

Britain Launches Naked Aggression on Syria, on the Phoney Pretext of Combating ISIS

By <u>Stephen Lendman</u> Global Research, December 03, 2015 Region: <u>Europe</u>, <u>Middle East & North Africa</u> Theme: <u>US NATO War Agenda</u> In-depth Report: <u>SYRIA</u>

Britain is a longstanding US imperial partner, involved in virtually all its wars of aggression – four post-9/11. It's been covertly bombing Syrian targets jointly with US warplanes since last year, along with Israel, France, Canada and Australia – on the phoney pretext of combating ISIS.

Now it's official after parliament voted 397 to 223 for war (a nearly two-thirds majority), following nearly a half-day debate – dozens of Labour and Lib Dem MPs joining with hawkish Tories.

Labour Leader Jeremy Corbyn's strong opposition didn't help. In response to the vote, he twittered: "I have argued, and will continue to do so, that we should re-double our efforts to secure a diplomatic and political end to the conflict in Syria."

"British service men and women will now be in harm's way and the loss of innocent lives is sadly almost inevitable."

Ironically, Corbyn's shadow foreign secretary Hilary Benn supported Prime Minister David Cameron.

Ignoring Cameron's real objective, Benn said "(w)e must now confront this evil. It is now time for us to do our bit in Syria."

Cameron knows full well Britain's involvement is naked aggression on sovereign Syria, its infrastructure, other government targets, perhaps military ones to follow, and its entire population, suffering hugely since Obama illegally declared war in March 2011, using ISIS as imperial foot soldiers, supplemented since last year by US air power and now growing numbers of special forces on the ground.

US, UK, French, Canadian, Israeli and Australian military operations (with Germany posed to join them) are llegal – conducted without Security Council authorization.

Cameron is now openly partnering with Obama's aggression, along with other coalition partners – on the phony pretext of combating terrorism.

Hypocrisy and endless wars of aggression define Obama's legacy. Since taking office in January 2009, he broke every major promise made, domestic and geopolitical – notably on US Middle East, North Africa and Central Asia policy, pledging hope, change, peace, democratic values, "a new era of openness," and willingness to engage virtually all world

heads of state diplomatically.

Instead he delivered confrontation with Moscow and Beijing.

The threat of another global war is greater than any time since the late 1930s – today's super-weapons making ones used in that era look like toys.

Hours after Britain's parliament approved war on Syria, four Cyprus-based Royal Air Force Tornadoes joined with US warplanes, launching lawless airstrikes, hitting no ISIS targets. Britain's Defense Ministry withheld information on sites struck.

Obama issued a statement, saying

"(w)e look forward to having British forces flying with the coalition over Syria, and will work to integrate them into our coalition air-tasking orders as quickly as possible."

Britain's Foreign Secretary Philip Hammond issued an ominous statement, saying "(a)irstrikes alone will not finish ISIL," suggesting a Western ground campaign to come.

Russia's effective intervention changed things dramatically for Syria, clashing with Washington's imperial objectives. Could Syria become a flashpoint for US-Moscow confrontation?

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