

In the midst of deepening economic crisis

Oppose Obama's wars with mass struggle!

“As we consider the road that unfolds before us, we remember with humble gratitude those brave Americans who, at this very hour, patrol far-off deserts and distant mountains.” —Barack Obama, inaugural address

Substitute Romans, Englishmen, or Germans for Americans, and any Roman emperor, British colonialist or German militarist could have said the same thing. And indeed, this is the voice of the ruler of an empire whose troops patrol far-off deserts and distant mountains, where he’s intent on keeping them. But it’s also the voice of the leader of an empire that desperately struggles to maintain its position as top global bloodsucker while impoverishing and oppressing the people at home: a colossus with feet of clay.

Continued military intervention in Iraq

In March, 2003 the U.S. government brutally invaded Iraq and toppled the reactionary Hussein regime in three weeks. Former President Bush then declared “victory” on May 1. But *six years* later, around one million Iraqis and 4,250 U.S. soldiers are dead, while 140,000 U.S. troops occupy the country. Behind this is the fact that this has always fundamentally been a bi-partisan project to dominate Iraqi and Middle-Eastern oil reserves.

But this imperialist outrage has been met with just hatred and resistance from the democratic Iraqi masses, as well as from Iraqi reactionaries; and it has also given rise to massive domestic opposition. In this political situation, candidate Obama called the Iraq war “dumb,” “unwise” and “ill-conceived”; but as a senator he voted for \$300 billion with which to fund it (plus the Afghan war), while telling the lie that this was to ensure that “our troops had the best resources they needed to get home safely.” Then he promised to withdraw all “combat” troops, a brigade a month, within 16 months, but was vague about the “residual” forces that would remain. Now, as President, this plan has become a *partial* withdrawal within 19 months (mainly *after* the Iraqi elections in late 2009) that will leave a U.S. military force of up to 50,000 in the country far into the future. And the “mission” of this force will not only be

to train a client military, but to itself enforce imperialist order in the name of “counter-terrorism.”

With the U.S. war machine over-stretched and tiring out, this is nothing but a plan to *continue* the war to dominate Iraq and its oil resources begun under Bush, while freeing up troops to send to Afghanistan. Militarist McCain and other Republicans have hailed it for this very reason.

Escalating war in Afghanistan and Pakistan

Filled with imperialist-gangster arrogance, in 2001 Bush and Co. overthrew the Taliban rather than accept its offer to turn over Osama bin-Laden to a third country. Afghanistan was a poor and weak country, and this would allow the U.S. imperialists to establish a more subservient government in this gateway to the oil and gas rich Central Asia—a region that the Russian and Chinese imperialists also strive to dominate. Moreover, they could speculate on the fact that the Taliban theocracy was despised by progressive people everywhere in order to pretend that this was a “good war” to liberate the Afghan people, particularly women.

But the killing, imprisonment and torture of thousands of innocent Afghans showed that the U.S. rulers didn’t care about the Afghan people, nor did the government of warlords and Karzai that they installed. The imperialist occupation has therefore become hated, with the Karzai government ruling little more than the capital, Kabul. Moreover, the Taliban and other reactionary oppositional forces are mounting crippling attacks against the U.S./NATO supply lines in Pakistan, while the opposition and resistance of democratic Afghans to the occupation also increases.

Obama’s “solution” to this crisis is that on the third day of his presidency he ordered drone attacks in Pakistan that killed several women and children. He’s subsequently ordered more such attacks, while stepping up U.S. Special Forces activities in Pakistan. And, with 660 mainly sons and daughters of the U.S. working class already dead in Afghanistan, he’s now sending 17,000 more to kill and be killed.

A war budget higher than Bush's

"Our nation is at war, against a far-reaching network of violence and hatred." —Barack Obama, inaugural address

With this Bushism, Obama justifies a 2010 war budget that is 2.1% *higher* (adjusted for inflation) than Bush's post-WWII record 2009 budget. (While the Israeli Zionists' hands drip with the blood of the Palestinians they've just massacred in Gaza, they too will get their usual U.S. military aid.) Moreover, the Administration's ten-year projection envisions total Pentagon spending to rise steadily, despite an assumed end to fighting in Iraq, and while the U.S. war budget is already larger than all other countries in the world *combined*.

The Iraqi, Afghan, Pakistani and American peoples share a common enemy: U.S. imperialism

"We will not apologize for our way of life, nor will we waver in its defense..."

George W. Bush? No, it's Barack Obama demagogically using his inaugural address to whip up imperialist arrogance toward the rest of the world, particularly the Muslim world, and to justify endless imperialist wars to defend the profit-making empire of the U.S. ruling class.

At home he defends the interests of these same rich global bloodsuckers, while having the gall to say this is defending "our" way of life. Thus, he and the Democrats rushed to pass Bush's legislation to funnel \$800 billion from the masses of people into the hands of the bankers and financial sharks. His \$787 billion economic stimulus enactment provides lucrative government contracts and tax breaks to businesses; while money for the unemployed, extensions of healthcare benefits, and expansion of Food Stamps are not close to what is needed—and the much-hyped tax cut for ordinary individuals and families is not even enough to pay *one month's* average rent or mortgage payment. He plans to let Bush's huge tax cuts for the super-rich continue in effect until that law's expiration. And the administration is working out plans for another giant bailout of the finance capitalists, while Obama hypocritically talks of "shared sacrifice," and does propaganda for cutting the budgets for social services and entitlements.

Meanwhile, Obama has a plan to deal with the inevitable resistance to this program of the rich: after voting to extend the so-called PATRIOT Act as a senator, as President he continues the ruling-class program of denial of civil liberties and police state expansion that was stepped up under Bush.

Build the anti-war movement as part of the class movement of working people everywhere!

This continuity between Republican and Democratic

administrations around a program of war, impoverishing the masses, and political reaction shows that it's the underlying system that is the problem, and not which party is in power. But there is developing denunciation and resistance to this ruling-class program, with the potential for all of the oppositional struggles to fuel each other. And this lays the basis for eventually merging them into a profound revolutionary storm that does away with the warlike and exploitative capitalist-imperialist system.

Today, in conditions of deepening economic crisis, anti-war activists justly want to fight not only against war, but also for relief and more social programs. This is sometimes expressed through the slogan "money for jobs and education, not for war and occupation." But this slogan tends to hide the fact that war and war budgets are inseparable from modern (monopoly) capitalism, and it tends to promote the illusory idea that the government will take money from the war budget to fund programs to benefit the people if only the people demand it enough. (In the 1960s, with the masses in the streets and cities burning, the government indeed made concessions on domestic demands; but it *continued* high war budgets and its slaughter of the Vietnamese people, and funded new programs with deficit spending.) Further, the slogan tends to narrow the appeal against war to the fact that it hurts people *economically*. Despite these weaknesses, the leaders of the ANSWER coalition, International Socialist Organization, Socialist Alternative, Freedom Socialist Party and other opportunist groups take the lead in endlessly shouting this slogan.

The anti-war movement must be built with a different perspective: a broad, internationalist and liberating one that can truly inspire the other movements in society to fight harder. This requires targeting the imperialist system as the problem, and building the movement consciously against its new chieftains, Obama and the Democrats. And it requires building the movement in conscious solidarity with the Iraqi, Afghan and Pakistani peoples who not only struggle against their own exploiters and oppressors in order to have a better life, but who also struggle against the mass murder and devastation orchestrated by our common enemy, the U.S. imperialist ruling class.

To hell with Obama's wars!

U.S. out of Iraq and Afghanistan now!

Seattle Anti-Imperialist Committee

March 18, 2009

Second Edition

March against U.S. imperialism at the upcoming anti-war demonstrations!

Saturday, March 21

12:00 noon at Jefferson Park (9th & Monroe, Tacoma)

12:00 noon at Westlake Plaza (4th & Pine, Seattle)

Sunday, March 22

12:00 noon at Cal Anderson Park (11th & Pine, Seattle)

See seattle.indymedia.org for details.