



Rockland Coalition
for Peace & Justice

KILLING FOR THE ALMIGHTY DOLLAR

“They fight to keep us safe.” Not really! Follow the examination of declassified documents, together with historical facts, and it becomes clear that the invasion of Iraq was for oil, oil control, and global domination. Iraq has the second largest oil reserves in the world. For the U.S., this is the “black gold” which props the dollar. Securing this oil is costly:

US Soldiers: 503 dead (<http://lunaville.org>, 1/19/04)
2814 wounded (<http://lunaville.org>, 1/8/04)
11,000 medically evacuated
(*United Press International*, 12/19/03)

Iraq Civilians: 5,708-7,356 dead (3/20/03 -4/30/03)
2,049 -2,209 dead (5/1/03- 11/14/03)
(Medact estimate, *Boston Globe*, 11/14/03)

On 1/11, *Sixty Minutes* showed National Security Council documents from the **early days** of the Bush administration marked “secret.” The contents were related to post war plans for Iraq and identified corporations and countries that might try to pursue oil interests in Iraq.

OIL AND WAR, WAR AND OIL

According to a declassified British government document made public on Jan. 1 of this year, the U.S. government seriously contemplated using military force to seize oil fields in the Middle East in 1973 (**U.S. oil at the Heart of Iraq Crisis**, *The Sunday Herald*, UK, 10/6/02). At that time, there was an Arab oil embargo due to the Arab-Israeli war and as a result there was a huge rise in oil prices. That was just after President Nixon completely de-linked the value of the dollar from gold. Prior to that, an ounce of gold was fixed at \$35. After 1973 the value of the dollar sank against Western European currencies, while gold soared to \$800. The dollar then became as good as the amount of oil available to back it up rather than the amount of reserve gold. What caused the move away from the gold standard? The monetary crisis caused by the Vietnam War (*Science for Democratic Action*, 6/2003).

FOR OIL AND POWER OVER OIL

Before Gulf War 1, April Glaspie, the U. S. ambassador, assured Saddam that the U.S. had no problem with his plan to invade Kuwait (*Christian Science Monitor*, 5/27/99). In this way, the U.S. set him up in order to get a military presence in the gulf.

In the June issue of *Science for Democratic Action* some interesting reasons were given for the oil war. They include “to control the principal external source of oil supplies for Western Europe and China... a military presence in the Persian Gulf that could enable rapid occupation of Saudi oil fields, so that the **price of oil would remain dominated in dollars.**” The author, Arjun Makhijani refers to a strong euro and the fact that Saddam got U.N. permission in **the fall of 2000** to trade oil in euros rather than dollars.

According to Neil Mackay of *The Sunday Herald*, 10/6/02, President Bush’s Cabinet agreed in **April 2001** that “Iraq remains a destabilizing influence to the flow of oil to international markets from the Middle East and because this is an unacceptable risk to the U.S, military intervention is necessary.”

Join **Rockland Coalition for Peace and Justice** for weekly peace vigils at Middletown Road and Route 59 in Nanuet every Saturday 1-3 pm. For info: www.rocklandaction.org or call the Fellowship of Reconciliation at 358 4601

1/24/04

Ten months into the war, the oil grab is not going very well. Now, in spite of our huge debt, there is talk of going to the moon for oil substitute helium3. Meanwhile, **OPEC will discuss oil trade using the euro as well as the dollar at their Feb.10 meeting** (Reuters, 1/15/ 04).

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