



End the Wars at Home and Abroad!

Masters of War

The Iraq war can be won, they want us to believe.

This the latest whopper told by those who sit behind desks, Democrat and Republican, from Clinton to Bush and back again.

Blaming the so-called liberal media for leaving out all the good news from Iraq, the pro-war crowd has successfully provided covering fire for actual news from Iraq.

Among the early 2006 lowlights:

- A shift to air bombardment in Iraq by U.S. occupiers.
- 2363 soldiers killed in Iraq since the start of the war, 212 since the December 2005 Iraq elections.
- More civilian mayhem in Iraq, with stories of scores of Iraqis killed leaking through into mainstream coverage.
- Established death squads within Iraq armed forces, targeting rival militiamen, homosexuals, and Palestinians.
- Over 15,000 detainees remain in prisons in Iraq, Afghanistan and Guantanamo Bay, the vast majority held without trial. The CIA is allegedly operating at least 11 more "secret" prisons. Conditions promoting the appalling torture we saw at Abu Ghraib have not gone away.
- The open secret that US troops want out – the vast majority within the next year, according the Zogby polling firm
- An announced end to the sham of "reconstruction". Folks in Baghdad can count on no more than six hours of electricity. According to the *Washington Post*, "the United States will spend \$437 million on border fortresses and guards, about \$100 million more than the amount dedicated to roads, bridges and public buildings, including schools. Education programs have been allocated \$99 million..."

And the Democrats?

The Democrats have largely contented themselves with little more than rhetorical differences from the Republicans, mounting no serious opposition to the war, or the larger imperial project: the capitalist system running the show, with troops ready to step in as long as the price is not too high.

Threaten Iran? Sure thing. We can't have

repressive regimes going nuclear, right? So insists Washington and allied Israel, Pakistan, and India – all flourishing nuclear arsenals with dismal repressive habits.

To be sure, some liberal pundits have soured on the Iraqi project. They see the writing on the wall and it's Arabic for "Get the Hell Out." Thus the bi-lateral silent majority among elites for a larger air war. Even the official alternatives to the Bush road to nowhere require calm in Iraq before allowing for major US troop movement. And that movement would largely be tactical – away from hot spots, to bunkered and secure areas, including ships at sea – to allow for greater bombardment.

Renewed Challenge Against the War – At Home and Abroad!

The growing majority knows in their guts that George and his wars are nuts. But we cannot rely on Washington to figure out an end to the war; the responsibility and power to end the war rest with us alone, with a renewed determination that we can bring the troops home now.

Anti-war organizing must continue: conversations, where all are drawn out to share frustrations, ideas, and dreams; educationals, to develop our capacity to understand and imagine; actions, displaying tactical creativity and the spark of something different. We need these in addition to the periodic mass mobilizations that the movement has become good at.

Millions of immigrant workers, families, and their allies are marching this Spring to break down social and political borders in an unprecedented movement for civil rights. The courageous mobilizations and demands for "Legalization Now!" are aimed against the same national security regime that criminalizes Latinos and other immigrants, targeting them to fight in Iraq in exchange for the sick gift of posthumous citizenship.

The combined disaster of the war and Katrina, courage of the super-exploited immigrant community, and ongoing organizing have turned the swagger of the rulers and their squires into a deranged limp. The slogan, "No a la Guerra, El Mundo Sin Fronteras!", heard loudly April 10th, indicates the way forward to ending the war and fighting for a world worthy of humanity.

a statement from the Solidarity Global Justice Anti-War Working Group
Solidarity – a socialist, feminist, anti-racist organization - www.solidarity-us.org