**Brief Minutes of the Working Group’s Monthly Meeting on 2/12/22**

**Thoughts on the** **“Ukraine War – Making Sense of a Senseless War”.**

1) The background history from 2014 to the present was very helpful

2) Struck by the lost opportunities to prevent the war through diplomacy

3) Looking for more sources (footnotes) to support the statements

4) Did not know about the betrayals and conflicts within the Ukraine government

5) Found the chapter on NATO and its growth and expansion fascinating

6) No mention of the Russian Imperialism, such as in Georgia and Crimea, which is often brought up by the left.

7) More historical background on Ukraine prior to and during its existence as part of the Soviet Union.

8) Neo-Nazism and the corruption in Ukraine was an eye-opener.

**Thoughts on future programming by topic.**

*Palestine and Israeli – Possible Programs*

 a) Follow up to our recent program with one on “What really is Anti-Semitism?”

 b) Anti- BDS (Boycott, Divestment, Sanctions) Legislation

 c) Banning of Free Speech

 d) Christian Zionism (Christians United for Israeli)

 e) IHRA Definitions

 f) Implication of the new Israel Government (MAPA’s Middle East group did a program

 on this topic recently.

**DISCUSSION and NEXT STEPS**

*Nuclear Weapons – Possible Programs and Petition*

 a) Petition to Clark to support H. Res. 77

 b) Program with a new nuclear abolition speaker to kick off the petition drive

 c) Program with McGovern who introduced H. Res. 77, on the dangers of nuclear war.

 d) LTE and social media campaign on H.Res. 77 (Back from Brink has samples and

 talking points.

**DISCUSSION and NEXT STEPS**

*Ukraine War*

 a) Develop a flyer (see email from Carl Conetta that Tony forwarded to us.)

 b) Revisit the vigil post Daylight Savings Time and the wording “Support Ukraine”

 b) Program showing the IPB’s program titled **365 Days of War in Ukraine: Prospects**

 **Towards Peace in 2023. ttps://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aBktypCbzvM&t=3s**

**DISCUSSION and NEXT STEPS**

*Intersectionality Ideas*

 a) Historical Colonialism and the Environment – Climate Change Colonialism

 b) Program on Rep. Lee and Pocan’s People Over Pentagon Act - $100,000 cut from

 the military budget.

 c) Military budget and climate – green jobs. **But What About the Jobs? Mapping the**

 **Path from a Militarized to a Green Economy** with folks from Cost of War Project at

 BU and the National Priorities Project at IPS.

 d) Program with someone from the Congressional Progressive Caucus Center on their

 new study[The Bloated the Pentagon Budget and the Militarization of Local Law Enforcement](https://www.progressivecaucuscenter.org/militarization-of-policing).

**DISCUSSION AND NEXT STEPS**