



ENDORSE THE CALL TO STOP THE WAR PROFITEERS AND END THE CORPORATE INVASION OF IRAQ!

THE SECOND INVASION

Today, in the wake of the military destruction and occupation of Iraq, a second invasion has begun: the invasion of powerful corporations who seek to reap billions in profits off the devastation of war, and who aim to seize the wealth and resources that belong to the Iraqi people.

Through multi-billion-dollar “reconstruction” contracts, a handful of well-connected, mostly U.S. corporations – many with scandal-ridden business records – are making hundreds of millions in war profits. Bechtel, Halliburton, MCI and other companies have landed lucrative contracts – which include hundreds of millions in taxpayer-funded profits – despite sordid histories of financial fraud, cost over-runs, and devastation in local communities across the globe.

The “reconstruction” profiteers are part of a larger corporate agenda to control the wealth and resources of Iraq. Paul Bremer, U.S.-appointed viceroy of Iraq, recently announced that “our strategic goal in the months ahead is to set in motion policies which will have the effect of reallocating people and resources from state enterprises to the more-productive private firms.”

U.S. occupying forces are selling off everything from oil field technology, to transportation services, to Iraq ministries. Global multinationals are lining up to gobble up and profit off the lucrative oil and water industries of the country. Through wide-scale privatization, lowering “barriers to entry for new firms,” and changing Iraqi commercial law to “encourage private investment,” the Bush Administration and U.S. occupying forces are ensuring that long after the military forces are gone, the occupation of Iraq by foreign multinational corporations will continue.

WE CAN STOP THE WAR PROFITEERS AND LOOTERS

We the undersigned join the growing movement demanding an end to U.S.-led war profiteering and corporate looting of Iraq’s wealth and resources.

- **We call on Congress to immediately convene hearings to investigate the activities and influence of the war profiteers:** After World War I, Senator Gerald Nye launched the Munitions Investigating Committee in 1934 to examine the influence of arms manufacturers during the war. We call on Congress to investigate war contractors and their undue political influence.
- **We call on Congress to curb war profiteering through an “excess profits tax”:** During the Civil War, World War I, World War II, and the Korean War, the U.S. government instituted an “excess profits tax” to ensure companies didn’t profit off death and destruction. The Berkeley city council recently passed a resolution urging Congress “to introduce legislation calling for a high percentage tax on all excess profits on every contract dealing with U.S. military action in Iraq and/or the ‘rebuilding’ of Iraq.”
- **We call for an end to the corporate take-over and selling-off of Iraq’s industry and resources, and demand that they be returned immediately to the Iraqi people.** The wealth of Iraq belongs to the people of Iraq – not multinational corporations. Control of Iraq and its resources must be returned to the people.

The Institute for Southern Studies/Southern Peace Research and Education Center has launched a War Profiteers Campaign to expose the war profiteers and stop the corporate invasion of Iraq.

To endorse this statement, email sprec@southernstudies.org or contact us at (919) 419-8311 x27.