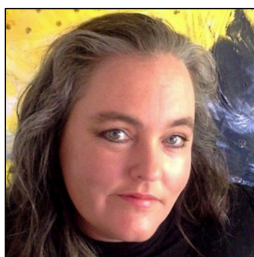


# TV War Games Over Taiwan

by Caitlin Johnstone,\* USA



Caitlin Johnstone.  
(Photo ma)

NBC openly teamed up with a Pentagon-funded think tank to begin normalizing the idea of a U.S. hot war with China.

NBC's *Meet the Press* just aired an absolutely freakish segment<sup>1</sup> in which the influential narrative

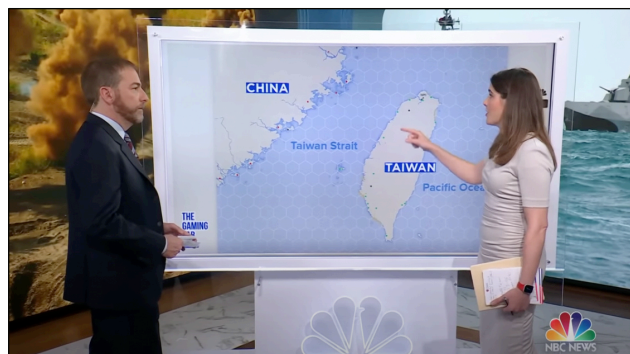
management firm *Center for a New American Security (CNAS)* ran war games simulating a direct U.S. hot war with China.

CNAS is funded<sup>2</sup> by the Pentagon and by military-industrial complex corporations *Northrop Grumman*, *Raytheon* and *Lockheed Martin*, as well as the *Taipei Economic and Cultural Representative Office*, which as *Antiwar's Dave DeCamp notes*<sup>3</sup> is the de facto Taiwanese embassy in the U.S.

The war game simulates a conflict over Taiwan which we are informed is set in the year 2027, in which China launches strikes on the U.S. military in order to open the way to an invasion of the island. We are not told why there needs to be a specific year inserted into mainstream American consciousness about when we can expect such a conflict, but then we are also not told why NBC is platforming a war machine think tank's simulation of a military conflict with China at all.

It happens that the *Center for a New American Security* was the home of the man assigned by the Biden administration to *lead the Pentagon task force*<sup>4</sup> responsible for re-evaluating the administration's posture toward China. That man, *Ely Ratner*, is on record<sup>5</sup> saying that the Trump administration was insufficiently hawkish toward China. Ratner is now<sup>6</sup> the assistant secretary of defense for Indo-Pacific Security Affairs in the Biden administration.

It also happens that the *Center for a New American Security* has openly boasted<sup>7</sup> about the great many of its other "experts and alumni" who



YouTube freeze frame from the NBC programme "Meet the Press".

have assumed senior leadership positions within the Biden administration.

It also happens that CNAS co-founder<sup>8</sup> *Michele Flournoy*, who appeared in the *Meet the Press* war games segment and was at one time a heavy favorite<sup>9</sup> to become Biden's Pentagon chief, wrote a *Foreign Affairs op-ed*<sup>10</sup> in 2020 arguing that the U.S. needed to develop "the capability to credibly threaten to sink all of China's military vessels, submarines, and merchant ships in the South China Sea within 72 hours."

It also happens that CNAS CEO *Richard Fontaine* has been featured all over the mass media pushing empire narratives about Russia and China, *telling Bloomberg*<sup>11</sup> just the other day that the war in Ukraine could serve the empire's long-term interests against China.

"The war in Ukraine could end up being bad for the pivot in the short-term, but good in the long-term," Fontaine said. "If Russia emerges from this conflict as a weakened version of itself and Germany makes good on its defense spending pledges, both trends could allow the U.S. to focus more on the Indo-Pacific in the long run."

It also happens that CNAS is routinely cited by the mass media as an authoritative source on all things China and Russia, with no mention ever made of the conflict of interest arising from their war machine funding.

Just in the last few days here's a recent *NPR interview*<sup>12</sup> about NATO expansion with CNAS senior fellow *Andrea Kendall-Taylor*, a *Washington Post quote*<sup>13</sup> from CNAS fellow *Jacob Stokes* about the Chinese threat to Taiwan, a *Financial Times quote*<sup>14</sup> from CNAS "Indo-Pacific expert" *Lisa Curtis* (who I've previously noted<sup>15</sup> was cited

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by the mass media for her “expert” opposition to the U.S. Afghanistan withdrawal), and a Foreign Policy *citation*<sup>16</sup> of the aforementioned Richard Fontaine saying, “The aim of U.S. policy toward China should be to ensure that Beijing is either unwilling or unable to overturn the regional and global order.”

As we’ve *discussed previously*,<sup>17</sup> citing war machine-funded think tanks as expert analysis without even disclosing their financial conflict of interest is plainly journalistic malpractice. But it happens all the time in the mass media anyway, because the mass media exist to circulate propaganda, not journalism.

This is getting so, so crazy. That the mass media are now openly teaming up with war machine think tanks to begin seeding the normalization of a hot war with China into the minds of the public indicates that the propaganda campaign to manufacture consent for the U.S.-centralized empire’s *final Hail Mary grab at unipolar domination*<sup>18</sup> is escalating even further. The mass-scale psychological manipulation is getting more and more overt and more and more shameless.

This is headed somewhere very, very bad. Hopefully humanity wakes up in time to stop these lunatics from driving us off a precipice from which there is no return.

Source: <https://consortiumnews.com/2022/05/18/caitlin-johnstone-tv-war-games-over-taiwan/>, 18 May 2022  
This article is from [CaitlinJohnstone.com](https://caitlinjohnstone.com).

<sup>1</sup> <https://youtu.be/v80ljV1sLA?t=2247>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.cnas.org/support-cnas/cnas-supporters>

<sup>3</sup> <https://twitter.com/DecampDave/status/1525953984481181698>

<sup>4</sup> <https://news.antiwar.com/2021/02/10/biden-announces-pentagon-task-force-to-review-china-policy/>

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.pennlive.com/opinion/2020/09/trump-has-been-weak-on-china-and-americans-have-paid-the-price-opinion.html>

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.defense.gov/About/Biographies/Biography/Article/2757029/dr-ely-s-ratner/>

<sup>7</sup> <https://www.cnas.org/press/press-release/cnas-experts-and-alumni-selected-for-senior-leadership-positions-in-the-biden-administration>

<sup>8</sup> [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mich%C3%A8le\\_Flournoy-#CNAS](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mich%C3%A8le_Flournoy-#CNAS)

<sup>9</sup> <https://www.defensenews.com/pentagon/2020/11/08/michele-flournoy-could-become-the-first-woman-to-run-the-pentagon-heres-what-would-change/>

<sup>10</sup> <https://archive.ph/mVEeZ#selection-1203.213-1203.397>

<sup>11</sup> <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2022-05-09/biden-team-sees-its-bid-to-curb-china-gaining-from-ukraine-stand>

<sup>12</sup> <https://www.npr.org/2022/05/13/1098735670/with-finland-poised-to-join-nato-how-will-russia-respond>

<sup>13</sup> <https://archive.ph/hXWEj#selection-793.99-793.551>

<sup>14</sup> <https://archive.ph/20EMu#selection-2089.0-2093.288>

<sup>15</sup> <https://caitlinjohnstone.com/2021/04/24/why-the-main-argument-against-withdrawing-us-troops-is-bogus/>

<sup>16</sup> <https://archive.ph/ZTUaS#selection-1031.309-1039.154>

<sup>17</sup> <https://caitlinjohnstone.com/2021/08/13/basing-news-stories-on-corrupt-think-tanks-is-blatant-propaganda/>

<sup>18</sup> <https://caitlinjohnstone.substack.com/p/the-us-empire-ultimate-target-is?s=w>