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U.S. Wars and Interventions

President

The Human Cost

The nuclear bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, August 1945

Harry Truman (D)

As Japan was suing for [1](#)peace and World War 2 was coming to an end, on August 6, the U.S. dropped

Military intervention in the Chinese Revolution, 1945-1949

Truman (D)

By 1945, Japan had [2](#)been defeated, in large part by decades of revolutionary struggle under the lead

Turning Micronesia into a nuclear testing ground, 1946-1962

Truman (D)

Dwight Eisenhower (R)

John Kennedy (D)

From 1946 to 1962, the U.S. turned Micronesia—a region in the Western Pacific Ocean comprising the

Some islands were evacuated prior to testing and islands and people. But the exposed were carried out of

Military intervention in Greek civil war, 1947-49

Truman (D)

In 1947, the U.S. took over from Britain, whose troops had spent three years trying to crush the pro-Sov

The Korean War,

1950-53

Truman (D)

Eisenhower (R)

In June 1950, the U.S. [5](#) orchestrated a United Nations invasion of Korea, and sent over 340,000 American

Korean War 1950-53: U.S. Army photo depicts the summary execution of 1,800 South Korean political



U.S. nuclear threats against China and North Korea, 1950-1951

Truman (D)

On November 30, 1950,[6](#) Truman stated publicly that the U.S. was considering using nuclear weapons

CIA coup in Iran, 1953

Truman (D)

Eisenhower (R)

On August 19, 1953, the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), along with British intelligence, launched a coup in Iran.

That day, CIA-organized mobs, joined by the military, took over the streets, chanting “Long live the Shah! Down with the communists!”

Iran’s nationalist uprising was crushed. The U.S. replaced Britain as the dominant imperialist power in the region.

The Shah ruled as an iron-fisted U.S. puppet for 25 years. Speaking out risked arrest by SAVAK, his secret police.

U.S. threatens nuclear attack against Iraq’s 1958 revolution

Eisenhower (R)

After the pro-Western Iraqi monarchy was overthrown in a nationalist military coup, the U.S. threatened nuclear attack.

Vietnam War, 1961-1975

Eisenhower (R)

John Kennedy (D)

Lyndon Johnson (D)

Richard Nixon (R)

Gerald Ford (R)

The U.S. first sent military advisers, then more than 500,000 troops, and dropped millions of tons of bombs.

My Lai massacre.

Photo: Wikimedia Commons



Planning for nuclear war with the Soviet Union and China, 1950s and '60s.

Truman (D)

Eisenhower (R)

Kennedy (D)

Whistleblower Daniel Ellsberg saw a copy of these war plans in 1961. He later wrote: "The total death

Murdering the Congo's Patrice Lumumba, installing the butcher Mobutu, 1961-1997

Eisenhower (R)

Kennedy (D)

Lyndon B. Johnson (D)

Richard Nixon (R)

Gerald Ford (R)

Jimmy Carter (D)

Ronald Reagan (R)

George H.W. Bush (R)

Bill Clinton (D)

On January 17, 1961, a firing squad shot to death the Congolese anti-colonialist leader Patrice Lumumba.

Murdering Lumumba, who sought to use the Congo's vast mineral resources to improve its people's lives.

The Bay of Pigs invasion, 1961

Kennedy (D)

The U.S. attempted to spark the overthrow of Cuba's government, headed by Fidel Castro, by organizing the Bay of Pigs invasion.

Cuban missile crisis, 1962

Kennedy (D)

The U.S. was carrying out secret operations to overthrow the Cuban government (and on another front, to overthrow the Cuban government).

Invasion of Dominican Republic, 1965

Johnson (D)

On April 28, 1965, 22,000 U.S. Marines and other troops invaded the Dominican Republic to crush a

CIA orchestrates bloodbath in Indonesia, 1965-1966

Johnson (D)

For many months, starting at the end of 1965, the reactionary Indonesian military, led by the pro-U.S. G

Bombing of Laos, 1965-1973

Johnson (D)

Nixon (R)

During the war in Vietnam, U.S. warplanes dropped two million tons of bombs on the small neighboring

Bombing of Cambodia, 1969-1973

Nixon (R)

The U.S. also carpet ¹⁷bombed Cambodia during the war in Vietnam, directly or indirectly killing 100,000

Christmas bombing of North Vietnam, December 18-29, 1972

Nixon (R)

The U.S. massively ¹⁸bombed the densely populated cities of Hanoi and Haiphong to force concession

CIA-organized military coup in Chile, 1973

Nixon (R)

Beginning in the early ¹⁹morning hours of September 11, 1973, the Chilean military, with political guida

U.S. foments civil war in Angola, 1975-1994

Ford (R)

Carter (D)

Reagan (R)

George H.W. Bush (R)

Clinton (D)

In the 1960s, when the ~~New York Times~~ ^{New York Times} were fighting to lift the yoke of Portuguese colonialism, the U

Covertly fueling terror in Mozambique, 1977-1992

Carter (D)

Reagan (R)

George H.W. Bush (R)

Between 1977 and 1992, the U.S. covertly fueled a reactionary war and a barbaric campaign of mass

RENAMO systematically carried out crimes against humanity as part of a strategy to cripple and dest

The U.S. secretly supported this slaughter—through private parties (the right-wing Heritage Foundati

Supporting Indonesian genocide in East Timor, 1975-1999

Ford (R)

Carter (D)

Reagan (R)

George H.W. Bush (R)

Clinton (D)

On December 6, 1975,^{[29](#)} President Ford and Secretary of State Henry Kissinger met with America's clo

U.S. proxy war against the Soviet Union in Afghanistan, 1979-1989

Carter (D)

Reagan (R)

After the Soviet Union,²³ the U.S.'s main imperialist rival, invaded Afghanistan in 1979, the U.S., along

U.S. threatens tactical nuclear war over Iran, 1980

Carter (D)

During and immediately²⁴ after the 1979 Iranian revolution, the U.S. and the Soviet Union engaged in a

U.S. backs El Salvador death squads, 1980-92

Carter (D)

Reagan (R)

George H.W. Bush (R)

To crush a guerrilla²⁵ struggle against its brutal client regime, the U.S. supported, funded, and armed

Fueling the Iran-Iraq war, 1980-1988

Carter (D)

Reagan (R)

In September 1980, Iraq's Saddam Hussein invaded Iran with a green light from the U.S. Their comm

The U.S.-sponsored Contra war in Nicaragua, 1981-1988

Reagan (R)

George H.W. Bush (R)

After the Sandinistas overthrew the pro-U.S. Somoza dictatorship in 1978, and established friendly ties

U.S.-backed genocide in Guatemala, 1982-1983

Reagan (R)

In 1982, the U.S. backed a military coup by the Christian fanatic General José Efraín Ríos Montt, who

1982-1983: Armed and backed by the U.S., the Guatemalan military systematically destroyed more tha

