



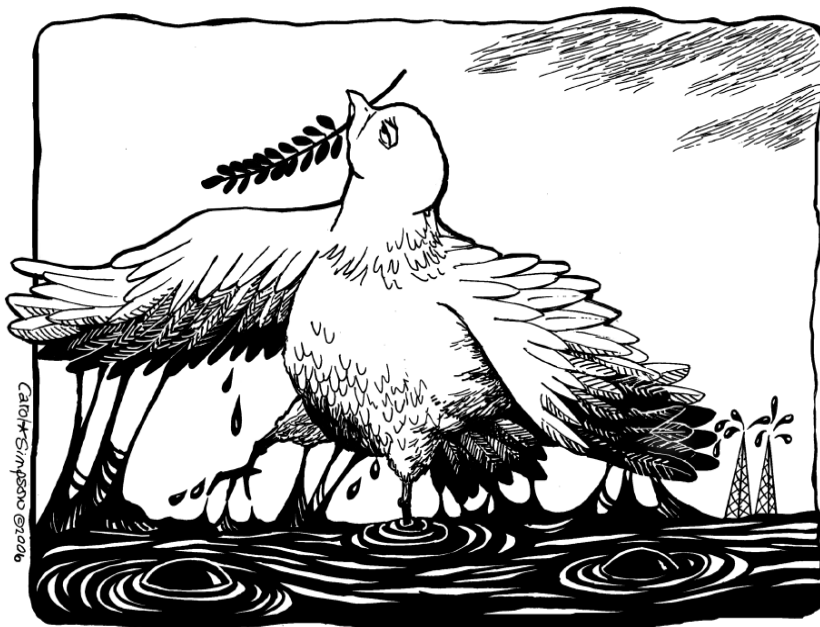
OAK PARK COALITION FOR
Truth & Justice

THE COSTS OF THE WAR IN IRAQ

Where does it end?

The Costs

- The dead include over 2,600 U.S. soldiers and 30,000 Iraqis. The maimed and wounded include nearly 20,000 Americans and uncounted Iraqis.
- The U.S. has spent over \$300 BILLION of taxpayers' money on the war and occupation in Iraq. Some \$8 BILLION of taxpayers' money sent to Iraq is simply "unaccounted for," and missing.
- We are \$8 TRILLION in debt, debt that we will leave to our children and grandchildren.
- A large portion of the national debt is owed to foreign countries, primarily China and Japan.
- The money spent on the occupation in Iraq is money that is not available for:
 - Assistance in rebuilding New Orleans for its original inhabitants
 - Shoring up Medicare, Medicaid, and Social Security
 - National health insurance for children, aid for law enforcement, and even programs for veterans.
- After \$300 billion spent by U.S. taxpayers, Iraqis are still not receiving essential services:
 - Baghdad citizens get an average of 4 hrs. of electricity a day.
 - Iraq's mortality rate for children under five rose from 5 percent in 1990 to 12.5 percent in 2004.
 - Only a quarter of the population has access to clean water.
 - The Iraqi economy has been devastated by the war and by the subsequent orders from former U.S. Proconsul Paul Bremer, since incorporated into the Iraqi Constitution, which eliminate protections of national industries and farming, expose the country to exploitation and control by foreign corporations, and require big cuts in social services.
 - Unemployment has skyrocketed at the same time that inflation has driven costs upward.
 - These cutbacks in the quality of life of Iraq's population fuel further support for the resistance to the U.S. occupation. Average weekly attacks jumped from about 200 in spring '04 to more than 600 this year.
- In 2005 U.S. military spending was 43% of global military spending and 7 times greater than that of China, the next highest spender. U.S. military spending in Fiscal Year 2007 will be 48% greater than in Fiscal Year 2001.



A Foundation of Lies

- After more than three years of searching, there is still no credible evidence of Iraqi WMD or links to 9/11.
- The Bush administration has used no less than 23 separate justifications for having launched their disastrous invasion as each justification is, in turn, found empty.
- "The Downing Street Memo" revealed that President Bush wanted to topple Saddam Hussein by military action and warned that in Washington intelligence was "being fixed around the policy." (*Washington Post*, May 13, 2005)
- The war is used to squash legitimate dissent. Three government advisors have been proven to have been correct, but their warnings were ignored and they were fired.
 - General Eric Shinseki testified before Congress that U.S. troop levels in Iraq could not bring about order.
 - White House Economic advisor Lawrence Lindsay said that the White House's estimated costs of \$50 Billion for the war were too low.
 - Treasury Secretary Paul O'Neill called the war-fueled deficits "a looming crisis."

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Decline of American Prestige

- The goodwill of the world has been squandered. The U.S. is now viewed by the international community as a bigger threat to world peace than North Korea or Iran.

We are Less Safe

- The longer the occupation of Iraq continues, the more it will fuel resistance in Iraq and terrorism abroad, as the bombings of trains in Madrid, Spain and London, England have demonstrated.
- Funding priorities are made toward the occupation of Iraq, rather than toward the protection of our own citizens. For example, only 5% of shipping containers coming into our ports are currently inspected.
- “Private security” forces operate above the law from Baghdad to New Orleans.
- Highly placed U.S. military figures themselves have said that the policy of detainment and torture of foreign nationals and the refusal of the Bush administration to abide by the Geneva Convention, puts our own military personnel at risk of similar treatment and torture if they are captured.
- Valuable intelligence operations have been compromised by the Bush administration by untimely revelations and actions, apparently for political gain.
- The on-going military effort is used as a justify the erosion of our rights as American citizens under the Bill of Rights and the Constitution, including illegal wire taps, the planting of propaganda paid for by taxpayers disguised as legitimate news, and the pressuring of news organizations to self-censor.

Who Benefits?

- Oil corporations and construction corporations and security firms, such as Bechtel, Halliburton, Lockheed Martin, and Blackwater Security, with close links to the Bush administration, have been grossly enriched at the U.S. taxpayers' and the Iraqis' expense.
- Many of the contracts have been awarded on a no-bid basis.
- Much of the work of contractors could have and should have been done by Iraqis, for savings to the U.S. taxpayer of up to 90 percent (The Bush Agenda, by international trade expert Antonia Juhasz).
- Exxon-Mobil alone posted a world record \$36.13 BILLION profit for one 12-month period, bigger than the total economies of 125 of the 184 countries listed by the World Bank (Reuters).



Things You Can Do

- Join an organization, such as OPCTJ, that is working for peace and justice
- Attend film showings, talks, and other events which offer information and background. For more information, see: www.opctj.org.
- Write letters to the editor demanding that they cover the stories fairly and completely.
- Contact your elected officials and demand an end to the occupation.
 - Call your Representative at the Congressional Switchboard: 202/224-3121
 - Call Senator Richard Durbin: 202/224-2152
 - Call Senator Barack Obama: 202/224-2854
- Visit: www.senate.gov or www.house.gov.
- Sign the Declaration of Peace. The Declaration of Peace is a nationwide campaign to establish by September 21, 2006 a concrete and rapid plan for peace in Iraq, including:
 - 1) a prompt timetable for withdrawal of troops and a closure of bases
 - 2) a peace process for security, reconstruction, and reconciliation
 - 3) the shift of funding for war to meeting human needs

