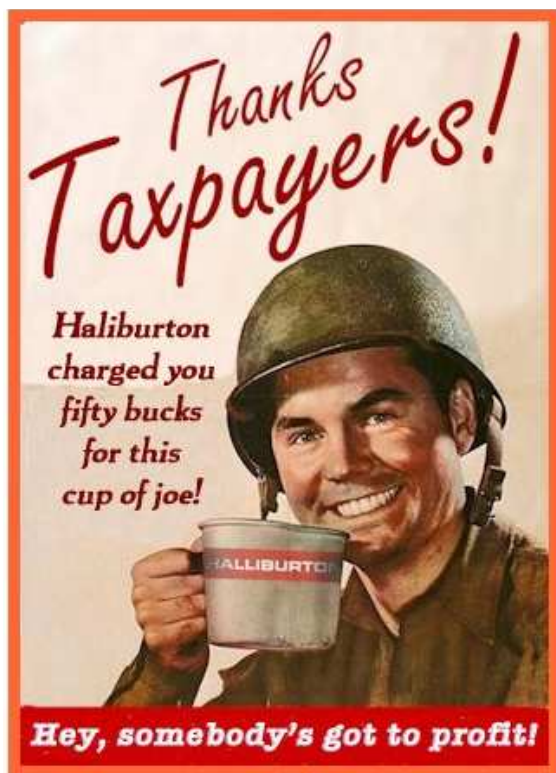


U.S. Is Not Leaving Iraq

Source: "The US Isn't Leaving Iraq, It's Rebranding the Occupation" by Seumas Milne, the Guardian/UK, August 5, 2010



President Barack Obama declared recently that U.S. combat troops are to be withdrawn from Iraq at the end of this August "as promised and on schedule."

However, **the U.S. isn't withdrawing from Iraq at all – it's rebranding the occupation.**

After this month's withdrawal, there will still be 50,000 U.S. troops in 94 military bases, "**advising**" and **training the Iraqi army**, "providing security" and carrying out "counter-terrorism" missions.

Meanwhile, **the U.S. government isn't just rebranding the occupation, it's also privatizing it.**

There are around **100,000 private contractors** such as Haliburton, and Xe (formerly Blackwater) working for the occupying forces, of whom more than 11,000 are armed mercenaries, mostly "third country nationals." The U.S. now wants to **expand their numbers sharply**. The advantage of an **outsourced occupation** is clearly that someone other than U.S. soldiers can do the dying to maintain control of Iraq.

Big oil companies moved back into Iraq behind invading U.S. troops in 2003, and are taking over Iraq's oil production and exporting. They need the continuing presence of U.S. military forces in Iraq to protect their interest in exploiting Iraqi oil.

What is abundantly clear is that the U.S., whose \$740 million embassy in Baghdad is now the size of Vatican City capable of housing 800 personnel, has no intention of letting go of Iraq any time soon.

The illegal and immoral occupation of Iraq will be endless. It will continue draining our tax dollars, impoverishing us and making us less safe. Take action NOW!



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