



A. TASSOS "TOMORROW THERE WILL BE A CLEAR SKY", WOODCUT, 1973



EEDYE

Greek Committee for Inter-
national Détente and Peace

1955-2015

From the early 20th century to the present, our people has been amongst the peoples to have paid so dearly for the imperialist "peace" and imperialist wars born of it.

The smile that was about to appear on the lips of millions of people with the **Peoples' Victory over Fascism** was shadowed over at once by the nuclear mushroom from the atomic bombs dropped by the US on **Hiroshima** and **Nagasaki** on **6th and 9th August 1945**. That smile froze on their lips with the declaration of the Cold War in 1946 by Winston Churchill, followed by the Truman Doctrine and the founding of the Western Union in 1948 and NATO in 1949.

As a continuation of the two imperialist wars in the 20th century, imperialism bared its teeth to the peoples who, starting with the Soviet Union, had broken the chains of imperialist domination.

After the retreat of the Democratic Army of Greece (DSE) in the summer of 1949, the forces that had dominated in Greece with the undivided support of the US and of capital, took aim at the embattled popular movement. Fighters by the thousands went to prison, to exile on barren islands, were tortured and executed. In these bleak times, a **young fighter** belonging to EPON (United Panhellenic Youth

60 YEARS OF STRUGGLE AGAINST WARS AND IMPERIALISM



4th MARATHON PEACE MARCH (1966)

Organization), Nikos Nikiforidis, was led to the firing squad on 5th March 1951. The charge: collecting signatures under the Stockholm Appeal for the banning and abolition of nuclear weapons. In the meantime, the Greek bourgeoisie took care to further bolster its power with the country's accession to NATO, the Greek-US agreement for the establishment of bases in Greece and Greece's participation in the imperialist campaign in Korea.

On 6th August, 1948 the First World Conference of Intellectuals for Peace convened in the ruins left by the Nazis in Wroclaw, Poland and on 20th April, 1949 the First World Conference of Peace Partisans was held simultaneously in Paris and in Prague, while the first worldwide campaign for disarmament was organized by the World Peace Council to the collect signatures under the Stockholm Appeal.

PROTEST AGAINST NATO MILITARY BASES IN NEA MAKRI (OCTOBER 1988)



On 15th May 1955, the Founding Declaration of the Greek Committee for International Détente and Peace (EEDYE) was made public, signed by 77 prominent figures of public life. Under particularly difficult conditions, EEDYE became active, at the same time participating in international activities undertaken by the WPC, while the publication of the magazine: "Paths of Peace", on 9th May 1958, constituted a milestone in the struggle against imperialist wars and a valuable tool for the movement.

With its action in the 60's, EEDYE became an integral part of the labor and people's movement, a gain of particular significance, while at the same time it rallied broad popular masses.

The 1st National Conference held in April 1962 was a landmark in the growth of EEDYE, as were Marathon Peace Marches, with the first of these being held on 21st April 1963, by Grigoris Lambrakis and his fellow marchers Andreas Mamonas, Pantelis Goutis and Babis Papadopoulos, despite the ban and pogrom imposed by the bourgeois state.

One month later, on 22nd May, 1963 Grigoris Lambrakis was assassinated in Thessaloniki by the bourgeois state and para-state, which implemented a plan to crush every anti-imperialist, pro-peace initiative. Deeply shocked, the people responded by intensifying their action, as hundreds of members of the "Lambrakis Democratic Youth" organization and thousands of people took part in the Marathon Peace Marches, which were prohibited by the fascist

dictatorship in 1967, as was the activity of EEDYE and dozens of other mass organizations dissolved by the junta.

EEDYE was re-established on 16th May 1975, reactivating its Peace Committees, while “Paths of Peace” began circulation again in April of 1977. EEDYE’s initiatives, such as the collection of 1.500.000 signatures under the “New Stockholm Appeal” met with broad popular acceptance, while new forms of action, such as the “Ten Days for Peace”, were established in tandem with the **Marathon Peace Marches** every May.

EEDYE’s action culminated in the 80’s with the far-reaching campaign against the deployment of US Cruise and Pershing missiles in Europe, with the mobilization of **200.000 people on 3rd November 1983** in the Pedio tou Areos, a large central park in Athens. Other significant mobilizations were carried out by EEDYE against the renewal of the agreement between Greece and the USA for the establishment of military bases on Greek territory, signed by the PASOK government in 1983.

The aggressiveness of imperialism, which grew after the reversals in the socialist countries, meant yet more acute problems to be faced by EEDYE, which, having taken on its militant orientation, contributed to the reorganization of the WPC, undertaking the responsibilities of the posts of the General and Executive Secretaries.



ΜΠΛΟΚΟ ΣΕ ΤΡΕΝΟ ΜΕΤΑΦΟΡΑΣ ΓΕΡΜΑΝΙΚΩΝ ΤΑΝΚΣ ΣΤΟ ΚΟΣΣΟΒΟ, 1999.

In the turbulent years of imperialist wars and interventions, first of all those unleashed against Iraq and Yugoslavia in 1999, EEDYE constituted a steady point of rallying and action for thousands of those struggling against imperialist wars, the “New NATO doctrine” and the military action of the European Union.

Throughout those years, EEDYE stood in the forefront of mobilizations against the interventions in Iraq, Afghanistan, Syria, the Central African Republic, Mali and Ukraine. It faced imperialist propaganda militantly and revealed the true causes of the imperialist interventions. It stood in constant internationalist solidarity with the sorely-tried peoples of Cyprus, Palestine, Cuba and Venezuela as well as with all those resisting imperialist barbarity.

ΑΡΙΣΤΕΡΑ: ΑΝΤΙΠΟΛΕΜΙΚΕΣ ΚΙΝΗΤΟΠΟΙΗΣΕΙΣ ΚΑΤΑ ΤΟΥ ΠΟΛΕΜΟΥ ΣΤΟ ΙΡΑΚ, 2003. ΔΕΞΙΑ: ΔΙΑΜΑΡΤΥΡΙΑ ΕΞΩ ΑΠΟ ΤΗ ΝΑΤΟΪΚΗ ΒΑΣΗ ΤΗΣ ΣΟΥΔΑΣ (2006)



In contrast to other peace movements which appeared as time went by and which either directly or indirectly tried to redirect the people's struggle into more harmless channels, EEDYE not only remained steadfast but also broadened its intervention, because its line for struggle was against the peoples' real opponent and against the source which generates wars, the rotten exploitative system and all that which supports it on all levels.

At its 17th Conference, held in December 2014, EEDYE continued and developed this line, examining in detail the situation as it has shaped up in the world and in the broader region. It highlighted the economic underpinnings of developments and the motives behind imperialist ambitions, thus arming the class-oriented workers' and people's movement. It set the intensification of the struggle as a target, in coordination with the workers' and people's movement, standing against any sort of participation by the country's bourgeoisie in imperialist wars and interventions, regardless of pretexts.

The decisive factor in EEDYE's progress to date and the guarantee for its reinforcement are its positions and its steadfastness and its consistency in hard times, swimming against the current.

EEDYE

- Has stood against the pressure to abandon anti-imperialist objectives for struggle, has not retreated, has withstood the pressure exerted by every sort of "global" and "European" forum, persisting in organizing the people and in common action with the workers' and people's movement, fighting in a class-oriented direction.
- Has not been deceived by imperialist transfor-

mations and declarations in favor of peace, steadily showing that THERE IS BUT ONE ENEMY: IMPERIALISM.

- Has fought for popular demands and against racism and xenophobia alongside all working people, both Greeks and migrants
- Has not fallen into the trap set by NATO and the European Union with regard to "peacekeeping operations", campaigns to prevent "humanitarian disasters" and other imperialist pretexts.
- Decisively and consistently confronted the anti-popular policies of the New Democracy and PASOK governments, which incorporated Greece into NATO and the EU, maintained and reinforced NATO bases and are to blame for the country's involvement in imperialist wars.

- Continues to struggle against the policies of the co-government formed by SYRIZA and ANEL, which follows the same strategy, promoting the yet further integration of our country in imperialist organizations, keeping the bases at Souda, Kilkis and Aktio as well as the NATO Command Headquarters in Thessaloniki, the European Army headquarters in Larissa, taking part in NATO manoeuvres and using the same or new pretexts to justify new imperialist interventions in our region and beyond in the eyes of the people.

Completing 60 years since its founding, EEDYE is strengthening its struggle against imperialism and, alongside the militant workers' and people's movement, demands:

- No involvement in imperialist wars
- The return of all Greek military and police forces from abroad
- The closing of all NATO bases and headquarters
- Disengagement from NATO and the EU



Athens, May 2015