

Attack Iraq?

NO!



Why the war is not about the liberation of the Iraqi People or world security:

A Story of Oil, Lies, Media Spin, & Power

What is this war all about?

In October 2002, George Bush made a speech outlining the 'reasons' for war on Iraq. The following statements from his speech have been reiterated throughout the media as reasons for the war: "People everywhere prefer freedom to slavery; prosperity to squalor; self-government to the rule of terror and torture. America is a friend to the people of Iraq." and "We know that the regime has produced thousands of tons of chemical agents, including mustard gas, sarin nerve gas, and VX nerve gas." Are these statements true and do they give enough reason to go to war on

Iraq? No. In fact, statements like these range from evasive at best to untrue at worst and never give clear reasons for what this war is all about. So why are these statements untrue or evasive? And what is this war really all about?

Is it about the Liberation of the People of Iraq? No.

Over a million Iraqis have died due to a lack of medical supplies and contaminated water since sanctions on Iraq were implemented in 1990 by the UN Security Council (Resolution 661). Though Saddam Hussein's despotic regime has not gotten any weaker from the sanctions, recent studies by UNICEF concluded that the sanctions against Iraq in which Canada is participating has resulted in the death of more than 500,000 children under five years of age between 1991 and 1998. Despite these cruel facts, Canada has maintained its support for the sanctions. To add to the misery, the result of another war on Iraq will be the death of thousands (or possibly tens of thousands in the aftermath) of already suffering Iraqi children and civilians. Is this threatened war on Iraq really about liberation given the suffering and death that has been so much a part of the US/Canada/Britain supported sanctions? Clearly you cannot liberate the dead. OK, so the sanctions plan has not been about liberation, but what about a war, will a post-war, post-Saddam Iraq be a liberated Iraq? No. Here's why.

"Canada has been participating in the enforcement of UN sanctions against Iraq for 10 years, and our contribution is viewed as crucial by our allies. This operation will further strengthen Canada's military relationship with the United States and reaffirm our commitment to peace and stability in this region"

---**Declaration of former Canadian Minister of Defence Art Eggleton (April 2000), on the sanctions which have killed over 1,000,000 Iraqi people**

Three Point Plan for Post-Saddam Iraq

So what would a post-Saddam Hussein Iraq look like? According to the *US News and World Report*, US officials are developing a 3-step plan to control and govern Iraq after the war is over. The plan was developed by several US agencies under the name of the 'Executive Steering Group'. According to the article, "under **Phase One** envisioned by the plan, Iraq would be ruled by the military, almost certainly an American general." General Tommy R Franks, the Commander in Chief of the US Central Command (CENTCOM), is the likely general to lead this military state. The military is expected to be in control anywhere from 6 months to "a couple of years".

"**Phase Two**" may see Iraq governed by an 'international civilian administration' with a reduction in military participation and increased Iraqi responsibilities. An emerging group in the US, the 'Committee for the Liberation of Iraq' is helping steer the selection and implementation of this 'international civilian administration'. The mission of the committee is to "mobilize U.S. and international support for policies aimed at ending the aggression of Saddam Hussein and freeing the Iraqi people from tyranny". But is it really in their plan to free the people of Iraq?

The members of the Committee would hold enormous sway over a 'liberated Iraq', as can be

seen in their positions of power and influence in the U.S. Members include Senator John McCain (R-AZ), Bush Administration Defense Policy Board Chair (and rabid war hawk) Richard Perle, General Wayne Downing, former US Secretary of State George Shultz, Newt Gingrich, former CIA Director James Woolsey, retired General Barry McCaffrey, former Nebraska Senator Bob Kerrey, and Bruce Jackson who was Vice President at defense industry giant Lockheed Martin Corporation. Do you think this group of top government officials, war-mongers and corporate elite has any interest in the liberation of the Iraqi people, or do they just want to help secure a piece of the spoils (such as oil) for the U.S.?

"Phase Three" will likely see a non-elected Iraqi run government only AFTER this re-constitution of Iraq in phases one and two. The US Congress outlined 6 possible successors to the ruling Baath party of Iraq in the Iraqi Liberation Act that it passed in 1998. Conservative Islam or fundamentalist Islamic values are known to run deep in each of the 6 groups. Several prescribe to the same Sharia law used to repress women in Afghanistan during Taliban rule. If any or all of these groups are placed in power this will likely mean greatly increased repression of Iraqi women, and one can expect enormous destabilization due to infighting between the diverse groups as witnessed in post-Taliban Afghanistan.

Democracy and freedom is not something that can be imposed either by invasion nor by outside forces. So if this war is not about liberation of the Iraqi people or the spread of democracy, then what?

Is it about Weapons of Mass Destruction? No.

"He has the obligation to disarm. For the sake of peace, he must disarm" said George Bush Jr. referring to Saddam Hussein's weapons of mass destruction (WMD) program. Bush's sentiments are a reoccurring theme in mainstream media's coverage of the war on Iraq. If the US government is so concerned about Iraq's Weapons of mass destruction, why did they not raise their concerns over Iraq's WMD in the early 80s - a time when when the US still had official ties with Iraq?

Let's look at the relationship during the 80's between the US and Iraq. In February 1982 Iraq was taken off the US State Department terrorism list. On November 1st, 1983 George Schultz (who is currently a member of the Committee to Liberate Iraq) was given intelligence reports that indicated Iraq carried out "almost daily use of CW [chemical weapons]". On November 26, 1983 Ronald Reagan gave instructions to the administration to do "whatever was necessary and legal" to ensure victory for Iraq in it's war with Iran.

In December of 1983 current Secretary of Defence Donald Rumsfeld certainly had ample time to raise the issue of WMD with Saddam Hussein during their meeting in Bagdad. Rumsfeld was named special envoy to Iraq and met with Saddam Hussein to assure the Iraqi leader that the US would support Iraq in it's war with Iran and that the US was willing to restore full diplomatic relations. Rumsfeld claims he "cautioned" Saddam Hussein on the use of chemical weapons yet there is no evidence of this from state department documents on the meeting. Later, Saddam actually used biological weapons on the Iraqi Kurds with U.S. knowledge and approval. [To add to the cynicism, the U.S. is using the Kurds' victimization in Iraq as part of its justification for this war, despite the U.S.'s previous complicity with Hussein's atrocities on Kurds and despite the blind eye it has turned on (NATO ally) Turkey's years of brutality towards Turkish Kurds.]

Corporations got into the act as well. Iraq purchased \$1.5 million dollars worth of pesticides from Dow Chemical that was suspected to have been used for chemical warfare. Rick Francona, an former intelligence lieutenant-colonel, toured the al-Faw peninsula in southern Iraq in 1988 and reported evidence of the use of sarin gas. "When I was walking around I saw atropine injectors lying around. We saw decontamination fluid on vehicles, there were no insects," said Francona. A 1994 senate investigation found that biological agents were shipped to Iraq in the mid-1980s with the

approval of the U.S. Commerce Department. These biological agents included various strains of anthrax and insecticides.

Lets fast forward to today. Saddam Hussein no longer has the weapons he had, he has effectively been disarmed, and this is what the UN weapons inspectors are finding so little. In June 2002, Scott Ritter, a former senior arms inspector in Iraq from 1991 to 1998, addressed a Canadian Parliamentary Committee for Foreign Affairs to press that Iraq has been stripped of any potential WMD threat . "Iraq is disarmed. There is no justification for a war...This war is more or less about domestic policy, based upon speculation and rhetoric entirely divorced from fact." said Ritter while addressing the Boston Law School in July of 2002. Ritter believes "Saddam neither has weapons of mass destruction (WMD) that could threaten other countries, nor does he have ties with Al Queda terrorists." In fact, Saddam Hussein and Osama Bin-Laden have long been enemies.

"Korea has more weapons of mass destruction than Saddam Hussein but we're not making war on Korea. Besides, [there are currently] eight nuclear countries [including the U.S.], right? Eight countries that have nuclear weapons. No, we're not making war on them. No, it's not that", said Howard Zinn, author of The People's History of the United States, on PBS's NOW with Bill Moyers. And let's be clear: Great Britain, Israel, China, France, Pakistan, and India, and, of course, The United States, all have nuclear weapons. And the US and other countries have huge stockpiles of chemical and biological weapons. So when will these countries give up their WMD?

If the attack on Iraq isn't about weapons of mass destruction or terrorism, then what?

It is about oil and, lets be honest, about extension of U.S. global power

"When we have economic problems, it's been caused by disruptions in our oil supply. If we have a force in Iraq, there will be no disruption in oil supplies"

**--- Donald Kagan,
Right-wing commentator
and Yale professor**

While no one outside of elite power circles can be completely sure of all the reasons for this attack on Iraq, the facts and the history point quite clearly on the U.S. desire for control of middle eastern oil and the extension of U.S. political and economic control. And those that are willing to back this blatant grab for resources are ensuring that they don't miss out on the spoils or fall out of favour with the world's only superpower.

Control of Oil in the Middle East

Iraq has the second largest oil reserves after Saudi Arabia. And the middle east has, by far, the largest oil reserves of any region in the world. Currently, while only 4% of the population, the

U.S. uses 25% of the world's annual output of oil (Canada is proportionately almost as dependent on oil). Because of this, the U.S. has a major need to secure oil for the future, and this is reflected in their National Energy policy. As well, the profit potential for U.S. based oil multinationals would be absolutely enormous if, post-invasion, the U.S. directly control the region's supply.

Interestingly, one company, the oil services firm Haliburton which was headed by current US VP Dick Cheney in the late 90s, has already done quite well in Iraq. The Washington Post reported that through foreign subsidiaries, Halliburton under Cheney did \$73 million in business with Iraq in 1998-99, helping rebuild Saddam's damaged post-Gulf War oil fields - despite Cheney publicly saying Halliburton had a "firm policy" against dealing with Iraq. Is anyone wondering if it is not enormously hypocritical that Dick Cheney can be a key booster for the U.S. to go war on Iraq and likely kill thousands of Iraqi civilians, and yet have made enormous money off of Iraq for Halliburton just a few years ago?

Though not good for the people of Iraq or for most people in Canada and the U.S., this war does hold high potential rewards for those in power in the U.S. (and, more indirectly, for those in power in countries allied to the U.S.) As the the journal *Monthly Review* has pointed out, this attack will aid future U.S. oil and pipeline expansion as Iraq is a key middle eastern corridor, it will help increase leverage versus Saudi Arabia (a country which some are saying may be the U.S.'s future war plans, despite the dictatorship currently being an ally of the U.S.), and good for U.S. control of oil versus other world powers. Again, however, what is good for those in power, does not make it good for the rest of us on moral or security grounds.

Is Iran Next?

Iran, one of the "axis of evil", will be isolated after a U.S. takeover of Iraq as Iran would be almost completely surrounded by U.S. military bases (currently found in 10 countries in the region). Iran, a country which once had a democratically elected leader deposed of with U.S. assistance (1953), has huge oil reserves which would fit nicely into U.S. plans. And could Saudi Arabia, the height of oil power in the region, be next in line in the U.S.'s plans?

Extension of U.S. Global Power

Since the early 90's collapse of the Soviet Union and the decline of Europe and Japan economically, the U.S. has been unrivalled in its military and economic power and this invasion is almost certainly a part of its push to maintain and expand this power. John Ikenberry summed it up in the mainstream journal *Foreign Affairs*: "The new grand strategy [initiated by the Bush administration].... begins with a fundamental commitment to maintaining a unipolar world in which the United States has no peer competitor. No coalition of great powers without the United States will be allowed to achieve hegemony... the new goal is to make these advantages permanent—a fait accompli that will prompt other states to not even try to catch up. Some thinkers have described the strategy as "breakout," in which the United States moves so quickly... that no state or coalition could ever challenge it as global leader, protector and enforcer" ("America's Imperial Ambition," *Foreign Affairs*, October 2002)

While the U.S. has a history of helping with the overthrow of governments, including democratically elected ones in Guatemala (1954), Chile (1973), and Iran (1953), this recent course of imperialist plans and action appears to be quite different. Given that the long term plan is to occupy and 'force democracy' through this military action, it is not much of a stretch to view the reality of the U.S. plans as a means to expand its global power to a place where it can not possibly be matched.

"Anti-Americanism"??

One thing must be made clear is that this booklet is not at all about so-called "anti-americanism", it is just the facts as they seem to be playing out and becoming more and more clear. To state facts which show that the U.S. government is acting in an amoral, terroristic manner does not mean that you are against all the people of that country. In fact, it is the people of the United States that we need most on our side - Americans who understand that this war is wrong and immoral and are willing to organize to try to stop it. The people of the U.S. must strongly show their government that they completely reject this war. As well, it is important to be clear that Canada (along with all other countries willing to back this terrible war) is just as complicit as the U.S. government, as the Canadian government keeps open the possibility of joining in the invasion rather than coming out strongly against it. For this reason, we in Canada also must seriously oppose our government on its war plans.

The War at Home

It is important to make clear that it is not only in other countries such as Afghanistan/Iraq/(Iran next?),... where the 'war of terror' is played out. There is a war taking place right here at home against people of colour, immigrants, and Muslims that has accelerated rapidly and must be opposed at every turn.

One strong and clear example of the war at home is how the Muslim community has faced increasing racism ever since 9/11. Over the past 16 months racist acts include phone, email, and verbal threats against individuals and organizations; the words "killers" and "go home" were spray painted on a mosque in Guelph, while mosques in Oshawa, Hamilton, and St. Catharines were vandalized, and \$600,000 in fire damage was deliberately done on a Hindu temple in Hamilton; over the past two years many have been detained, questioned and treated like terrorists at the US/Canada border for the simple fact of being Muslim or from a Islamic country; Muslims in Canada have been pulled off buses and pulled off the streets for questioning, without being told why; and an American pilot flying from St. John's, Nfld., refused to carry several passengers of Middle Eastern descent.

What is most important to state is that though extreme, these acts of racism and violence can not be seen as isolated, as they reflect growing intolerance and racism towards immigrants and Muslims.

Despite popular conceptions, Canada has a long history of intolerance towards immigrants and people of colour. Eastern Europeans were targeted by the War Measures Act of 1914 and interned in remote camps. During WW2 22,000 Japanese Canadians were interned in remote camps. It was recently announced that Ottawa is looking for detention centres to hold all immigrants who do not have proper papers. The federal government has been negotiating with a 'super jail' located in Kawartha Lakes, roughly 100 km northeast of Toronto. Deja vu?

Under Bill C-36 the Canadian government can now carry out "preventative" arrests of suspects and detain them without charge and seize their assets. In the U.S. between 500 and 1000 people, mostly from the Middle East and North Africa, were arrested in California in December 2002, mostly over minor visa violations. Lawyers have stated that some were shackled, hosed down, and forced to stand up all night in cramped, unheated cells. On September 26th Maher Arar, a Canadian citizen and Ottawa resident, was interrogated for 9 hours after being detained during a stop over in New York on his way to Montreal. He was deported to Syria on October 10th and has since been imprisoned. Others have been arrested under allegations of terrorist links with no charges and no evidence offered.

Clearly, measures taken by the Canadian and American governments are not protecting the rights and liberties of ALL who live in those countries. Because of this, we must recognize the the war is not just in Iraq, it is right here at home. We must resist this war on both counts.

Want more information?

Books, articles, websites and more!

*Facts and analysis that are usually ignored
in much of our biggest media.*

Books on Iraq & on the 'War on Terror'

Iraq Under Siege: The Deadly Impact of Sanctions and War (Updated Edition 2002)

Edited by Anthony Arnove

For info on book, see: www.southendpress.org/books/iraq.shtml

9-11, Noam Chomsky (88 pages, from the Open Media Pamphlet Series)

International anti-war bestseller dissecting the root causes of the Sept 11th catastrophe, the historical precedents for it, & the possible outcomes as the United States responds with its "new war on terrorism." "one of the few places where the other side of the case could be found" - New Yorker Magazine

(Open Media Pamphlet Series - 'short, readable books on big issues')

See others in series: www.sevenstories.com/catalog/index.cfm?category_id=282

The New Crusade: America's War on Terrorism

Rahul Mahajan (160 pages, 2002)

"Mandatory reading for anyone who wants to get a handle on the war on terrorism. Mahajan writes clearly and in plain language... takes on directly all the main issues surrounding the war. A truly brilliant introduction to the topic by an exciting new author." Robert McChesney

For info and excerpt: www.monthlyreview.org/newcrusade.htm

The Clash of Fundamentalisms, Tariq Ali

Great historical perspective, & dissects both Islamic and Western fundamentalism

www.versobooks.com/books/ab/a-titles/ali_t_fundamentalisms.shtml

War Plan Iraq: Ten Reasons Against War in Iraq

Milan Rai, See: www.versobooks.com/books/nopqrs/r-titles/rai_m_iraq.shtml

Websites Specifically on Iraq

ZNet Iraq Watch www.zmag.org/CrisesCurEvts/Iraq/IraqCrisis.htm

While probably the best Iraq info on the net, there is a lot on this site and can be overwhelming. Try the "recent articles" section at the top and also look at the very insightful analysis by Robert Fisk and John Pilger.

Iraq Journal - www.iraqjournal.org

A collection of regular reports from Iraq from Independent Journalists. Includes print audio and video.

Alternet - www.alternet.org/waroniraq

Media Channel's Iraq News Tracker

www.mediachannel.org/news/tracker/iraq.shtml

News sites with Iraq & "War on Terror" content

Znet - www.zmag.org

A continuous town meeting and intellectual and activist center for large sectors of the progressive community. Many links, news, and updates.

Octopus Books News www.octopusbooks.org/explore

Daily news - local, regional and global.

Rabble - www.rabble.ca Canadian based news and social change website

Commondreams - www.commondreams.org

A US focused mix of politics, issues and breaking news

War Times - www.war-times.org Excellent newspaper on war issues

Articles

"The Double Standards, Dubious Morality and Duplicity of This Fight Against Terror" by Robert Fisk, Independent/UK, January 5th, 2002

www.commondreams.org/views03/0104_01.htm

"Worst Excuse Yet"

Linda McQuaig, Toronto Star, January 4th

www.rabble.ca/columnists_full.shtml?x=17960

"The President's Real Goal in Iraq", rare honest portrayal from corporate media editorial writer www.accessatlanta.com/ajc/opinion/0902/29bookman.html

Trembling before the Gods of War, Laurie King-Irani

www.zmag.org/content/showarticle.cfm?SectionID=22&ItemID=2838

"We Won't Be Fighting for Freedom in Iraq"

www.commondreams.org/views03/0101_03.htm

Robert Jensen, Dallas Morning News, January 1st, 2003

"California orders mass arrests of Muslims"

www.independent.co.uk/story.jsp?story=363109

Confronting Empire - Noam Chomsky

<http://www.zmag.org/content/showarticle.cfm?SectionID=40&ItemID=2938>

US Corporations in Iraq - US corporations that supplied Iraq with nuclear/chemical/

biological technology in the '80s - before the Gulf War.
www.zmag.org/content/showarticle.cfm?SectionID=15&ItemID=2766

"Thank You Mr. Bush", Dr Muzaffar Iqbal (from a Muslim perspective - a poignant sarcastic critique of Bush's actions)

www.jang.com.pk/thenews/dec2002-daily/06-12-2002/oped/o1.htm

Background Articles

"Why another War?: A Backgrounder on the Iraq crisis"

Middle East Research and Information Project, Dec 2002 (16 pages - PDF format)

Indepth backgrounder: "What you need to know about: US Policy-Role of the UN-Sanctions-Inspections-Oil -Human Rights- Regional Politics" See: www.merip.org

"U.S. Imperial Ambitions and Iraq" www.monthlyreview.org/1202editor.htm

45 Questions and Answers Regarding Intervention in General, 9-11 and Afghanistan One Year Later, and Iraq on the Verge of War. www.zmag.org/45qairaq.htm Long, but very good background

"Paying the Price: Killing the Children of Iraq" MOVIE

About the devastating impact of the UN sanctions on Iraq. A 1999 Unicef report calculated that over half a million children have died as a direct result of sanctions.

Video clips from film available here: <http://pilger.carlton.com/iraq/film>

Organizing Against the War

Women Rising For Peace And Justice Announce Campaign

www.zmag.org/content/showarticle.cfm?SectionID=51&ItemID=2827

Ten Q&A On Antiwar Organizing

www.zmag.org/content/showarticle.cfm?SectionID=15&ItemID=2527

The Time For Talking Is Over "political commitment is meaningless unless you are prepared to act on it" George Monbiot, Manchester Guardian, January 7th, 2003 <http://alt.venus.co.uk/weed/current/monbiot1.htm>

'No to War!' Is Anyone Listening?"

Activist says today's peace movement is stronger than before Vietnam

www.commondreams.org/views03/0109-02.htm

Anti-War Movement - Noam Chomsky

www.zmag.org/content/showarticle.cfm?SectionID=51&ItemID=2962

Internet Radio Reporting

Democracy Now - www.democracynow.org

U.S. news show committed to bringing the voices of the marginalized to the airwaves. Continues to do much reporting on and in Iraq.

Some Groups Involved in Struggle Against War in Iraq

Canadian Network to End Sanctions in Iraq - www.canesi.org

"Canadian network responding to the injustice, death and suffering in Iraq that results from the UN sanctions." Involved in anti-war activities.

Iraq Peace Team - www.iraqpeaceteam.org

Since September 2002, nonviolent activists have been on the ground in Iraq standing in solidarity with the people of Iraq while at the same time working to prevent a US attack.

NOWAR/PAIX (Ottawa/Outaouais) www.nowar-paix.ca

[Network to Oppose War and Racism (NOWAR) Pacte contre l'agression, l'intolérance et la xénophobie (PAIX)]

Toronto Committee Against Sanctions and War in Iraq www.tcaswi.org

Voices in the Wilderness - www.nonviolence.org/vitw

Voices in the Wilderness is a joint US/UK campaign to end the economic sanctions against the people of Iraq.

What You Can Do To Stop The War on Iraq

1. Attend anti-war rallies.
2. Write, fax, or email your Member of Parliament or the Prime Minister to express your deep opposition to Canada's involvement.
3. Take part in direct action and/or civil disobedience to stop the war machine.
4. Talk to your friends and family about why you oppose the war.
5. Join a local group (see above and below) and organize education activities and actions against the war.
6. Educate yourself on the war on terrorism and on Iraq. Use some of the resources in this guide.
7. Show solidarity with the local Iraqi and Muslim community, including denunciation of deportations, arbitrary border hassles, and arbitrary arrests.
8. Write letters to the local media expressing your opposition to the war and why you oppose it.

This booklet was designed by:

The Committee for Peace in Iraq (CPI)

A network of many Ottawa/Outaouais organizations and individuals committed to stopping this war on the Iraqi People.

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