



# Iraq War's Winners & Losers

Source: Iraq War's Winners and Losers, by Sherwood Ross, Consortium News, August 17, 2009



“On my last day in Iraq, as on my first day in Iraq, I couldn't see what the United States and its allies had accomplished...I **couldn't understand what thousands of American soldiers had died for and why hundreds of thousands of Iraqis had been killed.**”

- Leila Fadel, McClatchy News correspondent, August 9, 2009

**Quite a few oil company CEO's and "defense" industry executives, however, do have a pretty good idea why that war is being fought.** As Michael Cherkasky, president of Kroll Inc., said a year after the Iraq invasion boosted his security firm's profits 231 percent: **“It's the Gold Rush.”**

“Defense Earnings Continue to Soar,” Renae Merle wrote in The Washington Post on July 30, 2007. “Profit reports from Northrop Grumman, General Dynamics and Lockheed Martin showed particularly strong results in operations in the region.”

**But war, it turns out, is not only unhealthy for human beings, it is not uniformly good for the economy.** Many sectors suffer, including non-defense employment, as a war can destroy more jobs than it creates.

In an article in the Aug. 24 Nation, policy analyst Georgia Levenson Keohane cites the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities to the effect that **48 states are reporting deficits totaling nearly \$166 billion, projected to reach, cumulatively, \$350 billion-\$370 billion by 2011.**

Nobel Prize laureate economist Joseph Stiglitz says that Iraq has been rendered virtually unlivable, after long suffering of the civilian population of Iraq, whose crime was having oil. **The big losers are the American taxpayers who are bleeding income, jobs and quality of life, not just sacrificing family members, on behalf of a runaway war machine.**



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9/19/09

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