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USA

Trump Wants a More Militaristic, Bellicose America

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President Donald Trump last week renamed the U.S. Department of Defense, announcing that it is now the Department of War. The name change suggests that Trump wants a more warlike country, despite his claims that he is a peacemaker. In fact, the Trump administration already has a remarkable record of military action in various regions of the world.

Trump has been practically begging to be awarded the Nobel Peace Prize, claiming that he has ended six or seven wars in countries around the world. He says he has brought about peaceful relations between Israel and Iran, Rwanda and Democratic Republic of the Congo, Armenia and Azerbaijan, Thailand and Cambodia, India and Pakistan, Egypt and Ethiopia, and Serbia and Kosovo. Yet, despite his claim, none of those conflicts has actually been settled. And he has done nothing to bring peace in two of the most serious conflicts: Russia's war on Ukraine and Israel's war on Gaza.

The self-proclaimed president of peace has engaged in a number of spectacular violent and warlike acts. During his first term as president, on January 3, 2020, Trump ordered a drone strike that killed Iranian Major General Qasem Soleimani near Baghdad International Airport in Iraq. The assassination was not approved by the U.S. Congress and did not have the approval of the Iraqi government, and the United States was not at war with Iran. And on June 22, 2025, during the Israeli-Iran war, the U.S. Air Force and Navy attacked three nuclear facilities in Iran, though there was no declared war on Iran.

Last week, Trump authorized an attack on what he called a "Venezuelan drug boat" supposedly operated by the Tren de Aragua cartel, though the U.S. government offered no evidence of the claim. The boat was destroyed and 11 crew members were killed in an action in the Caribbean that was in clear violation of the law of the sea and international human rights law. The U.S. Congress had not sanctioned the attack. Republican Senator Lindsey Graham praised Trump for his illegal and violent attack, writing on social media, "The sinking of this drug-laden ship is the ultimate â€" and most welcome â€" sign that we have a new sheriff in town." Trump, his Secretary of State Marco Rubio, and his Secretary of Defense Pete Hegseth promised more such attacks on drug smugglers.

The U.S. Navy has increased its presence in the Caribbean where it now has eight warships, an attack submarine, and several surveillance planes. Venezuela's president, Nicolás Maduro has stated that the United States is preparing an invasion of his country. Karoline Leavitt, the White House press secretary, recently stated that Maduro's government is illegitimate and Trump has just doubled to \$50 million the reward for the arrest of Maduro who he accuses of being one of the world's biggest drug dealers, working with cartels to flood the United States with fentanyl laced with cocaine. War with Venezuela? Maybe. And since taking office, Trump has suggested he would use military force to take over Greenland and to take back Panama.

For months Trump has been authorizing unpublicized military attacks in regions around the world. The Armed Conflict Location and Event Data Project (ACLED), reported this month that since Trump's return to the presidency, the US has carried out 529 air attacks in 240 locations across the Middle East, Central Asia and Africa. This number is close to the total of the 555 attacks launched by the Joe Biden administration over his entire term from 2021 to 2025.

But Trump not only wants to use the military abroad, he is also preparing to make war on the American people. He now plans to send troops to Chicago as he has to Los Angeles and to Washington, D.C., Trump posted: "Chicago is about to find out why it's called the Department of WAR."

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Trump has evolved into an aggressive dictator both abroad and at home, and it will be up to us to stop him.

7 September 2025

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