



The Afghanistan Abyss

Sources: "Quittin' Time in Afghanistan" by Eric Margolis, The Toronto Sun, 8/23/09; "Obama's War" Afghanistan Is Spelled V-I-E-T-N-A-M" by Dave Lindorff, CommonDreams.org, 8/28/09.



The US war in Afghanistan is now eight years old.

Though the Taliban government has been ousted from Kabul, **the country has gone from bad to worse** as the Taliban forces have clawed back and regained much of the territory.

The roots of the current Afghanistan War lie **in the 1980s**, when **the CIA was funding and training the Taliban and foreign fighters to fight against the Soviet Union**, the then occupier. In the end, the Taliban, with the help of groups like Osama Bin Laden's Al Qaeda, triumphed, pushing the Russians out.

The so-called "terrorist Taliban" received U.S. funding until four months before 9/11. Washington cut off aid after the Taliban seemed ready to offer a major pipeline deal to an Argentinian firm, Bidas, rather than to Unocal, U.S. oil firm for which Hamid Karzai [the current president] once worked as a consultant.

The current war in Afghanistan is not about democracy, women's rights, or nation building. Al Qaeda, the other excuse, barely exists. Its handful of members long ago decamped to Pakistan. **The war really is about natural gas and oil pipeline routes and western domination of the energy-rich Caspian Basin.**

The US, meanwhile, is identified as an occupier and as the sole support of a corrupt regime of drug lords, thieves and charlatans. Does this sound familiar? **Is it a replay of what America did in Vietnam?**



Join 358th Peace Vigil to end the war!

Every Saturday, 1-3pm, at Rte. 59 & N. Middletown Rd. in Nanuet, NY

For info: www.rocklandaction.org

9/26/09

Rockland Coalition for Peace & Justice