



# Justice Rising

## Grassroots Solutions to Corporate Domination

### Corporate Origins of War and Grassroot Struggles for Peace

by Jim Tarbell

Our world is at war. Battles over resources and market access on a planet with escalating demand and fixed supply will be endless until a new paradigm is in place. Four hundred years ago the first corporations formed armies and led the charge in the battles for global resources. Four centuries later we are given a choice of unilateral pre-emptive war by an administration steeped in corporate influence or a seemingly more benign global corporate government ruled by free trade agreements where money is power. This latter option, however, raised protests in the streets of Seattle at the turn of the millennium and promises to engender such inequality and environmental destruction that the human struggle for survival will ensure perennial war at the gates of commercial empire. Envision a global Baghdad with the wealthy benefactors ensconced in the Green Zone and the rest of the world a conflagration of destruction and sorrow.

According to the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute, global military spending increased 34% in the past ten years. American military expenditures made up 80% of the increases in 2005. The US now accounts for 48% of world military outlays with the next four countries—Britain, France Japan and China—each accounting for only 4-5% of global military expenses.

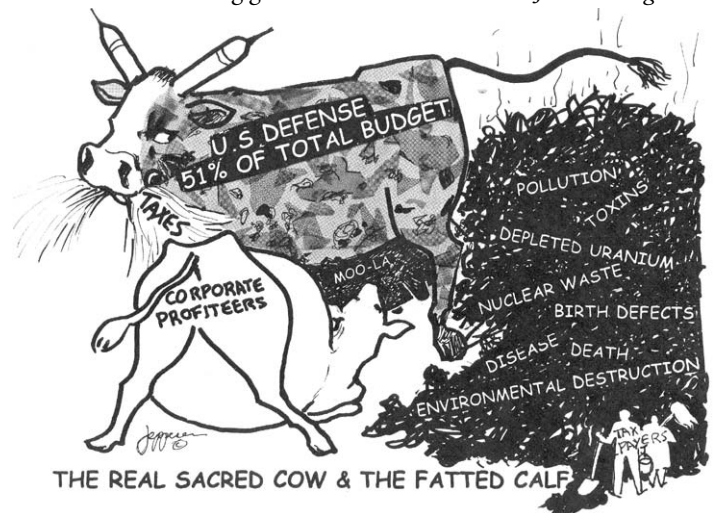
The 100 largest arms producing companies increased sales 15% in 2004. US companies claimed 63.3% of the \$268 billion in global arms revenue that year. The top five weapon companies—Boeing, Lockheed Martin, Northrup Gruman, Raytheon and BAE Systems—made 44% of the sales, doubling their share between 1990 and 2003. Investors like the private equity Carlyle Group have broken new ground by giving politicians and bureaucrats, who worked to establish this trend, the profits of war, once they are back in the private sector.

The military industry doubled their US campaign contributions between 1990

and 2006 and so far this year Lockheed Martin and Northrup Gruman have each contributed over \$1 million. The Center on Responsive politics points out that "most defense sector contributions are concentrated on members of the House and Senate Appropriations Defense subcommittees, which allocate federal defense money, and the Armed Service committees, which influence military policy."

Corporate benefits and control of the American war machine go beyond arms sales and campaign contributions. Antonia Juhasz in *The Bush Agenda: Invading the World One Economy at a Time* points out that corporate personnel from Bechtel, Chevron, Halliburton and Lockheed Martin, now in key administrative posts, have influenced Bush's military policy and these same corporations have benefitted with juicy military contracts or access to lucrative resources.

This last point—corporate access to resources and markets—has driven the American war machine for a hundred years. But the costs of war are overwhelming and people are rebelling. The millions coming together to protest war on February 15, 2003 was only a signal of what is to come. The task is daunting. Humans need to create a world of economic justice within the limited scale of our planet. These are the stories told and the daunting goals taken on in this issue of *Justice Rising*.



graphic: kjersten Jeppesen

**The war machine will get your children, if not now, then your grandchildren**

Cindy Sheehan, page 2

**Overall, the concentrated political power of the military-industrial complex has weakened American society to its core.**

Ted Nace, page 3

**People have to learn how to get rid of violence by nonviolent means and do it realistically and effectively.**

Gene Sharp, page 6

**I was a racketeer, a gangster for capitalism.**

Marine Corps General Smedley Butler, page 12

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