



UUP CAMPUS ANTI-WAR COMMITTEES START-UP KIT

The UUP Labor and Higher Education Committee has prepared this packet to help organize anti-war committees on individual SUNY campuses, in response to the resolution on Afghanistan passed at the fall 2009 Delegate Assembly in Rochester. Its authors drew further inspiration from UUP's participation in the December 2009 U.S. Labor Against the War Third National Assembly, where union members from across the country expressed their desire for information on the Afghanistan war. UUP will distribute these packets to UUP members on every SUNY campus to facilitate organizing local anti-war committees, and hopes that other unions will also engage in similar member education and mobilization.

UUP CAMPUS ANTI-WAR COMMITTEES

START-UP KIT

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Why is War a Union Issue?

UUP and other unions exist to win collective bargaining agreements that protect and advance our members' pay, benefits, job protection, and other terms and conditions of employment. But we must also address broader issues of social policy, especially issues of war and peace.

- War budgets take tens of billions of dollars from our members and all New Yorkers that would be better directed to public higher education and other pressing public purposes now under draconian attack in the state budget crisis. Addressing war spending is one part of our investigation of all possible sources of new revenues to resolve the budget crisis, save SUNY, and protect all the vital services the public sector provides to all people. Redirecting these expenditures is an immediate need, especially as the federal stimulus money New York and other states have relied upon is about to run out.
- Our members and our students are among the soldiers, sailors, and marines deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan. We owe it to them and their families to defend their interests by ending these wars now and bringing all the troops home, and making sure there are adequate budget resources to care for them on their return.
- UUPers and all union members have an interest in a peaceful world in which the United States plays a positive role toward economic and social justice for people in this country and throughout the world. US Labor Against the War's Mission Statement points in that direction. (Printed in this kit. See also <http://www.uslaboragainstawar.org/downloads/Mission%20Statement.Final.pdf>)

For these reasons, UUP Delegate Assemblies have affiliated our union with US Labor Against the War and supported a series of anti-war activities since before the start of the Iraq war. Our Executive Board has also provided consistent support for USLAW and its activities. At the October, 2009 DA, Delegates passed a resolution opposing the war in Afghanistan and calling for education about the war at the chapter level. We offer this kit, containing information and ideas for activities, as a tool and guide for that educational campaign and campus organizing around the war.

Donna Goodman, New Paltz
Michael Zweig, Stony Brook

UUP Campus Anti-War Committee

"There is no military solution to terrorism," Rand Corp. study: <http://www.rand.org/news/press/2008/07/29/>

"The United States cannot kill or capture its way to victory," Secretary of Defense Robert Gates, www.defense.gov/speeches/speech.aspx?speechid=1262

Purpose of the campus committee:

- To educate UUP members about the legitimacy of opposition to war as a union issue
- To draw the connections between the expense of war and the depletion of resources for education and worker benefits
- To activate the membership to have a voice in influencing policy on the campus, statewide and national level with respect to war and peace.

Background

UUP membership in U.S. Labor Against the War

UUP is a charter member of U.S. Labor Against the War, founded October 25, 2003. USLAW is a national network of labor unions, labor councils and other labor organizations that calls for a peace economy, and redirecting the nation's resources from inflated military spending to meeting the needs of workers and their families.

UUP's anti-war record:

UUP has a proud history of public opposition to war. Here is a sampling of recent UUP anti-war resolutions taken by the UUP Delegate Assembly, with consistent support from the union's Executive Board.

- Fall 2007: Resolution supporting USLAW activities, endorsing Iraq Moratorium, and endorsing nationwide anti-war demonstrations
- Winter 2008: Resolution in support of Iraqi labor movement
- Spring 2008: Resolution for the NY State AFL-CIO Convention to strengthen opposition to the war in Iraq
- Spring 2008: Resolution opposing the Iraq Special Appropriation and any further funding of the war except for withdrawal of troops and funding of veterans' needs
- Spring 2009: Resolution on the War in Afghanistan, calling for members to educate themselves on the reasons for the war and participate in forming a labor position on the war
- Fall 2009: Resolution on the right of Iraqi workers to form and join unions
- Fall 2009: Resolution opposing further escalation of the war in Afghanistan, and calling for drawing down of U.S. military forces and contractors from Afghanistan, and calling for an educational campaign and political action on these issues among its membership
- Winter 2010: Resolution Calling for Participation in the March 20 Demonstration against the Afghanistan and Iraq Wars in Washington

Fall 2009 Resolution on the War in Afghanistan

Presented by the Labor & Higher Education, Solidarity, and Women's Rights and Concerns Committees and Adopted by the Delegate Assembly October 2, 2009

Whereas, the mission, strategy, and tasks of counterinsurgency are not those of counterterrorism;
and

Whereas, the military pursuit of counterinsurgency can create many more terrorists than it kills; and

Whereas, counterinsurgency strategy involves nation-building, which would draw the U.S. into a long term engagement with the corrupt and illegitimate government of Hamid Karzai, with no foreseeable exit from a country well know as the "graveyard of empires;" and

Whereas U.S. standing in the world will benefit from the exercise of more wisdom rather than more raw power; and

Whereas military spending creates many fewer jobs than the same amount spent on infrastructure and other domestic needs (Robert Pollin and Heidi Garrett-Peltier, "The Wages of Peace," *The Nation*, March 31, 2008); and

Whereas, the \$65 billion to be spent in Afghanistan this year, and the hundreds of billions of dollars required in coming years for counterinsurgency there, are desperately needed for urgent domestic social purposes, not least health care for all, housing relief in the foreclosure crisis, full veterans benefits, and the creation of millions of jobs; therefore be it

Resolved, that UUP opposes any further escalation of U.S. military forces in Afghanistan; and be it further

Resolved, that UUP calls for the immediate start to the drawing down of all U.S. military forces and contractors from Afghanistan; and be it further

Resolved, that UUP calls for defeat of terrorist conspiracies and networks through appropriate lawful police, intelligence, and financial means; and be it further

Resolved, that UUP calls for emphasis on diplomatic measures to enlist the broadest coalition of nations and organizations in the isolation, arrest, and bringing to justice of those who engage in terrorist action against the United States; and be it further

Resolved, that UUP calls for the redirection of the military budget for Afghanistan to urgently needed U.S. social programs; and be it further

Resolved, that UUP will undertake an educational campaign on these issues among its membership and seek to involve the members in the political tasks necessary to implement this resolution in public policy; and be it further

Resolved, that UUP will communicate this resolution to its Congressional Delegation and affiliates with a request that they act accordingly.

Getting Started

How to form a UUP Anti-War Committee

- Make announcements at chapter meetings, faculty meetings, department meetings.
- Conduct individual outreach to those UUP members who are against the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan and who are or could be politically active on campus or in their communities.
- Engage in tabling on campus with sign-up sheets, fact sheets described below, and DVD.
- Host campus meetings showing DVD, and hand out fact sheets and sign-up sheets.

Suggested activities (for entire committee and/or individual members.)

- Plan and host campus-wide and public events: Plan one event per semester: a public meeting on campus, a lunch-time campus-wide forum, a rally.
- Engage in informational tabling to promote a meeting or to publicize war-related news or upcoming anti-war activities in the community or on campus.
- Get on speaker lists of off-campus groups.
- Plan visits to local Central Labor Council or Area Labor Federation and give guest presentations.
- Plan visits to local Congressional reps.
- Challenge military recruitment efforts on campus.
- Speak to educate about the costs of war at local meetings of school boards, town boards, wherever budgets are discussed.
- Build on USLAW solidarity with other international unions: invite speakers to address classes, public meetings.
- Have an article in every edition of the campus UUP newsletter.
- Have a committee member make an anti-war related announcement at every faculty meeting.
- Encourage UUP members to reach out to members of Iraq Veterans Against the War (IVAW), Veterans for Peace, Military Families Speak Out (MFSO).
- Take up USLAW campaigns to get local governments to pass resolutions calling for the end of the Afghan and Iraq wars and redirecting the resources to local public needs in the public sector fiscal crisis.
- Sign up individual USLAW members.
- Participate in USLAW's fundraising campaigns for general activity and solidarity funds.
- Work to get other labor organizations and individuals to sign on with USLAW.

Five Reasons to Oppose the War in Afghanistan

1. Money for jobs, not for war. Lyndon Johnson tried both. His Great Society Programs died as a result. President Obama has said we can't afford both: "So we can't simply afford to ignore the price of these wars. All told, by the time I took office the cost of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan approached a trillion dollars. Our new approach in Afghanistan is likely to cost us roughly \$30 billion [in addition to the current \$65 billion in Afghanistan costs] for the military this year." {December 1, 2009 speech at West Point} "It is not going to be possible for us to have a huge second stimulus, because, frankly, we just don't have the money." [USA Today, Friday, Dec. 4, 2009, quoting Obama on the jobs summit.]
2. The U.S. military budget is bloated. In 2008 the U.S. accounted for more than forty percent of all military spending in the world. We spent more than the next fourteen countries' military spending combined. U.S. interventions from Vietnam to Chile to Iraq and now Afghanistan do not benefit working people. In a speech on April 4, 1967, The Rev. Martin Luther King said: "I could never again raise my voice against the violence of the oppressed in the ghettos (of the United States) without having first spoken clearly to the greatest purveyor of violence in the world today – my own government." It's still true today.
3. Wages Have Been Falling for 36 years. Workers have not benefited from U.S. military power. Since 1973, real wages – after taking account of inflation – have fallen steadily in the U.S. Nothing in the military budget will help to reverse these declines. We need money for jobs, not for unnecessary wars. Dollar for dollar, military spending creates fewer jobs than spending on education, healthcare, and infrastructure projects.
4. The war in Afghanistan does not make us safer. "There is No Battlefield Solution to Terrorism," says a report from the Rand Corporation, a think tank closely allied with U.S. military and intelligence services. Military action, with the inevitable "collateral damage" of civilian casualties and many refugees, only creates more U.S. enemies and terrorist fighters than we kill.
5. It's not about democracy. In the words of Malalai Joya, a young female member of the Afghan parliament, "This democracy was a facade, and the so-called liberation a big lie. Almost eight years after the Taliban regime was toppled, our hopes for a truly democratic and independent Afghanistan have been betrayed by [a] brutal occupation that ultimately serves only American strategic interests in the region. My country hasn't been liberated: it's still under the warlords' control, and NATO occupation only reinforces that power."

Afghans have successfully resisted every foreign occupation since Genghis Khan. More than 90 percent of Afghans polled by the BBC say they oppose the Taliban, but less than half see the US-led occupation as a positive alternative. A January, 2010 poll found that 52% of Americans oppose the Afghan War.

Our country will be more secure if we negotiate withdrawal of our forces, help Afghans rebuild their country, and invest the vast sums now spent there to create jobs, provide healthcare, fully fund education and solve our many problems here at home.

The war in Afghanistan is part of a larger pattern of U.S. military interventions. The U.S. military was deployed 151 times against 45 countries during the 20th Century. In less than a single decade of the 21st Century, the U.S. military has been deployed 24 times to 20 countries.

Frequently Asked Questions about The Wars in Afghanistan and Iraq

Don't we need war to protect the American people from future terrorist attacks?

War is too blunt an instrument to address terrorist threats directed at the people of the United States. These threats come from small groups of people better countered by national and international police, criminal justice resources, international diplomacy, and solid intelligence work. It takes \$1 million to put a single American soldier in the field in Afghanistan for one year. How many people could we train to be fluent in the local language and culture with half that money? The Rand Corporation, a think tank closely aligned with the U.S. military, has found that "there is no military solution to terrorism." We should act accordingly.

Why should we oppose wars that are being fought to improve the lives of women?

Women in both Iraq and Afghanistan have suffered as a result of the U.S. invasions and occupations of their countries.

Afghan women have fared little better under U.S. occupation and the Karzai regime than under the Taliban. Fundamentalist religious laws still limit women's rights, in the home and in the larger society, where conditions for women are appalling. According to the United Nations, one in three Afghan women experiences physical, psychological, or sexual violence; 70% to 80% face forced marriages; an Afghan woman dies during childbirth every 30 minutes; 87% of Afghan women are illiterate; only 30% of girls have access to education; and the average life expectancy rate for women in Afghanistan is 44 years.

Before the U.S. invasion, Iraqi women, living under secular law, had more democratic rights than in any other country in the Arab world. They were educated and participated in the workforce and in public life. Since the invasion and occupation, secular family law has been replaced by fundamentalist religious law, a huge step backwards that subordinates women to their husbands or fathers.

In both countries, women are suffering the consequences of any war: social dislocation and the destruction of families; loss of income, greater poverty, and the disadvantages of being widows; and a marked increase in rape, abduction, trafficking, and murder. Civilians constitute the majority of deaths due to war; 70% of these are women and children. These wars are not being fought for women. They do not improve women's lives.

Isn't it good to make war to spread democracy?

American claims to be the champion of democracy ring hollow in much of the world. The United States has a long history of involvement in the overthrow of democratically elected governments – Iran (1953), Guatemala (1954), Zaire (1961), Dominican Republic (1965), Chile (1973), Grenada (1989). The U.S. has refused to recognize, and acts to undermine, the democratically elected government in Gaza (2006). After encouraging the election, the U.S. withdrew support when it didn't like the voters' choice. The U.S. is a close ally of Saudi Arabia, a country that is far from a democracy, and has friendly relations with many dictators when it suits U.S. interests. In Iraq and Afghanistan, as in other cases of military occupation, the presence of foreign troops distorts the local political process and

undermines democracy. Military occupation damages the institutions of civil society and supports corrupt governments with tenuous ties to their people.

In addition, the wars and occupation of Afghanistan and Iraq have undermined democracy and civil liberties in the United States. They have brought us the Patriot Act, warrantless wiretaps, military tribunals for U.S. citizens, and war reporters restricted to military embeds.

Aren't these wars defensive and justified under international law?

The U.S. wars in Afghanistan and Iraq have been justified by the U.S. government as a response to the terrorist attacks on New York and the Pentagon on September 11, 2001. In the case of Iraq it is totally untrue. There was no link from Saddam Hussein to Osama Bin Laden or Al Qaeda terrorist networks. The government of Afghanistan did not attack us, either, although the Al Qaeda forces responsible for the attacks were based in Afghanistan. Both wars are in violation of longstanding international law, which prohibits a state from attacking or invading another country that has not attacked it.

War & The Economy

The U.S. has spent about \$1.1 trillion on the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq since October 2001, when the Bush Administration attacked Afghanistan. Total annual military and security spending – which includes not only the Pentagon budget but also expenditures for veteran's benefits, homeland security, interest on past military debts, nuclear weapons, the cost of America's 16 intelligence agencies, and war-related spending absorbed by other government departments – amounts to some \$1.4 trillion.

States throughout America are cutting their budgets sharply, causing hardship to all but the wealthy. The amount the 50 states will slash in 2010 is about \$200 billion, and 2011 budget reductions will be similar. New York State faces a deficit of \$9 billion, and SUNY is threatened with cuts of up to \$152 million to help close the gap.

Yet this year the U.S. will spend \$200 billion on the wars in Iraq, Afghanistan, Pakistan and Yemen, an amount equal to the budget shortfalls in all fifty states. Here's how the money could be better spent:

Forty-eight cents of every tax dollar goes to the military for current (30%) and past (18%) operations.

- That's more than goes to education, health & welfare, transportation, environmental protection, international affairs, veterans' benefits and everything else combined!
- Forty-eight cents of every dollar spent in the world on the military is spent by the U.S.
- The U.S. spends more on its military than the next 45 highest spending countries combined.
- The so-called "axis of evil" countries together account for 1% of the global total.

Taxpayers in New York State will pay \$93.9 billion* for total Iraq and Afghanistan war spending from 2001 through September 2010. For the same dollars, the following could have been provided:

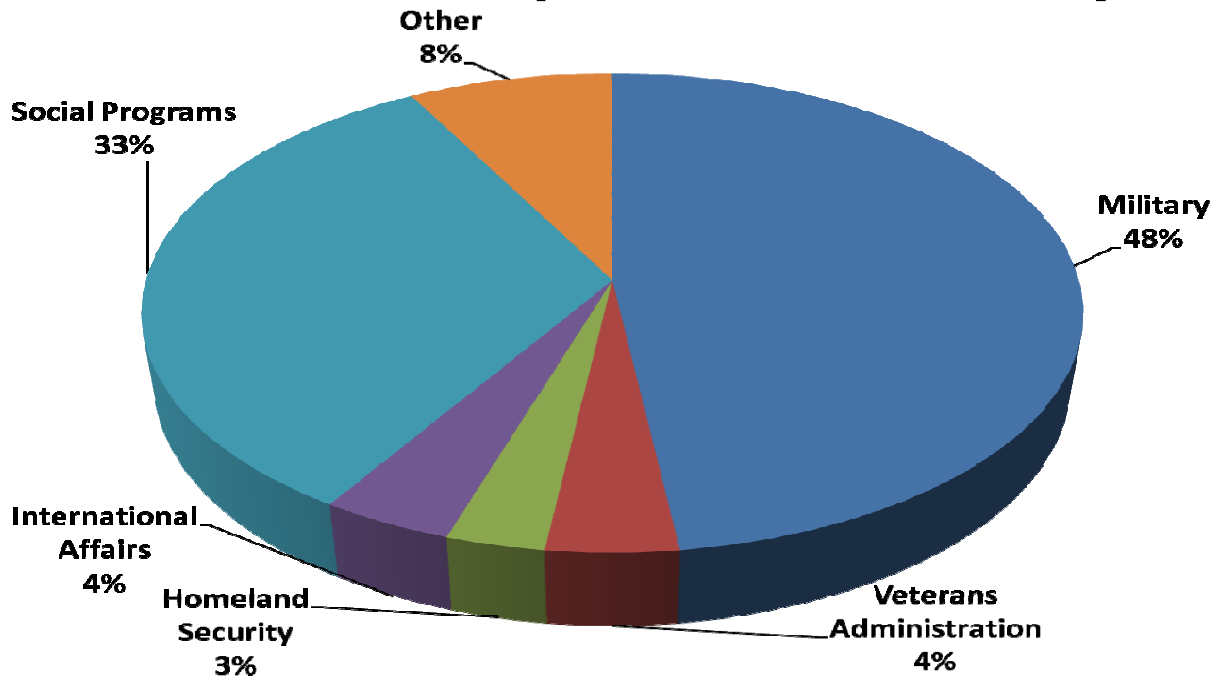
- 17,310,659 People with Health Care for One Year **OR**
- 16,913,231 Students receiving Pell Grants of \$5550 **OR**
- 533,597 Affordable Housing Units **OR**
- 1,087,227 Elementary School Teachers for One Year **OR**
- 175,741,252 Homes with Renewable Electricity for One Year

To see how military spending affects your county or your town, go to the National Priorities Project Website: <http://www.nationalpriorities.org/tradeoffs>.

See also a report comparing the defense budget with state budget deficits – state by state – in the 2010-2011 public funding crisis: <http://www.nationalpriorities.org/webinars/out-of-balance>.

*National Priorities Project. This figure represents Pentagon spending but does not include all the other military and security expenditures listed above.

How the Feds Spend Our Tax Money



How the Feds Spend Our Tax Money - Fiscal Year 2010 - Source: Stockholm International Peace Research Institute Yearbook

Current military spending eats up nearly half of every discretionary dollar the federal government spends. Social programs claim one-third of the discretionary budget. [NOTE: The “discretionary budget” includes only expenses Congress controls each year. It excludes continuing expenses required by law like payments on the national debt, Social Security, and Medicare.] Military expenses in fiscal year 2010 will be almost thirteen times our expenditures on all civilian international affairs, including diplomacy and non-military foreign aid. It will be 1,185 times what the government spends for occupational safety and health. In nine hours our military will spend what the government devotes to helping small businesses all year long. [Source: Budget of the United States, 2010; <http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/>.]

War and Jobs

The Employment Impact of U.S. Military and Domestic Spending Choices

The following fact sheet is part of a larger report, published in September 2009 by the National Priorities Project, called "Security Spending Primer: Getting Smart about the Pentagon Budget." See <http://www.nationalpriorities.org/publications/2009/09/24/Security-Spending-Primer>.

The Employment Impact of U.S. Military And Domestic Spending Choices

Overview

As demonstrated in our paper “The U.S. Employment Effects of Military and Domestic Spending Priorities,” published in the *International Journal of Health Services* (Vol. 39, No. 3), our research demonstrates that each billion dollars of government spending allocated to tax cuts for personal consumption generates approximately 15,000 jobs. Investing the same amount in the military creates about 12,000 jobs. Alternatively, investing one billion in health care yields about 18,000 jobs; in education about 25,000 jobs; in mass transit, 27,700 jobs; and in construction for home weatherization and infrastructure, 18,000 jobs. Thus, more than twice the number of jobs are created by equivalent spending on education and mass transit as on the military.

Quick Facts

- Investing public dollars in health care, education, mass transit and construction for home weatherization and infrastructure all create more jobs than investing an equivalent amount in the military.
- The non-military investments above generate a higher return on government funds than middle class tax cuts.

Table 10.1

Overall Employment Effects of Spending \$1 billion for Alternative Spending Targets in U.S. Economy, 2005

Spending Targets	# of Jobs Created	# of Jobs Relative to Military Spending	Average Wages and Benefits per Worker	Average Wages and Benefits Relative to Military	Total Wages and Benefits from Employment	Total Wages and Benefits Relative to Military
1. Military	11,977	---	\$65,986	---	\$790.3 million	---
2. Tax cuts for Personal Consumption	15,090	+26.2%	\$46,819	-29.1%	\$706.4 million	-10.7%
3. Health Care	18,036	+50.2%	\$56,668	-14.2%	\$1.02 billion	+29.3%
4. Education	24,758	+106.7%	\$74,024	+12.2%	\$1.83 billion	+131.9%
5. Mass Transit	27,713	+131.4%	\$44,462	-32.6%	\$1.23 billion	+55.9%
6. Construction for home weatherization/ infrastructure	17,927	+49.7%	\$51,812	-21.5%	\$971.2 million	+22.9%

The numbers for each of the six spending categories incorporate three kinds of job-creating effects:

Direct effects: the jobs created by building, for example, warplanes or schools.

Indirect effects: the jobs associated with industries that supply intermediate goods for building a warplane, school, or any other direct spending target. These would include the steel, glass, tire, and electronic industries for building a warplane; and concrete, glass, and trucking industries for building a school.

Induced effects: the expansion of employment that results when people who are paid to build a warplane or school spend the money they have earned on other products and services in the economy.

How do the jobs compare?

Jobs generated by military spending tend to pay relatively well. This is one reason that fewer jobs are created per dollar of military expenditure compared to alternative spending strategies. The study shows, however, that on average spending on education generates more than twice the number of jobs as military spending and that these jobs pay better.

Spending on health care, mass transit, home weatherization and infrastructure creates jobs that pay less, on average, than military jobs. These three spending targets, however, do create substantially more jobs than military spending,

and the overall economic impact – combining all workers’ wages and benefits – exceeds that of an equivalent investment in the military.

Moreover, a substantial majority of the jobs generated through an expansion of health care, mass transit or construction spending will pay more than \$32,000 per year, the study’s rough threshold for a minimally decent income.

The majority of jobs pay between \$32,000 – \$64,000, considered a middle-income pay range.

Increased personal consumption resulting from tax cuts is the only alternative spending target examined that is inferior to military spending along two dimensions: both the average pay and the total amount of compensation per \$1 billion in expenditures are lower.

Table 10.2
Percentage of Low- and High-Paying Jobs in Activities Linked to Spending Targets

	% of new employment	% below \$20,000/year	% below \$32,000/year	% between \$32,000 and \$64,000/year	% above \$80,000/year
Military					
Federal Government	44.1	5.3	28.0	61.3	4.7
Professional/Business Services	20.4	4.5	22.9	62.2	14.6
Manufacturing	14.5	4.0	7.3	85.8	5.8
Personal Consumption Expenditures					
Retail Trade	12.9	40.0	70.6	27.3	1.4
Food Services	8.9	68.1	95.3	4.3	0.3
Hospitals and Nursing Care	8.2	15.3	46.3	43.2	4.8
Education					
Educational Services	82.1	11.7	31.8	59.1	1.2
Professional/Business Services	7.0	4.5	22.9	62.2	14.6
Health Care					
Hospitals/Nursing Care/Ambulatory Care	72.5	15.3	46.3	43.2	4.3
Professional/ Business Services	7.0	4.5	22.9	62.2	4.8
Mass Transit					
Transportation	76.4	5.8	36.5	60.2	1.0
Professional/ Business Services	10.6	4.5	22.9	62.2	4.8
Weatherization and Infrastructure Repair					
Construction	66.8	8.6	26.9	60.1	1.8
Professional/Business Services	9.6	4.5	22.9	62.2	4.8

Sources and Resources:

This is a highly abbreviated and slightly updated version of the paper “The U.S. Employment Effects of Military and Domestic Spending Priorities,” in International Journal of Health Services, Vol. 39, No. 3.

(See also PERI Working Paper #151, http://www.peri.umass.edu/fileadmin/pdf/working_papers/working_papers_151-200/WP151.pdf.) All references are published in both the journal article and PERI working paper version of this research.

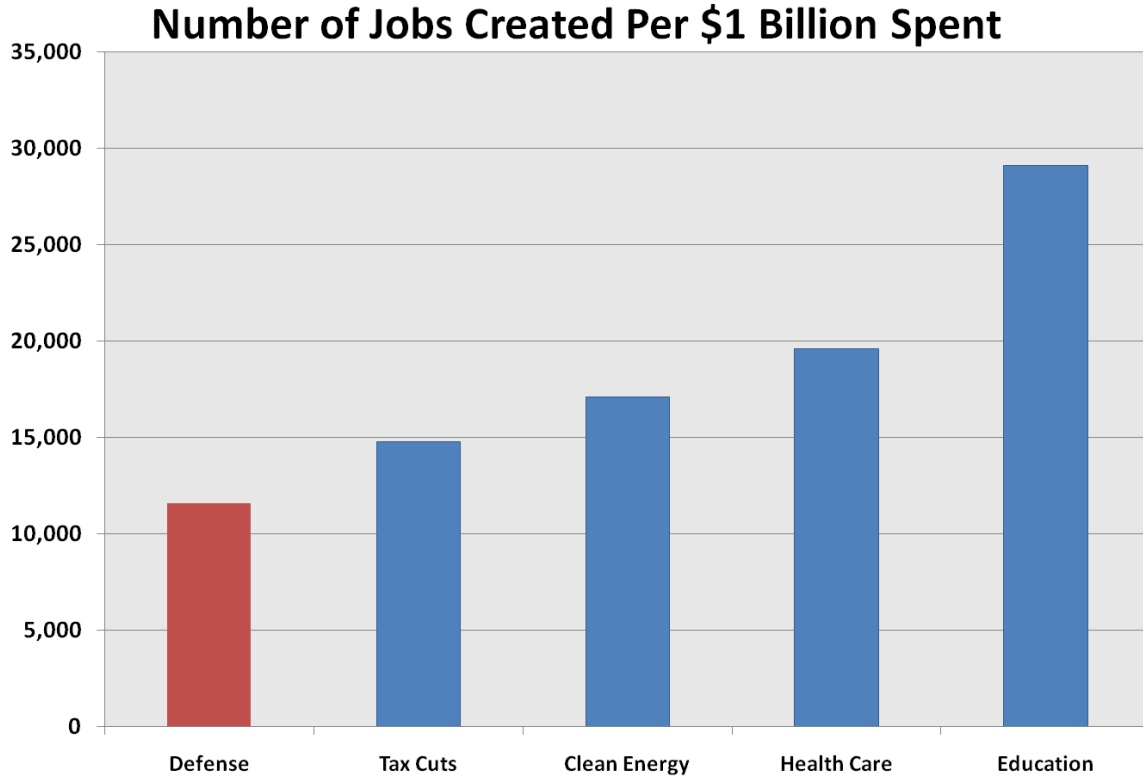
Prepared by Robert Pollin and Heidi Garrett-Peltier, PERI

The National Priorities Project (NPP) analyzes and clarifies federal data so that people can understand and influence how their tax dollars are spent. Located in Northampton, MA, since 1983, NPP focuses on the impact of federal spending and other policies at the national, state, congressional district and local levels.

This fact sheet is part of a series. Access the full series at www.nationalpriorities.org

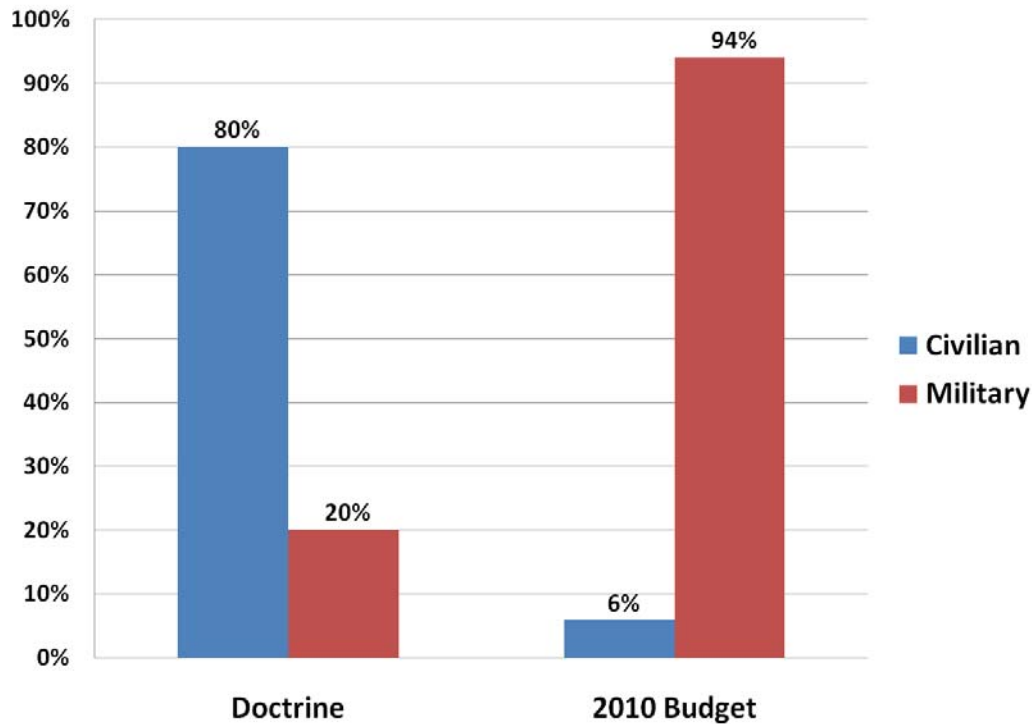


War and Jobs



Source: Robert Pollin and Heidi Garrett-Peltier, "The U.S. Employment Effects of Military and Domestic Spending Priorities: An Updated Analysis," Political Economy Research Institute, October 2009

U.S. Counter-Insurgency Priorities



U.S. Counter-Insurgency Action Contradicts U.S. Counter-Insurgency Doctrine

In fighting the Taliban insurgency, U.S. actions in Afghanistan today go directly against U.S. counter-insurgency doctrine, which states, “Political factors are primary.” According to the doctrine, roughly eighty percent of resources should go to civilian construction and the advance of people’s welfare, while only twenty percent should go to military action (David Petraeus and James Amos, *Counterinsurgency, Field Manual 3-24, Marine Corps Warfighting Publication 3-33.5, U.S. Army, December, 2006, p. 1-22*). Yet in the 2010 budget, only six percent of spending for Afghanistan will be civilian, while ninety-four percent is for the military (Steven Simon, “Can the Right War Be Won?” *Foreign Affairs, July-August 2009*). See also Congressional Research Service, “Estimated War Funding by Agency: FY 2001-FY2010.” Assigning troops to major nation-building tasks also contradicts U.S. counter-insurgency doctrine, which allows only temporary assignment of military units to civilian tasks. Continuing to escalate our military presence there contradicts our stated objectives. To undermine terrorism, we need to withdraw our combat forces.

USLAW Mission Statement

Our Principles:

To protect our members and the lives and livelihoods of working people everywhere, we will advocate, educate and mobilize in the U.S. labor movement for:

- * A Just Foreign Policy that will bring genuine security and prosperity to working people. A policy that strengthens international treaties, supports human rights institutions, respects national sovereignty and upholds the right of self-determination for all peoples.
- * A foreign policy that solves disputes by diplomacy rather than war.
- * A policy that promotes global economic and social justice rather than the race-to-the-bottom, job-destroying, discriminatory practices favored by multinational corporations.
- * An End to U.S. Occupation of Foreign Countries, replaced by the reconstruction of war-devastated nations with the full support of the international community and the full participation and decision-making power of affected peoples.
- * Redirecting the Nation's Resources from inflated military spending to meeting the needs of working families for health care, education, a clean environment, housing and a decent standard of living based on principles of equality and democracy.
- * Supporting Our Troops and their Families by bringing the troops home now, by not recklessly putting them in harm's way and by providing decent compensation, veterans' benefits and domestic policies administered without discrimination that prioritize the needs of working people who make up the bulk of the military.
- * Protecting Workers' Rights, Civil Rights, Civil Liberties and the Rights of Immigrants by promoting democracy, not subverting it. Ethnic, racial and religious profiling and stereotyping must be replaced by policies that promote dignity, economic justice and respect for all working people.
- * Solidarity With Workers and their Organizations Around the World who are struggling for their own labor and human rights, and with those in the U.S. who want U.S. foreign and domestic policies to reflect our nation's highest ideals.

USLAW Affiliates

As of February 2010

A. Philip Randolph Institute
AFGE Council 220, Social Security Admin. Employees
AFGE Local 1935, Chicago, IL
AFGE Local 3172, SSA-CA
AFSCME Council 36, Los Angeles
AFSCME Council 37 Retirees, NYC
AFSCME Council 47, Philadelphia
AFSCME Council 47 Retirees, Philadelphia
AFSCME Local 145, Wisconsin
AFSCME Local 171, Univ. of Wisconsin-Madison
AFSCME SSEU Local 371, DC 37, New York City
AFSCME Local 375, Civil Service Technical Guild, NYC
AFSCME Local 420, NY Health Care Union
AFSCME Local 590, Philadelphia
AFSCME Local 1674, Burlington, VT
AFSCME Local 1723, Temple University, Philadelphia
AFSCME Local 1739, Philadelphia
AFSCME Local 2186, Philadelphia
AFSCME Local 2187, PA
AFSCME Local 2626, Los Angeles
AFSCME Local 2627, NYC
AFSCME Local 2858, Chicago
AFSCME Retirees Chapter 36, Los Angeles
AFSCME Retirees Chapter, Trenton, NJ
AFT California Federation of Teachers
AFT-Oregon State Federation of Teachers
AFT Wisconsin Federation of Teachers
AFT Local 3R, Retiree Chapter, Phila. Fed. of Teachers
AFT Local 61 United Educators of San Francisco
AFT Local 212, Milwaukee, WI
AFT Local 223, Madison, WI
AFT Local 1021 United Teachers Los Angeles (UTLA)
AFT Local 1078 Berkeley Federation of Teachers
AFT Local 1493 San Mateo Cty Comm Colleges Faculty
AFT Local 1521A L.A. Area Comm Colleges Clerical Workers
AFT Local 1603 Peralta Federation of Teachers
AFT Local 1521 Los Angeles Community Colleges
AFT Local 1936 Pajaro Valley Federation of Teachers
AFT Local 2026, Fac & Staff Fed., Phila. Comm. College
AFT Local 2030, Greater Santa Cruz Fed. of Teachers
AFT Local 2034, University of CA, San Diego
AFT Local 2121 San Francisco Community College Fac.
AFT Local 2169, Milwaukee Graduate Assistants Assoc.
AFT Local 2190 United University Professions (UUP), Albany, NY
AFT Local 2274 Ramapo College, NJ
AFT Local 2334 Professional Staff Congress, CUNY
AFT Local 3267, San Francisco
AFT Local 3544, Grad. Teaching Fellow Fed., Eugene, OR
AFT Local 4400 Cabrillo College Fed. Teachers, Aptos, CA
AFT Local 4531 Temple University As'n. of University Professionals, Philadelphia
AFT Local 4909 Cuesta College Fed. of Teachers, CA
AFT Local 4999 Research, Statistics & Analysis Employees of WI
AFT Local 6272 University Academy Charter H.S. Fed. of Teachers, Jersey City, NJ
AFT Local 6323 Rutgers Council, AAUP Chapters, N J
Alameda County Central Labor Council
American Federation of Musicians, AFM Local 802, NYC
American Federation of Musicians, AFM Local 1000, NYC
American Postal Workers Union Philadelphia Area Local
American Postal Workers Union of Greater Seattle
Arab American Union Members Council
Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance (APALA)
Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance (APALA) - LA Chapter
Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance (APALA) - Seattle Chapter
Brotherhood of Maint. of Way Employees, IBT Lodge 3014, Levittown, PA
Brotherhood of Maint. of Way Employees, IBT Lodge 3068, Westbury, NY
BMWE/IBT Pennsylvania Federation
California Faculty Association, (SEIU Local 1983)
California Labor Federation, AFL-CIO
California Higher Education Staff Union, Los Angeles
California Nurses Association
California Teachers Association Peace & Justice Caucus, NEA
Center for Labor Renewal
Central Coast Workers Against the War, CA
Central Connecticut Labor Council
Champlain Valley Central Labor Council
Chicago & Midwest Regional Joint Board, Workers United
Chicago Labor Against the War
Chicago Labor for Peace, Prosperity and Justice
Coalition of Immokalee Workers, Florida
Coalition of Labor Union Women, Central PA Chapter
Coalition of Labor Union Women, Chicago Chapter
Coalition of Labor Union Women, East SF Bay Chapter
Coalition of Labor Union Women, Philadelphia Chapter
Coalition of Labor Union Women, Washington, DC
Communications Workers of America (CWA)
CWA Local 1032, New Jersey
CWA Local 1034, New Jersey
CWA Local 1081, New Jersey
CWA Local 1086, New Jersey
CWA Local 1180, NYC
CWA 9119/University Professional & Tech. Employees, Univ. of CA
CWA Local 9415, Oakland
Connecticut AFL-CIO
DC Labor Committee for Peace and Justice
Detroit Labor for Peace & Justice
Greater Hartford Labor Council
Greater New Haven Central Labor Council
Hampshire-Franklin Labor Council, AFL-CIO (Mass)
Hawaii Labor for Peace & Justice
International Association of Machinists (IAM), Local Lodge 1546, Oakland, CA
IAMAW Local 1781, Air Transport Employees, S. F., CA
Int'l Fed. of Prof./Tech. Employees, Local 194, NJ Turnpike Empls. Union
International Longshore & Warehouse Union (ILWU), Local 6, Oakland
Iowa City Federation of Labor
Jobs With Justice - Washington State
Jobs With Justice - Vermont Workers Center
Kansas City Labor Against War
Labor Committee For Peace and Justice, SF Bay Area
Los Angeles County Federation of Labor
Maryland and District of Columbia AFL-CIO
Mass. Society of Professors-NEA (U-Mass/Amherst)

Mercer County Central Labor Council, New Jersey
Metropolitan Washington DC Labor Council
Milwaukee Graduate Assistants Association (see AFT Local 2169 above)
Minnesota Labor Against the War
Monterey Bay Central Labor Council
National Education Association Peace & Justice Caucus
National Education Association CTA Retired Alcosta Chapter (East SF Bay Area)
New Jersey Labor Against the War
New Jersey State Industrial Union Council
New York City Labor Chorus
North Bay Labor Council, Santa Rosa, CA
North Carolina Labor Against the War
North Central Florida Central Labor Council
North Shore Federation of Labor, Cleveland, OH
Oakland Education Association, Oakland, CA
Office & Professional Employees Intl. Union Local 3, SF Bay Area
Office & Prof'l Employees Intl. Union Local 1794, Ohio
Ohio State Labor Party
Pennsylvania Labor History Society
Pennsylvania State AFL-CIO
Philadelphia Area Project on Occupational Safety and Health
Philadelphia Central Labor Council
Pride at Work, AFL-CIO, Washington, DC
Roosevelt Adjunct Faculty Association, Chicago
San Diego Labor Against the War
San Francisco Labor Council
San Mateo County Central Labor Council, CA
SEIU Illinois State Council
SEIU Pennsylvania State Council
SEIU Healthcare Pennsylvania
SEIU Local 1, Chicago
SEIU Local 32BJ NYC
SEIU Local 73, Illinois Public Employees
SEIU Local 509, Watertown, MA
SEIU Local 521, San Jose, CA
SEIU Local 615, Boston
SEIU Local 1000/CSEA, California
SEIU Local 1021, Northern California
SEIU 1199 United Health Care Workers East - DC-MD-MA-NY
SEIU 1199NE, New England Healthcare Employees Union
SEIU Local 1983, (see CA Faculty Association, above)
SEIU 1991, Florida
1199'ers for Peace & Justice, SEIU 1199NY
Sign, Display & Allied Crafts Local 510, Painters Union, San Francisco
South Bay Central Labor Council, San Jose
South Carolina AFL-CIO
South Central Federation of Labor, Madison, Wisconsin
Southern Maine Labor Council
St. Louis Labor Against the War
Temple University Association of University Professionals, Philadelphia
(also listed as AFT Local 4531 above)
UAW Region 9A CAP Council, NY
UAW Local 1981, (also listed as National Writers' Union)
UAW Local 2320, (also listed above as Natl. As'n. of Legal Services Workers)
UAW Local 7902, NYU/New School Adjunct Faculty, NYC
UFTers to Stop the War, NYC
UFT Retiree Advocate
UNITE HERE Laundry, Drycleaning and Allied Workers Joint Board, NYC
UNITE HERE Mid-Atlantic Joint Board, Baltimore
UNITE HERE New York Metropolitan Area Joint Board
UNITE HERE Local 2, San Francisco

UNITE HERE Local 5, Hawaii
UNITE HERE Local 11, Los Angeles
UNITE HERE Local 169, NY/NJ/CT
UNITE HERE Local 483, Monterey, CA
United Educators San Francisco (AFT Local 61 above)
United Electrical, Radio and Machine Workers of America (UE)
UE Eastern Region
UE Local 896 / COGS
UE Local 1421, CA
UE Northeastern Region
UE Western Region
United Food & Commercial Workers Union Local 5, CA
United Food & Commercial Workers Union Local 1776, Phila.
United Steelworkers Local 4-149, NJ
United Steelworkers of America Local 10-1, PA
United Steelworkers Local 675, Carson, CA
United Steelworkers SOAR Chapter 7-319, Chicago
United Steelworkers Local 1527, Milwaukee, WI
United Steelworkers Local 1740, Milwaukee, WI
United Steelworkers Local 3740, Milwaukee, WI
United Teachers Los Angeles (AFT Local 1021 above)
Vermont State Labor Council, AFL-CIO
Washington State Jobs With Justice
Washington-Orange-Lamoille Central Labor Council, AFL-CIO
Western Connecticut Central Labor Council
Wisconsin State AFL-CIO

Why Are We in Afghanistan?

Written and directed by Michael Zweig

Illustrated by Mike Konopacki

Edited by Trish Dalton

27:54 full version

10:54 express version

U.S. military action on Afghanistan originated in response to the September 11, 2001 attacks on the World Trade Center and Pentagon. That was then. This is now. Reasons for the war have become more cloudy as other factors have developed.

Why Are We in Afghanistan? looks at the costs of the war, domestic pressures and geo-strategic interests that keep the U.S. in the region, and the long history of U.S. foreign interventions that forms the broader context for the war. We also see today's peace movement continuing another long tradition – popular resistance to war.

Why Are We in Afghanistan? is an educational resource for communities, unions, veterans and active duty military, classes, and any who wonders why we are in Afghanistan, and what to do about it.

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A Teacher Guide that allows teachers to use *Why Are We in Afghanistan?* to meet New York state and national standards is available for free at <http://www.WhyAreWeInAfghanistan.org> View the film, get more information, and order a copy there, too.

Why Are We In Afghanistan?

Written by Michael Zweig

Illustrated by

Mike Konopacki





Available for your class: ‘Why are we in Afghanistan?’

by Michael Hirsch, *New York Teacher* (City Edition), April 15, 2010

Social studies teachers looking for a useful and comprehensive guide to explaining the U.S. military presence in Afghanistan may want to consider showing “Why Are We in Afghanistan?”

The 28-minute video is a sober, professionally done and fact-filled educational DVD that looks exhaustively at the war, the efficacy of trying to stop terrorism through military means and the effect of war spending on the United States’ already shaken economy.

Yes, it’s partisan, but it’s also scrupulously fair. The video opposes the administration’s Afghanistan policy, but it’s neither soft on terror nor blithe to the dangers of Al Qaeda and other terrorist organizations. It’s also not ignorant of real U.S. interests abroad.

The video was written and produced by SUNY-Stony Brook economics professor Michael Zweig, a NYSUT member who directs the school’s Center for the Study of Working Class Life.

Interested? Visit the Web site WhyAreWeInAfghanistan.org to see the video, download a teachers guide, order the DVD or get more information.

Why Are We In Afghanistan?

Written by Michael Zweig
Illustrated by
Mike Konopacki



Edited by Trish Dalton

Resources

Articles, News Sources, Reports, Analysis: A Sampling

- ABC News, <http://abcnews.go.com/PollingUnit/story?id=6787686&page=1> Afghanistan opinion poll.
- "Afghanistan: Ending a Failed Military Strategy," September Eleventh Families for Peaceful Tomorrows, <http://peacefultomorrows.org/article.php?id=914>
- Antiwar.com, <http://www.antiwar.com/>
- Asia Times, www.atimes.com – See articles by M.K. Bhadrakumar
- Bill Moyers Journal, <http://www.pbs.org/moyers/journal/01302009/profile.html>
- Budget of the United States, 2010; <http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/>
- Campaign for Innocent Victims in Conflict, <http://www.civicworldwide.org/>
- Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, See monograph by Gilles Dorronsoro: <http://carnegieendowment.org/publications/index.cfm?fa=view&id=22619&prog=zgp&proj=zsa>
- Common Dreams, <http://www.commondreams.org/>
- Congressional Research Service, "Estimated War Funding by Agency: FY 2001-FY2010
- *Costs of War: Afghan Experiences of Conflict, 1979-2009*, OXFAM International, <http://www.oxfam.org> (www.oxfam.org/files/afghanistan-the-cost-of-war.pdf)
- Democracy Now, www.democracynow.org
- Foreign Affairs, <http://www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/64604/barnett-r-rubin-and-ahmed-rashid/from-great-game-to-grand-bargain> See article by Barnett Rubin and Ahmed Rashid.
- Foreign Policy, <http://www.foreignpolicy.com> See Nathaniel Fick and John Nagl.
- Frontline, PBS, <http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/warbriefing/> Video special.
- Human Rights Watch, www.hrw.org
- The Independent, <http://www.independent.co.uk/> See articles by Robert Fiske, Malecha Lodhi, others.
- Interpress Service, <http://ipsnews.net/> See articles by Gareth Porter.
- Jones, Seth, *How Terrorist Groups End: Lessons for Countering Al Qaeda*; <http://www.rand.org/news/press/2008/07/29/>
- Kennan, George: Policy Planning Study 23 (PPS23), *Foreign Relations of the United States (FRUS)*, 1948, Vol.1, Part II, pp. 510ff
- The Nation, <http://www.thenation.com> See Katrina Vanden Heuvel on women's rights; Robert Dreyfuss.
- *National Energy Policy*, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, DC, May 2001, p. 8.7, 8.20
- *New York Herald*, October, 15, 1900, in *Mark Twain's Weapons of Satire: Anti-Imperialist Writings on the Philippine-American War*, Jim Zwick, ed., Syracuse University Press, 1992
- The New Yorker, www.newyorker.com See articles by Seymour Hersh.
- Panitch, Leo: "September 11 and Its Aftermath through the Lens of Class," in Michael Zweig (ed.) *What's Class Got to Do with It? American Society in the Twenty-first Century*, Cornell University Press 2004
- Peace Action West, <http://www.peaceactionwest.org>. See extensive reading list on Afghan war.
- Petraeus, David and James Amos: *Counterinsurgency*, Field Manual 3-24, Marine Corps Warfighting Publication 3-33.5, U.S. Army, December, 2006, p. 1-22
- Pollin, Robert and Heidi Garrett-Peltier, "The Wages of Peace," *The Nation*, March 31, 2008
- Rand Corporation, <http://www.rand.org/pubs/monographs/MG741-1/>
- Rebel Reports, <http://rebelreports.com/> See articles by Jeremy Scahill.
- Schmitt, Gary and Tom Donnelly, "A War with a Purpose," *The Weekly Standard*, September 17, 2001
- Simon, Steven: "Can the Right War Be Won?" *Foreign Affairs*, July-August 2009

Books

- Bacevich, Andrew J.: *The Limits of Power: The End of American Exceptionalism*, Holt paper 2009; *The New American Militarism: How Americans Are Seduced by War*, Oxford University Press 2005; *The Long War: A New History of U.S. National Security Policy Since World War II*, Columbia University Press 2007
- Coll, Steve: *Ghost Wars: The Secret History of the CIA, Afghanistan, and Bin Laden, from the Soviet Invasion to September 10, 2001*, Penguin paper 2004
- DeWitte, Ludo: *Assassination of Lumumba*, Verso 2003
- Dobbins, James F.: *After the Taliban*, Potomac Books 2008
- Hoprick, Peter, *The Great Game: The Struggle for Empire in Central Asia*, Kodansha International 1992
- Johnson, Chalmers A.: *The Blowback Trilogy: Blowback: The Costs and Consequences of American Empire* (2nd Edition), Holt paper 2004; *The Sorrows of Empire: Militarism, Secrecy, and the End of the Republic*, Holt/Owl paper 2005; *Nemesis: The Last Days of the American Republic*, Holt paper 2008
- Kinzer, Stephen, *Overthrow: America's Century of Regime Change from Hawaii to Iraq*, Times Books 2007
- Klare, Michael: *Blood and Oil*, Henry Holt 2004
- Mayer, Karl and Shareen Brysac, *Tournament of Shadows: The Great Game and the Race for Empire in Central Asia*, John Murray 2006
- Rashid, Ahmed: *Taliban: Militant Islam, Oil, and Fundamentalism in Central Asia* Yale University Press 2001; *Descent into Chaos*, Penguin 2008
- Tuchman, Barbara: *The March of Folly: From Troy to Vietnam*, Ballantine Books 1984
- Walzer, Michael: *Just and Unjust Wars: A Moral Argument with Historical Illustrations*, Basic Books 2006

Websites: War and the Economy

- Center on Budget Policy Priorities, <http://www.cbpp.org/>
- Institute for Policy Studies, <http://www.ips-dc.org/>
- National Priorities Project, <http://www.nationalpriorities.org/>

Organizations

- **War and Labor**
 - U.S. Labor Against the War, <http://www.uslaboragainstawar.org>
- **National and International Anti-War Organizations**
 - Act Now to Stop War and End Racism, <http://answer.pephost.org/>
 - Code Pink, <http://www.codepink4peace.org/>
 - Fellowship of Reconciliation, <http://www.forusa.org/>
 - Iraq Veterans Against the War, <http://ivaw.org/>
 - Military Families Speak Out, <http://www.mfso.org/>
 - National Assembly to End the Iraq & Afghanistan Wars & Occupations, <https://www.natassembly.org/>
 - Revolutionary Association of the Women of Afghanistan (RAWA), <http://www.rawa.org/index.php>
 - United for Peace and Justice, <http://www.unitedforpeace.org/>
 - Veterans for Peace, <http://www.veteransforpeace.org/>
 - War Resisters League, <http://www.warresisters.org/> See especially <http://www.warresisters.org/files/FY2011piechart.pdf>
 - World Can't Wait, <http://www.worldcantwait.net/>