

Seven reasons to oppose the war on Iraq:

Reason 1: There is no evidence that Iraq possesses weapons of mass destruction.

UNSCOM chief Richard Butler reported in 1998 that his team was satisfied that Iraq no longer had nuclear or long-range missile capability and that chemical and biological inspections were nearly finished. Former U.N. inspector Scott Ritter says UNSCOM confirmed that Iraq had destroyed all biological, chemical, missile, and nuclear weapons (Chicago Tribune, 9/10/02). The U.S., however, DOES have nuclear, biological, and chemical weapons of mass destruction — and has used them, including depleted uranium ordnance during the 1991 Gulf War and in the Balkans. The U.S. has refused to sign treaties that ban chemical weapons or institute weapons inspections in all countries, and George Bush recently threatened to use nuclear “bunker buster” weapons against the so-called ‘Axis of Evil.’

Reason 2: Iraq has not banned weapons inspections.

Iraq agreed in 1991 to admit UN weapons inspectors, but for four years the U.S. has thwarted inspections to provide an excuse for more aggressive policy towards Iraq. U.S.-dominated inspections teams carried out 9,000 inspections over nearly 8 years, but the Clinton administration called for inspectors to withdraw in 1998 — because they would be unsafe during upcoming U.S. bombing. (Washington Post, 12/17/98) The administration then claimed Iraq was not “fully cooperating,” creating the erroneous impression that Iraq was obstructing inspectors. In a typical time period between Nov. 18-Dec. 12 1998, during 423 inspections UNSCOM cited only 5 “obstructions,” including Iraq’s refusal to allow a U.S. inspector to interview all undergraduate students in Baghdad University’s Science Department, and Iraqi opposition to UNSCOM’s demand — against a prior agreement — to inspect on Friday, the Muslim holy day. U.S. officials publicly admit that many inspectors were intelligence agents who provided the Pentagon with bombing coordinates for the 1998 bombing (New York Times, 1/7/99).

Reason 3: U.S. plans to overthrow the regime in Iraq violate international law.

Article VI of the U.S. Constitution establishes that ratified treaties like the U.N. Charter are the “supreme law of the land.” Article 2 of the U.N. Charter establishes that “All members shall settle their international disputes by peaceful means in such a manner that international peace and security, and justice, are not endangered... All members shall refrain in their international relations from the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any state...”

Reason 4: War on Iraq is, in part, a power play for the world’s most valuable commodity — oil.

Iraq has the second largest oil reserves in the world. U.S. oil companies like ExxonMobil and their banking partners already make trillions of dollars from the Middle East oil they now control — and access to Iraqi reserves will increase their economic clout. Only 20% of U.S. oil comes from the Middle East — but Europe and Japan get most of their imports from the region. Control over Iraqi oil could translate into huge economic and political leverage over economic rivals in Europe, Japan, and China.

Reason 5: This war fits with a foreign policy of economic and political domination to benefit U.S. ‘interests’.

The administration laid out this plan — “National Security Strategy of the U.S.” — in September 2002. It says: “The president has no intention of allowing any foreign power to catch up with the huge lead the United States has opened... Our forces will be strong enough to dissuade potential adversaries...” The plan also says the U.S. is in “a battle for the future of the Muslim world” and advocates ‘pre-emptive’ attacks — attacks that are unprovoked. (See #6) While the U.S. has covertly and overtly supported repressive dictatorships and illegal wars for decades — in places that include Nicaragua, Colombia, Palestine, Afghanistan and the Philippines — Bush’s National Security Strategy enshrines this strategy in U.S. foreign policy.

Reason 6: The U.S. government is giving itself the ‘right’ to overthrow other countries’ governments.

“Regime change” will simply allow the U.S. to replace Hussein with a thug more pliant to U.S. wishes. The U.S. government has a long history of supporting ‘friendly’ regimes like that of Papa and Baby Doc Duvalier in Haiti, Augusto Pinochet in Chile, and most recently forces seeking to overthrow Venezuela’s democratically elected government.

Reason 7: The war will cost hundreds of billions of dollars and create greater insecurity here and abroad.

Unemployment, lack of health care, and economic hardship are growing problems in this country. War spending will undercut resources for health care, housing, education, environmental protection and other public programs. Rather than help solve Third World catastrophes like AIDS, malnutrition, the debt crisis and access to potable water, this war will create chaos in the Middle East and beyond.

Our tax dollars should fund human need, not wars of conquest and corporate greed.

Oppose the U.S. government war on Iraq!

CCAWR Emergency Response Plan

If the U.S. launches full-scale war on Iraq, we need to respond — and end the war as quickly as possible. Join CCAWR — the Chicago Coalition Against War & Racism — in our emergency response plan to protest the spread of war abroad and further attacks on civil liberties at home.

The Plan:

If — or when — the U.S. starts its war against Iraq, **protest** at 5 pm at the Federal Plaza, Adams & Dearborn Streets, Chicago, the day the bombing begins (including weekends!), with a follow-up protest at the same time and place the following day.

Brought to you by CCAWR — the Chicago Coalition Against War and Racism. To learn more, call 312-458-9559, email CCAWR@aol.com or check out our website — www.chicagoantiwar.org — including our **calendar of upcoming activities**. And join our **Emergency Response email/telephone tree**, to learn about emergency demonstrations against U.S. attacks on Iraq, civil liberties, activists, and more. Labor donated.