

Are you concerned about war?

Are you concerned about the radical degradation of our hard-won civil rights? Now we can come together to act on our concerns.

AWARE

Anti War Anti Racism Effort

You are invited

We meet

Every Sunday

5 to 7 p.m. at the

Independent Media Center

218 West Main Street

Downtown Urbana

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IRAQ



Why
Rush
to
WAR?

- **Doesn't Saddam support terror?**

No one except the Bush Administration – not even the CIA, not even our close British allies – claims that Saddam has aided Al Qaeda. Of the 19 9/11 hijackers 15 came from our 'ally' Saudi Arabia, none from Iraq. Their funds didn't come from Iraq, either. The war on Iraq will be a huge setback for the effort to fight Al Qaeda terror, stirring up many enemies and making life hard for allies.

- **Doesn't Saddam have chemical and biological weapons?**

Probably he has some left, with no way to deliver them to the US. His neighbors haven't seemed worried for the past decade. Even Israeli military leaders say they 'don't lose any sleep' worrying about Saddam.

- **Isn't Saddam trying to get nuclear weapons?**

Probably, but unless he gets his hands on weapons material from Russia, he won't stand a chance for many years. If nuclear weapons material is leaking out of Russia, taking out Saddam won't protect us from Al Qaeda or any other hostile group who can buy it. Helping Russia safeguard its materials costs less than 1% of the initial expenses of a war on Iraq – although the Bush administration has tried to scale back these safeguard programs.

- **Isn't Saddam a brutal dictator?**

Yes, the same as he was when the Reagan/Bush administration supplied him with weapons while he gassed his own people, and the same as many other brutal dictators that the US unfortunately continues to work with. Many Iraqis hate Saddam, but even anti-Saddam exile groups are very worried about what massive US bombing will do to civilians.

- **Hasn't Saddam scoffed at UN resolutions?**

Yes, but the rest of the UN knows the US often has, also. The Mideast countries are especially vocal in pointing out that our Israeli allies do too. The UN reacted most strongly when Saddam invaded Kuwait, on flimsy pretexts. Bush is now proposing that we invade Iraq, on flimsy pretexts. No wonder there's almost no international support.

- **Isn't it time to 'get the job done'?**

When Bush Sr. stopped short of Baghdad, he had a good reason. No one knew what sort of chaos would be created if the U.S. tried taking over this large Arab country. As of today, we still don't know. Other countries in the region – Turkey, Iran, Jordan, etc (all hostile to the Iraqi regime) – all have expressed opposition to the planned US attack. Maybe they know something.

- **Can't we make Iraq democratic?**

The administration has finally leaked its plan for post-war Iraq: direct US military rule (NYT 10/11/02). This will be extremely expensive, and no one has any idea of how long it will last. We have no idea if civil war will flare up again between Iraq's Kurds, Sunnis and Shiites. Almost everyone agrees that popular reaction in the Muslim world will be fury at the US. That won't help us in fighting terror, in promoting democracy, or in making peace.

- **How much would it cost?**

The administration is now estimating war costs of \$200 billion. That's about \$2000 for an average US family, added to the growing debt that taxpayers must pay. This time there aren't allies to pay most of the bill.

- **Couldn't we pay for it by pumping Iraqi oil?**

That's what some in the administration have claimed. That is not exactly the way to win friends in the Mideast, or anywhere else where people are worried we might grab their resources. Then again, we have no idea what will happen to the world's oil supply if the war in Iraq rages for a while. Whatever happens, it won't take the place of working toward energy independence, by government programs promoting common-sense conservation measures and renewable resources.

- **Even if it's costly in money and lives, shouldn't we make the sacrifice for our country?**

All of our past wars cost the lives of some of our young men and women, and our taxpayers have had to pay the dollar costs. Bush's wars are special. He's asked his CEO friends to 'sacrifice' by taking a series of huge tax cuts. If this war isn't worth enough for Republican donors to pay their share, maybe it's not worth enough to sacrifice lives for.

- **But this war must be good for somebody?**

The President's chief political advisor, Karl Rove, promised Republican political operatives months ago that they could 'Keep the focus on war'. He kept his promise. That's good for candidates who don't want to mention their corrupt corporate sponsors, or what's happened to the budget, the economy, the environment, the uninsured, the poverty rate

- **Isn't there another way?**

YES. We demanded that Iraq let the UN arms inspectors back. Iraq agreed. Take yes for an answer. Don't rush to war.