

# Wars Bleed Us Dry

Sources: "Debt Political Theater Diverts Attention While Americans' Wealth Is Stolen," by Dennis Kucinich, CommonDreams.org, 7/15/11; "Hollow Deficit Debate Ignores the Burden of Afghanistan Military Spending," by Phyllis Bennis, Institute for Policy Studies, 7/16/11.



At this moment the **hollow debate on the deficit** has sucked up almost all the oxygen in the Capitol.

**Yet the war in Afghanistan which costs us hundreds of billions of dollars a year is scarcely mentioned.**

Instead, American seniors are **facing potential cuts in their Social Security** in order to pay for a debt which grew from tax cuts for the rich and for endless wars.

On July 15, Congressman Dennis Kucinich warned that **the debt political theater diverts attention while Americans' wealth is stolen.**

He said, "The rancorous debate over the debt belies a fundamental truth of our economy -- that it is run for the few at the expense of the many, that **our entire government has been turned into a machine which takes the wealth of a mass of Americans and accelerates it into the hands of the few,**" by virtue of wars, energy policies and monetary policies.

"Take war. **War takes the money from the American people and puts it into the hands of arms manufacturers, war profiteers, and private armies.** The war in Iraq, based on lies: **\$3 trillion** will be the cost of that war. The war in Afghanistan; based on a misreading of history; **half a trillion dollars** in expenses already."

**If Congress is serious about reining in debts, it should NOT sacrifice seniors' social security, children's milk or veterans' benefits. Instead, Congress should bring back our troops and contractors from Afghanistan and Iraq.**

**Call our Representatives to bring our war \$\$ home:** Eliot L. Engel: (845) 735-1000; Nita M. Lowey: (845) 639-3485.



**Join our 454<sup>th</sup> Peace Vigil to help end the wars!**  
Every Saturday, 1-3 pm, at Rte. 59 & Middletown Rd. in Nanuet, NY

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*Rockland Coalition for Peace & Justice*