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HOW MANY MUSLIM COUNTRIES HAS THE U.S. BOMBED OR OCCUPIED SINCE 1980?

BY [GLENN GREENWALD](#), FRIDAY AT 12:18 AM

Barack Obama, in his post-election press conference yesterday, [announced](#) that he would seek an Authorization for Use of Military Force (AUMF) from the new Congress, one that would authorize Obama's bombing campaign in Iraq and Syria—the one he [began three months ago](#). If one were being generous, one could say that seeking congressional authorization for a war that commenced months ago is at least better than fighting a war even after Congress explicitly *rejected* its authorization, as Obama [lawlessly did](#) in the [now-collapsed](#) country of Libya.

When Obama began bombing targets inside Syria in September, I [noted](#) that it was the seventh predominantly Muslim country that had been bombed by the U.S. during his presidency (that did not count [Obama's bombing of the Muslim minority in the](#)

[Philippines](#)). I [also previously noted](#) that this new bombing campaign meant that Obama had become the *fourth consecutive U.S. President* to order bombs dropped on Iraq. Standing alone, those are both amazingly revealing facts. American violence is so ongoing and continuous that we barely notice it any more. Just this week, a U.S. drone launched a missile that [killed 10 people in Yemen](#), and the dead were promptly labeled "suspected militants" (which actually just [means](#) they are "military-age males"); those killings received almost no discussion.

To get a full scope of American violence in the world, it is worth asking a broader question: how many countries in the Islamic world has the U.S. bombed or occupied since 1980? That answer was provided in [a recent Washington Post op-ed](#) by the military historian and former U.S. Army Col. Andrew Bacevich:

As America's efforts to "degrade and ultimately destroy" Islamic State militants extent into Syria, Iraq War III has seamlessly morphed into Greater Middle East Battlefield XIV. That is, **Syria has become at least the 14th country in the Islamic world that U.S. forces have invaded or occupied or bombed, and in which American soldiers have killed or been killed. And that's just since 1980.**



Photo: Pablo Martinez Monsivais/AP

Let's tick them off: Iran (1980, 1987-1988), Libya (1981, 1986, 1989, 2011), Lebanon (1983), Kuwait (1991), Iraq (1991-2011, 2014-), Somalia (1992-1993, 2007-), Bosnia (1995), Saudi Arabia (1991, 1996), Afghanistan (1998, 2001-), Sudan (1998), Kosovo (1999), Yemen (2000, 2002-), Pakistan (2004-) and now Syria. Whew.

Bacevich's count excludes the bombing and occupation of still other predominantly Muslim countries by key U.S. allies such as Israel and Saudi Arabia, carried out with crucial American support. It excludes coups against democratically elected governments, torture, and imprisonment of people with no charges. It also, of course, excludes all the other bombing and invading and occupying that the U.S. has carried out during this time period in other parts of the world, including in [Central America](#) and [the Caribbean](#), as well as [various proxy wars in Africa](#).

There is an awful lot to be said about the [factions in the west](#) which [devote huge amounts of their time and attention](#) to [preaching against](#) the supreme primitiveness and violence of Muslims. There are no gay bars in Gaza, the [obsessively anti-Islam polemicists proclaim](#)—as though that (rather than levels of violence and aggression unleashed against the world) is the most important metric for judging a society. Reflecting their single-minded obsession with demonizing Muslims (at

exactly the same time, coincidentally, their governments wage a never-ending war on Muslim countries and their [societies marginalize Muslims](#)), they notably neglect to note thriving gay communities in places like [Beirut](#) and [Istanbul](#), or the lack of them in [Christian Uganda](#). Employing the defining tactic of bigotry, they love to highlight the worst behavior of individual Muslims as a means of attributing it to the group as a whole, while ignoring ([often expressly](#)) the worst behavior of individual Jews and/or their own groups (they similarly cite the most extreme precepts of Islam while ignoring similarly extreme ones from Judaism). That's because, as Rula Jebreal [told Bill Maher last week](#), if these oh-so-brave rationality warriors said about Jews what they say about Muslims, they'd be fired.

But of all the various points to make about this group, this is always the most astounding: those same people, who love to denounce the violence of Islam as some sort of ultimate threat, live in countries whose governments unleash far more violence, bombing, invasions, and occupations than anyone else *by far*. That is just a fact.

Those who sit around in the U.S. or the U.K. endlessly inveighing against the evil of Islam, depicting it as the root of violence and evil (the "[mother lode of bad ideas](#)"), while spending very little time on their own societies' addictions to violence and aggression, or their own religious and nationalistic drives, have reached the peak of self-blinding tribalism. They really are akin to having a neighbor down the street who constantly murders, steals and pillages, and then spends his spare time flamboyantly denouncing people who live thousands of miles away for their bad acts. Such a person would be regarded as pathologically self-deluded, a term that also describes those political and intellectual factions which replicate that behavior.

The sheer casualness with which Obama yesterday called for a new AUMF is reflective of how central, how commonplace, violence and militarism are in the U.S.'s imperial management of the world. That some citizens of that same country devote themselves primarily if not exclusively to denouncing the violence and savagery of *others* is a testament to how powerful and self-blinding tribalism is as a human drive.

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<https://firstlook.org/theintercept/2014/11/06/many-countries-islamic-world-u-s-bombed-occupied-since-1980/>

Head of Oslo Jewish community claims Norway is too white



Ervin Kohn, president of the Jewish Community of Oslo, claims Norway is in desperate need of more Muslims and Gypsies.

Virtually all hate crime violence against Jews in all of Europe is committed by Muslims immigrants. Yet one of the most prominent Jewish leaders in Norway is claiming that anti-Jewish attacks are one of the very reasons why Norway needs more Muslims! Ervin Kohn is the president of The Jewish Community in Oslo and the head of the SPLC styled Norwegian Center Against Racism.

<http://topconservativenews.com/2014/11/head-of-oslo-jewish-claims-norway-is-too-white/>

Interview with Ervin Kohn - Deputy Director at The Norwegian Center against Racism:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x5Ntc42OpjQ>

Obama escalates pressure on China at APEC summit

By Mike Head, 11 November 2014

US President Barack Obama yesterday set a confrontational tone for this week's Asia-Pacific summits, starting with a series of provocative moves directed against China at the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) meeting in Beijing.

Coming on top of doubling the US troop numbers in Iraq, and NATO's preparations for large-scale exercises on Russia's borders, Obama's performance highlighted the rapid escalation of Washington's aggressive stance globally since the mid-term US congressional elections.

In a provocative rebuff to his Chinese hosts, just before the APEC proceedings began, Obama convened a separate meeting, inside the US embassy, of countries participating in the US-led Trans Pacific Partnership (TPP), which excludes China.

The TPP sets out a comprehensive framework for dismantling all obstacles, such as state-owned enterprises and investment regulations, to the dominance of American finance capital in the Asia Pacific economy. It has become the central economic thrust of the Obama administration's confrontational "pivot to Asia" against China, which also includes a US military build-up throughout the region.

Obama staged the TPP gathering as a display of intent. This was despite ongoing disagreements between its participants, particularly the US and Japan, that stymied his push to conclude the TPP before the end of the year. Addressing the assembled heads of government, he declared: "This has the potential for being a historic achievement. It's now up to all of us to see if we can finalise a deal that is both ambitious and comprehensive."

At Obama's insistence, the TPP partners agreed that the treaty must take priority over, and provide the "pathway" for, APEC's long-standing plan, now championed heavily by China, for a Free Trade Area of the Asia Pacific (FTAAP). In the negotiations before the summit, US officials forced China to back down on the wording of the APEC communiqué, which was to commit to the FTAAP's completion. Instead, the document now pays only lip service to the FTAAP, consigning it to a two-year "collective strategic study."

Obama then delivered a speech at the APEC business CEO summit, in which he bluntly asserted American leadership of the entire world. Not only would the US remain "a Pacific power," but "the one constant--the one global necessity--is and has been American leadership." Claiming to have presided over a resurgence of US manufacturing and jobs, Obama declared that the US was now "leading from a position of strength." The TPP, he emphasised, would provide "the model for trade in the 21st century."

While proclaiming twice, for the record, "we want China to do well,"

Obama issued a long list of demands on the Beijing leadership. The first was "an ambitious, high-standard, bilateral investment treaty that opens up China's economy to American investors."

Other demands were "a more level playing field" for foreign companies to compete with Chinese companies, "the protection of intellectual property rights" and the rejection of "cybertheft of trade secrets for commercial gain." Also included was approval of US "biotechnology

advances" in Chinese farming, "a more market-determined exchange rate" and "human rights and freedom of the press."

These demands are designed to tear down any barriers to establishing Wall Street's economic hegemony over China and the region. Obama stated that he looked forward to discussing them with President Xi Jinping.

Prior to the APEC summit, Washington intervened to oppose South Korean and Australian participation in China's new Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB), which is a vehicle for funneling Chinese finance into development projects across the region. In Australia's case, the US secured the reversal of an in-principle agreement to join, citing "security" concerns. That intervention sent a clear signal that China's continued economic expansion is now regarded by Washington as a military issue.

Despite the diplomatic formalities in Beijing, complete with ceremonial photo shoots, the message from Washington could not be missed. Forbes magazine noted: "The Obama administration has, at least from Beijing's perspective, marred the APEC gathering. Beijing staged the event as a showcase of growing might." Instead, the Chinese regime's planned centrepiece, the FTAAP, was shot down.

Forbes cited comments by an unnamed Chinese official to the South China Morning Post: "The US wants to impede FTAAP. This is really annoying for us." According to the magazine, China's exclusion from the TPP "will hurt them." According to Forbes, the Washington-based Peterson Institute for International Economics estimates that the TPP will cost China \$100 billion a year in lost exports, and that this will "sting" because of falling economic growth and rising debt levels in China.

The Chinese regime attempted to counter the US offensive by strengthening its ties with other Asian-Pacific economies, while making some concessions to Washington's demands.

On Sunday, the day before the APEC summit began, Xi announced a \$40 billion contribution to a "Silk Road Fund" for infrastructure projects to boost China's land and maritime trade routes across Asia and the Indian Ocean.

As the APEC meeting got underway, Beijing leadership finalised a second major gas supply deal with Russia, signed a free trade agreement with South Korea and signalled the completion of a similar trade pact with Australia.

Also yesterday, China's central bank pushed up the value of the country's currency, the renminbi by 0.37 percent. It was the sharpest single-day move in more than four years, making goods from other Asian nations, as well as the US, more competitive in the Chinese market.

In addition, Chinese securities regulators said they would begin allowing investors in Shanghai and Hong Kong to trade shares on each other's stock markets on November 17, potentially giving US and other foreign buyers access to \$2 trillion worth of Chinese companies.

Wall Street particularly welcomed this move. "Hong Kong stands at the forefront of the largest capital account opening of a country since WWII," the US-based broker Jefferies told its clients. Goldman Sachs said the opening of Shanghai to foreign investors was an opportunity

"simply too big to ignore," adding: "The scheme essentially ... creates the world's second-largest equity market by market cap," second only to the New York Stock Exchange.

None of this, however, will satiate the appetites of the US finance houses, or end the intensifying US economic, strategic and military pressure on China. Washington is demanding nothing less than the overturning of all restrictions that stand in the way of US imperialism subjugating China.

The APEC summit, which traditionally focuses on trade and investment, will be followed later this week by an Association of South East Asian

(ASEAN) conference in Burma (Myanmar). There Obama will further encourage ASEAN members, particularly Vietnam and the Philippines, to pursue territorial disputes with Beijing in the South China Sea.

Next weekend, during a G20 summit in Brisbane, Australia, Obama will deliver what the White House described as a major speech on "US leadership in the Asia-Pacific." No advance details of the speech have been provided, but it is certain to mark a further escalation of Washington's anti-China "pivot," which Obama first formally unveiled in an address to the Australian parliament in 2011.

<http://www.wsws.org/en/articles/2014/11/11/apec-n11.html>

The Lie Machine

Paul Craig Roberts, October 12, 2014 "ICH" -

I have come to the conclusion that the West is a vast lie machine for the secret agendas of vested interests. Consider, for example, the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership and the Transpacific Trade and Investment Partnership.

These so-called "partnerships" are in fact vehicles by which US corporations make themselves immune to the sovereign laws of foreign countries in which they do business. A sovereign country that attempts to enforce its laws against an American corporation can be sued by the corporation for "restraint of trade." For example, if Monsanto wants to sell GMO seeds in France or US corporations wish to sell genetically-modified foods in France, and France enforces its laws against GMOs, the Transatlantic Trade Partnership allows France to be sued in jurisdictions outside the courts of France for "restraint of trade." In other words, preventing the entry into France of a prohibited product constitutes restraint of trade.

This is the reason that the US has insisted that the Transatlantic and Transpacific Partnerships be totally secretive and negotiated outside the democratic process. Not even the US Congress has been permitted knowledge of the negotiations.

Obviously, the Europeans and Asians who are agreeing with the terms of these "partnerships" are the bought-and-paid-for agents of the US corporations. If the partnerships go through, the only law in Europe and Asia will be US law. The European and Asian government officials who agree to the hegemony of US corporations over the laws of their countries will be so handsomely paid that they could enter the realm of the One Percent.

It is interesting to compare the BBC's coverage (October 10) with that of RT (October 11). The BBC reports that the aim of the Transatlantic Partnership is to remove "barriers to bilateral commerce" and to stimulate more trade and investment, economic growth and employment. The BBC does not report that the removal of barriers includes barriers against GMO products.

Everyone knows that the European Commission is corrupt. Who would be surprised if its members hope to be enriched by the American corporations? Little wonder the European Commission declared that concerns that the Transatlantic partnership would impact the sovereignty of countries is misplaced.

<http://www.bbc.com/news/business-29572475>

RT, which is restrained in reporting truth because it operates inside the US, still manages to come to the point in its headline: "No TTIP:

Mass protests slam US-EU trade deal as 'Corporate power grab'."

All over Europe people are in the streets in mass rallies against secret agreements by their corrupt governments for Washington to take over their lives and businesses. RT reports that "social networks have been mobilized for a mass campaign that has been calling on Europeans and Americans to take action against 'the biggest corporate power grab in a decade'."

RT quotes a leader of the demonstration in Berlin who says the secret agreements "give corporations more rights they've ever had in history."

As we all know, corporations already have too many rights.

"Protests are planned in 22 countries across Europe—marches, rallies and other public events—in over 1,000 locations in UK, France, Germany, Italy, Spain, Greece, Netherlands, Poland, The Czech Republic and Scandinavian countries."

Did you hear about this latest American corporate power grab from Fox "News," CNN, New York Times, London Times, ABC? Of course not. Did you hear about the massive protests against it? Of course not. You only hear what the interest groups permit you to hear.

RT reports that the main aim of the international protests is "to reclaim democracy" and to put an end to the secret deals that are destroying life for everyone but the American corporations, organizations now regarded worldwide as the epitome of evil.

<http://rt.com/news/195144-europe-protests-stop-ttip/> These phony "trade agreements" are advocated as "free trade removal of tariffs," but what they remove are the sovereignties of countries.

America is already ruled by corporations. If these faux "trade agreements" go through, Europe and Asia will also be ruled by American corporations.

Dr. Paul Craig Roberts was Assistant Secretary of the Treasury for Economic Policy and associate editor of the Wall Street Journal

<http://www.informationclearinghouse.info/article39936.htm>