

# War and Global Justice

## *Militarization - Economic Domination?*

The US government wants to control and profit from the world's resources, while maintaining military dominance over any voice of dissent or alternative. We can stop it.

As the Bush administration prepares for its next target, it is becoming clear that the war with Iraq is part of the US strategy of "perpetual war," a policy which calls for the constant invasion and domination of other countries under the guise of responding to various threats (communism, drugs, terrorism). Since September 11, 2001, the Bush Administration has had the excuse it needed to ram through key parts of its conservative agenda, to "crack down" on immigration, dissent, and civil liberties, and to pursue its economic and geo-political goals abroad. This war is part of the ongoing expansionist and imperialist policy of the United States government that uses military and economic means to secure US interests. The bloodiest front of US military efforts is currently in Iraq. The war on Iraq also clearly has an economic component, as the US seeks to secure its access to oil in the region. The economic aspect of US imperialism is characterized by the neo-liberal model of development that demands that corporate profits be prioritized over the needs and rights of people. The overall goal of these policies is to formalize US dominance over the world economically, politically, militarily and culturally.

**As the war on terrorism continues,** the Bush administration is simultaneously pushing for free trade agreements like the Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA) which seeks to institutionalize and formalize the exploitative and oppressive relationship between US corporations and the Global South. The FTAA would effectively mean the re-colonization of the nations of Latin America, allowing corporations to bypass democratically adopted environmental or worker protection laws, increasing corporate



The Bush administration is using this push for seemingly unending war as a smokescreen to pass a number of right wing policies, such as tax cuts for the rich, cuts in spending for education and health care, and free trade agreements.

power while endangering the lives of millions of people, disproportionately affecting women and people of color. It threatens to commodify our lives by turning over the control of our schools, electricity, water, and food to corporations whose only interest is more profit. It is an international business deal, disguised as a proposed treaty that would create the world's largest free market zone, affecting 650 million people and \$9 trillion in capital. It's essentially a more expansive (in scope and size) version of NAFTA that would encompass all the countries in our Hemisphere (except for Cuba). The FTAA is being negotiated with the primary input of mega-corporations.

**As individuals who have been actively involved in local efforts against the war, we have an obligation to challenge the underlying economic imperialism,** confronting the US government's plans to control this hemisphere through free trade agreements that only perpetuate violence and inequality and trickle down to affect our city and local communities in a negative way.

These are agreements that truly affect us all. Their scope is as staggering as the negative effects they are certain to bring. But we can draw hope from the

millions of people who have joined us this past year in challenging US aggression and imperialism. And we can draw inspiration from the millions of people in Latin America and the Middle East who continue to struggle for justice.

The Stop the FTAA campaign can once again unite our city over something concrete to oppose war and work toward global justice while addressing local concerns. The Stop the FTAA campaign works to end war and exploitation by attacking the economic injustice at the roots of global conflict. Members are working to contribute to the hemispheric movement to prevent passage of the Free Trade Area of the Americas, uniting the various social forces being affected by neo-liberalism to take action locally to reverse the process in the long-term.

**If you would like to get involved in the effort to stop passage of the FTAA, we meet at 2:00pm every Saturday at the Thomas Merton Center.**

*If you have any questions or want more information feel free to contact us at:*

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