

06.02.2019 -- <https://www.mintpressnews.com/leaked-wikileaks-doc-reveals-how-us-military-uses-of-imf-world-bank-as-unconventional-weapons/254708/>

Leaked Wikileaks Doc Reveals US Military Use of IMF, World Bank as “Unconventional” Weapons

This “U.S. coup manual,” recently highlighted by WikiLeaks, serves as a reminder that the so-called “independence” of such financial institutions as The World Bank and IMF is an illusion and that they are among the many “financial weapons” regularly used by the U.S. government to bend countries to its will.

February 06th, 2019

By **Whitney Webb**

Washington In a leaked military manual on “unconventional warfare” recently highlighted by WikiLeaks, the U.S. Army states that major global financial institutions — such as **the World Bank, International Monetary Fund (IMF), and the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)** — are used as unconventional, financial “weapons in times of conflict up to and including large-scale general war,” as well as in leveraging “the policies and cooperation of state governments.”

The [document](#), officially titled “Field Manual (FM) 3-05.130, Army Special Operations Forces Unconventional Warfare” and originally written in September 2008, was [recently highlighted](#) by WikiLeaks on Twitter in light of recent events in Venezuela as well as the years-long, U.S.-led economic siege of that country through sanctions and other means of economic warfare. Though the document has generated new interest in recent days, it had [originally been released](#) by WikiLeaks in December 2008 and has been described as the military’s “regime change handbook.”

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What's happening with Venezuela? [@WikiLeaks](#)' publication of US coup manual FM3-05.130, Unconventional Warfare [UW], provides insight DOS=Department of State IC=Intelligence Community UWOA=UW operations area ARSOF=US Army Special Operations Forces <https://file.wikileaks.org/file/us-fm3-05-130.pdf> ...

Financial Instrument of U.S. National Power and Unconventional Warfare

2-44. The agent controlling the creation, flow, and access to “stores of value” wields power. Although finance is generally an operation of real and virtual currency, anything that can serve as a “medium of exchange” provides those who accept the medium with a method of financial transaction. For both reasons, ARSOF understand that they can and should exploit the active and analytical capabilities existing in the financial instrument of U.S. power in the conduct of UW.

2-45. Like the economic activity, which all nation-states, human groups, and individuals respond to, ARSOF can use financial power as a weapon in times of conflict up to and including large-scale general war. Like the economic activity that it is related to, most financial power is unmanaged, routine, and peaceful. However, manipulation of U.S. financial strength can leverage the policies and cooperation of state governments. Financial incentives and disincentives can build and sustain international coalitions waging or supporting U.S. UW campaigns. As part of an interagency effort, the U.S. Treasury can recommend changes to U.S. policy that can provide such incentives to state governments and others at the national strategic policy level. Participation in international financial organizations, such as the World Bank (WB), International Monetary Fund (IMF), Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), and the Bank for International Settlements (BIS), offers the U.S. diplomatic-financial venues to accomplish such coalitions.

2-46. State manipulation of tax and interest rates and other legal and bureaucratic measures can apply unilateral U.S. financial action to open, modify, or close financial flows. Government can apply unilateral and indirect financial power through persuasive influence to international and domestic financial institutions regarding availability and terms of loans, grants, or other financial assistance to foreign state and nonstate actors.

2-47. If properly authorized and coordinated, ARSOF can use—or coordinate for other agencies to use—measured and focused financial incentives or disincentives to persuade adversaries, allies, and surrogates to modify their behavior at the theater strategic, operational, and tactical levels. Such application of financial power must be part of a circumspect, integrated, and consistent UW plan.

2-48. Like all other instruments of U.S. national power, the use and effects of financial weapons are interrelated and they must be coordinated carefully. Once again, ARSOF must work with the DOS and IC to determine which elements of the human terrain in the UWOA are most susceptible to financial engagement and what second- and third-order effects are likely from such engagement. The Treasury’s Office of International Affairs and Office of Terrorism and Financial Intelligence (TFI) (and its components), together with the Financial Crimes Enforcement Network (FinCEN), provide financially mission-focused channels for identifying opportunities to employ the financial weapon. In addition to intelligence and policy changes that may provide active incentive or disincentive leverage, the Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) has a long history of conducting economic warfare valuable to any ARSOF UW campaign.

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WikiLeaks' recent tweets on the subject drew attention to a single section of the 248-page-long document, titled "Financial Instrument of U.S. National Power and Unconventional Warfare." This section in particular notes that the U.S. government applies "unilateral and indirect financial power through persuasive influence to international and domestic financial institutions regarding availability and terms of loans, grants, or other financial assistance to foreign state and nonstate actors," and specifically names the World Bank, IMF and The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), as well as the Bank for International Settlements (BIS), as "U.S. diplomatic-financial venues to accomplish" such goals.

The manual also touts the "state manipulation of tax and interest rates" along with other "legal and bureaucratic measures" to "open, modify or close financial flows" and further states that the U.S. Treasury's Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) – which oversees U.S. sanctions on other nations, like Venezuela — "has a long history of conducting economic warfare valuable to any ARSOF [Army Special Operations Forces] UW [Unconventional Warfare] campaign."

This section of the manual goes on to note that ***these financial weapons can be used by the U.S. military to create "financial incentives or disincentives to persuade adversaries, allies and surrogates to modify their behavior at the theater strategic, operational, and tactical levels"*** and that such unconventional warfare campaigns are highly coordinated with the State Department and the Intelligence Community in determining "which elements of the human terrain in UWOA [Unconventional Warfare Operations Area] are most susceptible to financial engagement."

The role of these "independent" international financial institutions as extensions of U.S. imperial power is elaborated elsewhere in the manual and several of these institutions are described in detail in an appendix to the manual titled "The Financial Instrument of National Power." Notably, the World Bank and the IMF are listed as both Financial Instruments and Diplomatic Instruments of U.S. National Power as well as integral parts of what the manual calls the "current global governance system."

Furthermore, **the manual states that the U.S. military "understand[s] that properly integrated manipulation of economic power can and should be a component of UW,"** meaning that these weapons are a regular feature of unconventional warfare campaigns waged by the United States.

Another point of interest is that these financial weapons are largely governed by the National Security Council (NSC), which is currently headed by John Bolton. The document notes that the NSC "has primary responsibility for the integration of the economic and military instruments of national power abroad."

"Independent" but controlled

Though the unconventional warfare manual is notable for stating so openly that "independent" financial institutions like the World Bank and the IMF are essentially extensions of U.S. government power, analysts have noted for decades that these institutions have consistently pushed U.S. geopolitical goals abroad.

Indeed, the myth of World Bank and IMF "independence" is quickly eroded by merely looking at the structure and funding of each institution. In the case of the World Bank, the institution is located in Washington and the organization's president has always been a

U.S. citizen [chosen directly](#) by the president of the United States. In the World Bank's entire history, the institution's Board of Governors has never rejected Washington's pick.

This past Monday, it was reported that President Donald Trump [nominated](#) former Bear Stearns economist David Malpass to lead the World Bank. Malpass had famously failed to foresee the destruction of his former employer during the 2008 financial crisis and is likely to limit World Bank loans to China and to countries allied or allying with China, given his well-established reputation as a China hawk.

In addition to choosing its president, the U.S. is also the [bank's largest shareholder](#), making it the only member nation to have veto rights. Indeed, as the leaked unconventional warfare manual notes, "As major decisions require an 85% supermajority, the United States can block any major changes" to World Bank policy or the services it offers. Furthermore, the U.S. Treasury Secretary, former Goldman Sachs banker and "foreclosure king," Steve Mnuchin, functions as the World Bank's governor.

Though the IMF is different from the World Bank in several respects, such as its stated mission and focus, it too is largely dominated by U.S. government influence and funding. For instance, the IMF is also based in Washington and the U.S. is the company's largest shareholder — the largest by far, [owning 17.46 percent](#) of the institution — and also pays the largest quota for the institution's maintenance, [paying \\$164 billion](#) in IMF financial commitments annually. Though the U.S. does not choose the IMF's top executive, it uses its privileged position as the institution's largest funder to control IMF policy [by threatening to withhold](#) its IMF funding if the institution does not abide by Washington's demands.

As a consequence of the lopsided influence of the U.S. on **these institutions' behavior, these organizations have used their loans and grants to "trap" nations in debt and have imposed "structural adjustment" programs on these debt-saddled governments that result in the mass privatization of state assets**, deregulation, and austerity that routinely benefit foreign corporations over local economies. Frequently, these very institutions — by [pressuring countries](#) to deregulate their financial sector and through [corrupt dealings](#) with state actors — bring about the very economic problems that they then swoop in to "fix."

Guaidó hits up IMF

Given the close relationship between the U.S. government and these international financial institutions, **it should come as little surprise that — in Venezuela — the U.S.-backed "interim president" Juan Guaidó — has [already requested](#) IMF funds, and thus IMF-controlled debt, to fund his parallel government.**

This is highly significant because it shows that top among Guaidó's objectives, in addition to privatizing Venezuela's massive oil reserves, is to again shackle the country to the U.S.-controlled debt machine.

As the *Grayzone Project* [recently noted](#):

Venezuela's previous elected socialist president, Hugo Chávez, broke ties with the IMF and World Bank, which he noted were "dominated by US imperialism." Instead Venezuela and other left-wing governments in Latin America worked together to co-found the Bank of the South, as a counterbalance to the IMF and World Bank."

However, Venezuela is far from the only country in Latin America being targeted by these financial weapons masquerading as "independent" financial institutions. For instance, Ecuador — whose current president has sought to bring the country back into Washington's

good graces – has gone so far as to conduct an “audit” of its asylum of journalist and WikiLeaks publisher Julian Assange in order to win [a \\$10 billion bailout](#) from the IMF. Ecuador granted Assange asylum in 2012 and the U.S. has fervently sought his extradition for still sealed charges ever since.

In addition, last July, the U.S. [threatened Ecuador](#) with “punishing trade measures” if it introduced a measure at the UN to support breastfeeding over infant formula, in a move that stunned the international community but laid bare the willingness of the U.S. government to use “economic weapons” against Latin American nations.

Beyond Ecuador, other recent targets of massive IMF and World Bank “warfare” include Argentina, which awarded [the largest IMF bailout loan in history](#) just last year. That loan package was, unsurprisingly, heavily pushed by the U.S., according to a statement from Treasury Secretary Mnuchin [released last year](#). Notably, the IMF [was instrumental](#) in causing the complete collapse of the Argentinian economy in 2001, sending a poor omen for last year’s approval of the record loan package.

Though it was released over a decade ago, this “U.S. coup manual” recently highlighted by WikiLeaks serves as a salient reminder that the so-called “independence” of these financial institutions is an illusion and that they are among the many “financial weapons” regularly used by the U.S. government to bend countries to its will and even overthrow U.S.-disfavored governments.

Appendix

30. Jan.

The current Electoral Council, as I said, was formed bypassing the National Assembly. And so was the Supreme Court. Had Maduro's gov stopped bypassing the National Assembly for everything, or creating parallel Parliaments, there would be no grounds for invalidating his election.

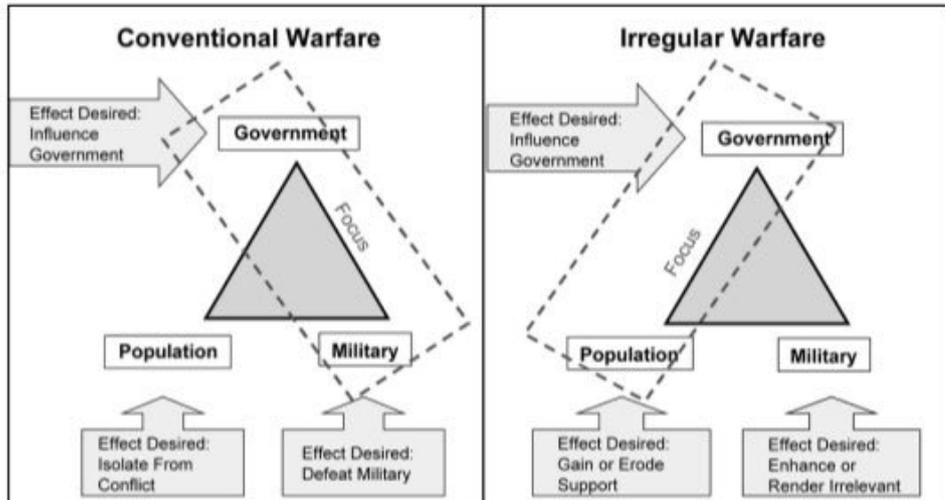


Figure 1-1. Contrasting conventional and irregular warfare

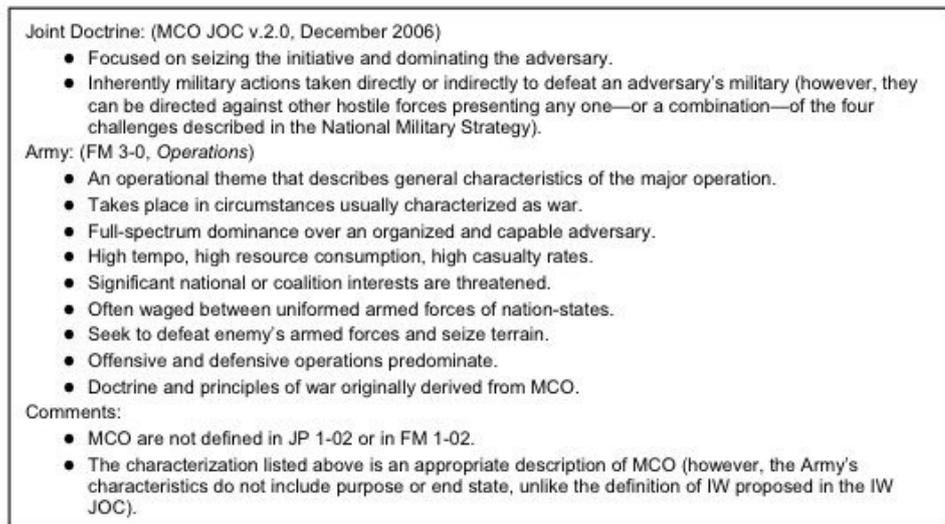


Figure 1-2. Principles of major combat operations

1-24. IW is integral to the conduct of both MCO and military support to SSTR operations (Figure 1-3, page 1-7). It complements the conduct of deterrence operations and shaping operations. It also offers both complementary and competing ideas for ways and means to address strategic and operational challenges. The IW JOC addresses aspects of IW that other current JOCs do not:

- Theater strategy for IW.
- IW campaign design, planning, and execution.
- Global scale of IW operations

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Manual of Unconventional Warfare as defined as Operations conducted by, with, or through irregular forces in support of a resistance movement, insurgency, or conventional military operations, reflecting 2 importa...

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