon has said that the president’s vision of a leak proof Golden Dome



See Interview with Behrooz Ghamari, author of *The Long War on Iran: New Events, Old Questions* (O/R Books, 2026), page 24

missile defense system is physically impossible, and, according to an analysis by the conservative American Enterprise Institute, the system could cost anywhere from \$292 billion to \$3.6 trillion by the time it is fully built.

The proposed Trump Class battleships will likely fare no better than the Golden Dome system. They are envisioned as the largest ships built for the Navy in decades, with an average estimated cost of \$9 billion per boat. The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) estimates

that the first Trump Class boat could cost over \$24 billion. Anthony Capaccio of Bloomberg news has noted that this enormous sum would make it “one of the most expensive military vessels in U.S. military history.”

Mark Cancian of the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) has suggested that the project is so ill-conceived that “a future administration will cancel the program before the first ship hits the water.”

The most dangerous aspect of
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Opposition grows to AI data center boom

Corporate energy
guzzlers drive up
utility rates

By Linda Pentz Gunter

On January 7 we received some good news. A *Washington Post* editorial reported that artificial intelligence (AI) would not after all be seizing control of our world and plunging us into Armageddon in 2027. Fears that AI would by then be controlling the future of humanity, or an irrational dictator in charge of AI might “seize total power,” were, we were reassured, unfounded.

None of this would happen until at least 2030.

The predictions came from the “AI 2027” website, which may now have to change its name. The authors calculate when AI could reach superintelligence based on its capabilities in bioweapons, robotics, forecasting, hacking, coding and politics.

Despite this somewhat Pyrrhic respite, sprawling data centers continue to expand apace, mushrooming up across the US and devouring and desecrating precious green spaces and farmland.

Yet there remains an almost universal consensus, albeit in some cases a resigned one, that our voracious and increasing

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Democrats constitutional ignorance impedes Trump impeachment

By Bruce Fein

The case for impeaching and removing President Donald Trump for serial, incorrigible infidelity to the United States Constitution and his oath office is overwhelming. President Trump’s recent interview with the *New York Times* (*Trump Asserts His Global Power Has One Limit: Himself*, January 9, 2026), is conclusive.

The only limits on the President’s global powers, including mass murders, kidnapping, piracy, thievery, and aggressive wars, Mr. Trump harumphed, was “my own morality, my own mind. It’s the only thing that can stop me.”

He dismissed international law, such as the right to national self-determination, as nothing more than whatever President Trump said it was, a variation of the odious “King can do no

wrong” doctrine that provoked July 4, 1776.

President Trump has added insult to injury by acting without a crumb of constitutionally required congressional authority, for example, invading and de facto annexing Venezuela and stealing its oil. Mr. Trump growled after the kidnapping of Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro, “We’re in charge.”

The Constitution, Article 1, section 9, clause 7, prohibits the

President from spending money not appropriated by Congress.

Yet Mr. Trump is proposing to spend billions of dollars from sales of Venezuelan oil to offset the costs of occupation and to rebuild the Venezuelan economy without a congressional appropriation.

Mr. Trump’s self-coronation as King is no surprise. Its dress rehearsal came on July 23, 2019, in Trump’s proclamation,

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