

# **The War on Terrorism Is the Wrong Response to 9/11**

Five years after thousands were killed in NYC, DC, and Pennsylvania, the war on terrorism has failed to hold accountable those responsible for this horrible crime.

9/11 has been cynically manipulated by the Bush administration – with the active support of both parties in Congress. The so-called “war on terrorism” has isolated the US politically; fueled a huge increase in an already bloated military budget, leading to massive war profiteering, soaring federal budget deficits, and cutbacks in many domestic programs. It led to the occupations of Afghanistan and Iraq, which had nothing to do with 9/11. It curtailed civil liberties and public dissent at home. Meanwhile, terrorism has increased throughout the world.

The Bush administration squandered the worldwide good will that existed towards America after 9/11 in pursuit of global domination, oil, and corporate profits. Tens of thousands of innocent people have been killed.

Howie Hawkins and the Greens believe the best way to prevent future 9/11s is to seek a global common agenda focused on raising up the standard of living and security for all. We need an energy policy based on energy conservation and clean renewable energy, not seizing oil fields in foreign countries.

## **An Independent Investigation is Needed into 9/11**

Finding the truth about what happened on 9/11 – and why it happened - is essential both to hold those accountable for these murders criminally responsible and to begin the healing process.

The neocons – led by Secretary of Defense Rumsfeld and Vice-President Cheney but also including leading Democratic hawks – wrote in the Project for a New American Century’s September 2000 report, *Rebuilding America’s Defenses*, that it would take a new Pearl Harbor to win public support for launching various military invasions to secure oil in Iraq and other oil producing countries. The 9/11 attacks provided pretext.

The Bush administration and Congress resisted an investigation into 9/11 until the cries of the victims’ families were too loud to ignore. Those finally appointed to the commission were selected based on their ties to and willingness to protect the national security establishment, not pursue the truth wherever it led.

The Bush administration has repeatedly lied about 9/11: about how the air force responded to the hijackings; about the environmental dangers from the WTC site; about the role of Iraq. The Commission leadership recently admitted it lied to the American public about the role of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict in the attacks. The Commission failed to answer many basic questions, such as who assisted the hijackers; who financed the hijackers; and why the Bush administration failed to heed the myriad of warnings.

Was the failure of the American national security systems to prevent 9/11 due to their incompetence? Did the people in the government allow the terrorist attacks to occur in order to provide another Pearl Harbor? Or did the people in the government actively assist in carrying out the 9/11 attacks?

The American people should use the 5<sup>th</sup> anniversary as an opportunity to debate whether the choices made by Bush and Congress after 9/11 were the right ones. And to demand that a real investigation be conducted of what led to so many Americans being killed on 9/11.

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