

Reflect on 9/11



On the 10th anniversary of the Sept. 11th attacks, let's reflect on the turbulent decade behind us.

Right after the 9/11 attacks, we were comforted by the outpouring sympathy from all over the world. **We could take on an international effort to bring those responsible for the attacks to justice in compliance with international law.**

Sadly, we squandered all that goodwill and chose instead to hunt for bin Laden by invading Afghanistan within a month of the 9/11 attacks.

Then on March 19, 2003, the U.S. launched another war, this time in Iraq based on lies.

The Bush-Cheney administration's claims that Iraq was involved in the 9/11 attacks, had links with al Qaeda, and possessed weapons of mass destruction were all proved to be false.

Looking back, **the ten-year wars have claimed far more lives than those lost in the 9/11 attacks**: more than 6,000 U.S. soldiers and over 1 million Iraqi and Afghani civilians. Since 2001, the U.S. government has **spent more than \$1.2 trillion** in the two wars, bleeding our country dry at an unbelievable rate of \$15 billion a month.

The burden of sustaining the wars has fallen on us, the middle and working class taxpayers. Wars take our money and put it into the hands of arms manufacturers, war profiteers, and private armies. Those in uniform are being used as convenient fronts for the military-industrial complex to keep the flames of war burning indefinitely.

Did the two wars lead to the capture of bin Laden? No. Good intelligence efforts did. **Have the two wars made us safer?** No. The two wars have become powerful recruiting tools for future generations of insurgents. Clearly, war is not the answer.

The 9/11 tragedy should have taught us a lesson: **resist any temptation or excuse for rushing to war.** Brute force can only inflame more hatred and violence. **Only fair and just foreign policies can win back respect and peace in the world community.** Let's all commit ourselves to waging peace.



Join our 460th Peace Vigil to end the wars!
Every Saturday, 1-3 pm, at Rte. 59 & Middletown Rd. in Nanuet, NY
For info: www.rocklandaction.org 9/10/11

Rockland Coalition for Peace & Justice