

OMNI NEWSLETTER ON AFGHANISTAN #5 (see Iraq Newsletters for related materials), July 27, 2010, WE, THE PEOPLE BUILDING A CULTURE OF PEACE, Of, BY, and For the People. Edited by Dick Bennett. (#1 Feb. 18, 2008; #2 Jan. 2009, “25 Reasons for Leaving Afghanistan”; #3 Oct. 4, 2009; #4 April 12, 2010)

“**The highest form of *jihad* is to speak the truth in the face of an unjust ruler.” Prophet Muhammad.**

The best method for advocating peace and justice is to offer people an accurate view of the world and a set of policies that seem likely to produce good results based on those truths. (In contrast see below on Pentagon/White House deceptions exposed by Wikileaks.)

Contents of Newsletter #4 (go to www.omnicenter.org, periodicals)

Polk: US Must Withdraw

Rethink Afghanistan video: Waste, Fraud, Abuse; Killing: No Victory, No Recovery at Home, until Withdrawal

Daniel Ellsberg on Obama, Counter-insurgency, Withdrawal

Killing Civilians

Why Don't They Like Us?

Killing Our Own Troops

Military Resisters

Kucinich's Resolution

Video: Why Are We in Afghanistan?

Books

Washington Report on the Middle East

James Madison on War

Afghanistan War \$Bill\$ Per Minute

Contents of #5

Jacob and Jordan

Contacting Congress, Several Avenues:

Code Pink

Credo Action

Shalom Center

Credo (Boozman)

Historians Against the War

Dennis Kucinich

Peace Action CALL SCRIPT

What is the Wikileaks Leak? *The Guardian*

What's It Like in Afghanistan?

Congressional Opposition: Conyers' Out of Afghan Caucus, Grayson's The War Is Making You Poor Act, Kucinich

Matthew Hoh

Rethink Afghanistan Film

General McChrystal
Michael Hastings
Christians Opposed to US Occupation
New Film: *Restrepo*
US Troops Leave Korengal Valley
German President Resigns
Leaving Afghanistan Essay from *Fellowship*
Historians Against the War and DVD "Why Are We in Afghanistan"
Anti-War Essays
Pakistan
Two Books on Control of Information in USA

[JACOB AND JORDON BIKE UNTIL AFGHAN WAR ENDS](http://www.operationawareness.org/apps/calendar/showEvent?callID=4357003&eventID=74121122)

<http://www.operationawareness.org/apps/calendar/showEvent?callID=4357003&eventID=74121122>
event at <http://www.operationawareness.org/apps/calendar/showEvent?callID=4357003&eventID=74121122>

Use WikiLeaks to Flood Congress Today!

codepink@mail.democracyinaction.org

July 26, 2010

Dear Dick,

Not since the Pentagon Papers have the inner workings of war been exposed to the public in such an explosive fashion as with the WikiLeaks' revelations on the Afghan war. Last night we talked to Daniel Ellsberg, who made public the Pentagon Papers that helped end the war in Vietnam. He said:

"Wikileaks has given us a picture of this war that shows a total replay, as in Vietnam, of a corrupt, incompetent set of allies whose main merit is a willingness to be paid by Congress and be supported by the drug trade. We are clearly mired in an escalating stalemate. The troop increase Obama has requested will make no difference.

I admire the courage of Bradley Manning for sacrificing himself to make the public aware of the futility of this war. Let us make sure his sacrifice is not in vain by using these revelations to force Congress to stop funding this war."

The "leak" comes precisely during the week that Congress will be voting on another \$33 billion for war. Thanks to your calls, Congressional visits and determination this past month, the Administration has not been able to get the quick vote on the war funding they requested. Your efforts have had an impact; now we have to open the floodgates of opposition and drown the funding that would send more of our soldiers to die in vain.

To fuel your passion for these calls, here's the link to the section on civilian casualties, including incidents like the gunner at a roadblock who killed a 14-year-old girl and wounded a toddler or the Marine air strike that left seven children dead. You can also read our WikiLeaks talking points here!

Call 888-493-5443 now. Tell your Congressperson that the WikiLeaks' documents confirm that this war is immoral and unwinnable.

Whether we succeed in blocking the war funding or not, we'll be able to clearly identify Congressional war enablers and war opponents, so we can punish and reward them when they're home for August and at the polls in November.

Thank you for turning this leak into a tsunami of anti-war pressure,
Bonnie, Dana, Farida, Gael, Gayle, Joan, Jodie, Medea, Nancy, Rae, and Victoria

JOIN US IN ACTION TODAY! Call 888-493-5443 now!

Tell your Congressperson that the WikiLeaks' documents confirm that this war is immoral and unwinnable.

BECKY BOND: THE COURAGE TO LEAVE

Dear Dick,

"The Courage to Leave" was the headline of a powerful Bob Herbert editorial that was published three weeks ago in the New York Times.

His subject was Afghanistan. He wrote:¹

Ultimately, the public is at fault for this catastrophe in Afghanistan, where more than 1,000 G.I.'s have now lost their lives. If we don't have the courage as a people to fight and share in the sacrifices when our nation is at war, if we're unwilling to seriously think about the war and hold our leaders accountable for the way it is conducted, if we're not even willing to pay for it, then we should at least have the courage to pull our valiant forces out of it.

This week we have the opportunity to urge Congress to demonstrate the courage to leave.

One of the best tactics we have as citizens for bringing our troops home from the Afghan quagmire is to convince Congress to end the war by controlling how it's funded. This opportunity comes when Congress is asked to vote on the supplemental funding bill. Yet time and again our elected representatives have enabled the unchecked occupation of Afghanistan by giving money to fund the war without any strings attached.

The House could vote on the supplemental funding bill for the war in Afghanistan as early as tomorrow. **So take action today.** Click [here](#) to automatically sign the petition.

In a recent Washington Post — ABC News poll, 53 percent of Americans now say the war is not worth its costs.² No one has successfully occupied Afghanistan since Genghis Khan, and there is little reason to believe that our military presence will be more successful than that of the Soviets or the British before us.

It's time to end the war in Afghanistan. **Tell Rep. Boozman** to vote no on supplemental funding for the war in Afghanistan. Click here to sign automatically sign the petition.

Thank you for working to stop the occupation of Afghanistan.

Becky Bond, Political Director CREDO Action from Working Assets

¹"The Courage to Leave," New York Times, June 12, 2010.

²"Public remains unfriendly on Afghanistan," Washington Post, June 10, 2010.

Rabbi Arthur Waskow to jbenet

office@shalomctr.org

A Prophetic Voice in Jewish, Multireligious, and American Life
Time to END
the Self-Destructive War in Afghanistan:

Write & call Congress to Vote NO

Dear shalom-pursuer,

I am sharing with you below an urgent message from Win Without War, a mainstream liberal/progressive coalition that came together to oppose the Iraq War and is now working to end the Afghanistan War. (A list of its member groups is at the end of this letter.)

Please forward this letter to your friends, congregants, co-workers.

Today the House of Representatives is voting on whether to add \$33 billion MORE to fight the Afghanistan War. TODAY is an important moment for us all to tell our CongressMembers to STOP.

Please click here to write your Congressperson to vote No on the bill today. Add your own words to the message. If you didn't know your CongressMember's name before, note it as the software shows you.

Then call Congressional Switchboard: **1-888-493-5443** toll-free and ask for your Congressperson. Please call right away!

Opposition is rising. The majority of the American people are now opposed to continuing the war. The thousands of military documents published just a few days ago show that the war has been going even more badly than the public has been told -- the Pentagon has been lying.

Yet the bill before the House will send another \$33 billion down the rat-hole of a war that has become an ethical abomination and a practical disaster. That \$33 billion could be going to support the states and cities that are now laying off tens of thousands of teachers because there is no money to pay them.

Just as a healthy body can go haywire and allow the growth of a cancer that eats up all the strength and life-energy of its host, so American society has spawned a cancer -- a military machine that is eating up our country from within, while destroying other human beings beyond our borders and needlessly, heedlessly killing and maiming our own youth.

The suicide rate among our soldiers is the highest in history. Does this tell us nothing?

The Afghanistan War is at this moment the worst aspect of this cancer. Please write and call your Congressperson to vote No on the bill today.

Three weeks ago, 162 members of the House supported an Amendment calling for a time-table for withdrawal.

Now the House is being asked to vote the money without a time-table or any plan for withdrawal. Nine years into the war, the Administration lacks clear goals, a coherent strategy or any "exit plan." Meanwhile soldiers and civilians keep dying and so far \$321 billion dollars have been squandered in an irrational enterprise. We need to insist that elected officials act responsibly by refusing to fund this war without end.

Call Congressional Switchboard: 1-888-493-5443 toll-free and ask for your Congressperson. Please call right away!

We need you to call *Rep. Boozman*

Tell him: Vote NO on the Afghanistan supplemental.

Lowell office 213 W. Monroe, Suite K, 72745

479-725-0400; fax 479-725-0408

Washington, DC 202-225-4301; fax 202 225-5713

Dear James,

One of the best tactics we have as citizens for bringing our troops home from the Afghan quagmire is to convince Congress to end the war by controlling how it's funded.

This opportunity comes when Congress is asked to vote on the supplemental funding bill. Yet time and again our elected representatives have enabled the unchecked occupation of Afghanistan by giving money to fund the war without any strings attached.

This week the U.S. House of Representatives will vote on a supplemental funding bill that will allocate another \$33 billion to continue the occupation of Afghanistan.

Call your member of Congress, John Boozman, and tell him to vote against the Afghanistan war funding supplemental. Click here for the number to call and a sample script. The choice the members of Congress face this week will be stark. Unlike earlier funding bills that contained money for vital domestic programs, the vote this week will be a straight-up vote for continuing the war with no strings attached.

We need an exit strategy for Afghanistan and a timeline for withdrawal and yet the war funding bill contains neither. Under these circumstances, voting for more money to continue what is now one of the longest wars in our country's history is irresponsible.

Call Rep. Boozman and tell him to vote against the Afghanistan war funding supplemental. Click here for the number to call and a sample script. While we would like to see stability in Afghanistan and a situation that improves the lives of civilians (particularly women and girls), it's past time for Congress to recognize that we won't be able to accomplish either through continued military intervention.

Call Rep. Boozman today and tell him to vote against the Afghanistan war funding supplemental. Thank you for speaking out.

Matt Lockshin, Campaign Manager

CREDO Action

P.S. Please make the call regardless of whether or not your representative has voted against a supplemental war funding bill for Afghanistan in the past. Either way, they need to hear that their constituents passionately support withdrawing from Afghanistan.

Did you know CREDO has a Facebook page?

Click here to check it out! © 2010 CREDO. All rights reserved.

HISTORIANS AGAINST THE WAR

Please circulate widely. If you're reading the morning newspapers, the reasons for ending the Afghanistan War are painfully clear.

Yet the House of Representatives will be voting again this week on the White House request for \$33.5 billion of new funding for the war in Afghanistan.

Historians Against the War is joining together with United for Peace and Justice, Peace Action, CODEPINK, Friends Committee on National Legislation, Peace and Justice Resource Center, Campaign for Peace and Democracy, Just Foreign Policy and Progressive Democrats of America in calling upon Congressional Representatives to vote against the White House request for \$33.5 billion in new funds for the war in Afghanistan.

Toll-free number Congressional Switchboard 1-888-493-5443
provided by Friends Committee on National Legislation.

Vote is expected soon. After you make your call, please forward this message to friends.

If you receive information about how your member of Congress plans to vote please let us know: hiscze@aol.com

<http://www.readersupportednews.org/>

Dennis Kucinich Announces Two Important House Votes

reply@kucinich.us

Cleveland, Ohio (July 26, 2010) - Congressman Dennis Kucinich announces that he and Congressman Ron Paul are joining in a cause focused at compelling the removal of U.S. military forces from Pakistan. Later this week, Congressman Kucinich will also support ending the War in Afghanistan by cutting off funding for the war.

Hi everyone, Dennis here.

This week we have two very important votes for the future of this country and the future of the world. The first deals with Pakistan - House Concurrent Resolution 301, and the second deals with supplemental funding which will provide another 33-billion dollars to keep the War in Afghanistan going. I would like to speak to you briefly about both of those votes.

The first vote is likely to occur this Tuesday on House Concurrent Resolution 301, sponsored by myself and Congressman Ron Paul of Texas. This resolution aims to cause the United States to withdraw from Pakistan. Now, it's not generally known that we have at least 124 Special Forces troops on the ground inside Pakistan. It is absolutely urgent that we take a stand to stop spreading war in Pakistan. To nip in the bud the U.S. ground presence.

We already know the U.S. has had missile strikes inside Pakistan since March of 2005 with a lot of innocent villagers killed. All that we can do is to expand the war into Pakistan, destabilize that government and have the United States fighting on still another front. We have to get out of Pakistan and that's why Ron Paul and I have come together, for the first time, to force a vote on this question.

Later in the week we'll be faced once again with the question whether to continue to fund the War in Afghanistan. The New York Times and other news agencies have taken WikiLeaks reports and have released this news globally. And what we've learned in the last 24 hours is that there is another secret war going on in Afghanistan. A war of failure. A war of our troops getting undermined by people that we think are working with us.

This is occurring in Pakistan, it's also happening in Afghanistan. The Afghanistan government is a cesspool of corruption. There is no plausible way that anything even remotely resembling a democracy can be established there. Our presence there is an occupation fueling an insurgency.

We have to get out of Afghanistan. We owe it to our troops. We owe it to our national security. We owe it to our budget. We owe it to the American people who hope for a better life here at home.

So, again, this week, two important votes: one tomorrow to get out of Pakistan and, later this week, end the War in Afghanistan by cutting off funding. I'll be in touch with you as matters progress.

I appreciate your on-going support. I need your help to continue to serve in the United States Congress.

Thank you, very much.

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PO Box 110475 | Cleveland | OH | 44111 | **216-252-9000**

Re-Elect Congressman Kucinich Committee | PO Box 110475 | Cleveland | OH | 44111

PEACE ACTION: Make three one-minute phone calls to help end the war in Afghanistan, PLUS CALL SCRIPT

Most of Peace Action's supporters know it's past time to end the war in Afghanistan. As President Obama commits more and more troops and resources to this war, our fellow Americans are realizing this too. That's why Peace Action recently helped three Members of Congress to draft new legislation to bring an end to the war.

Senator Russ Feingold, Representative Jim McGovern, and Representative Walter Jones have bravely brought this legislation to the floor. It will "require the President to develop a flexible timetable to draw down U.S. troops from Afghanistan." H.R. 5015: Redeployment of U.S. Troops from Afghanistan, and it's sister bill in the Senate, S. 3197, are critical first steps for the U.S. withdrawal effort.

In our efforts to support an end to the war in Afghanistan, Peace Action helped to lead efforts successfully coordinating a national call-in week in support of this legislation. It is important that we support our allies in this struggle and lift our voices in unison with them.

Call the Congressional Hotline at **(202) 224-3121 (202) 224-3121** between 9–5 PM Eastern.

Alternatively, you may [look up the phone numbers of your Members of Congress here](#) in order to leave a message. Use our calling script below and tell your Members of Congress and ask them to support S. 3197, to support H. R. 5015, and to stop funding this war!

Call Script

Call the Congressional Hotline at **(202) 224-3121 (202) 224-3121** to reach your Senators or

Representative.

Remember to be polite, respectful and clear. Also, don't forget to use the bill number. The Senate bill number is S. 3197. The House bill number is H. R. 5015.

Introduce yourself to whomever answers the phone. Let them know you are a constituent and a member of Peace Action. Mention what town or city you live in as well.

If you can, try to get a staff person who knows the Senator's position on Afghanistan on the phone. For instance, try asking for the Foreign Policy aide.

Say that you've been very concerned about the direction which the war in Afghanistan has gone and that you want your Senator/Representative to support the Afghanistan Withdrawal Timeline legislation (S. 3197 or H.R. 5015). In addition, tell the staffer that you would like your Senator/Representative to vote against all future funding for the war in Afghanistan.

Be firm and let the aide know how you would like your Senator/Representative to support the resolution. Tell the aide that you would like your Senator/Representative to co-sponsor and support the bill (S. 3197 or H. R. 5015) as well as to vote against future war funding.

Example Script for Your Calls

"Hello, my name is _____. I'm a constituent and a member of Peace Action. I'm calling from _____ (city or town).

Could I speak to your staff person who handles Afghanistan?

(If no, leave a message urging the Senator to support and co-sponsor the bill _____ (S. 3197 or H. R. 5015) introduced by _____ (Senator Fiengold or Representatives McGovern and Jones) and to vote against all future war funding.)

I'm very concerned about our present strategy in Afghanistan and would like the Senator to support McGovern and Jones' resolution S. 3197. This bill would set a timetable for withdrawal from Afghanistan. Furthermore, I would like the Senator/Representative to vote "no" on all future funding requests for the war in Afghanistan.

Can you please get back to me when you've found out what the Senator/Representative plans to do in support of this bill?"

Thank You for Calling

Thank you for calling. This is a critical issue which demands action. As Rep. McGovern put it, "After 8 long years, hundreds of billions of dollars and – most importantly – thousands of our brave soldiers killed or wounded, it is past time to re-examine this strategy. Instead of nation-building in Afghanistan, I believe we should be doing some more nation-building here at home. The American people deserve accountability – in terms of how and when our troops will be returned to their families and in terms of how taxpayer dollars are being spent."

When you've finished your call, [please let us know how it went here](#).

SENATOR LINCOLN (202) 224-4843 Fax: (202) 228-1371.

Fayetteville office: 251-1380; www.lincoln.senate.gov;

<http://www.lincoln.senate.gov/index.cfm>; <http://www.lincoln.senate.gov/webform.html>

SENATOR Mark Pryor: Phone: (202) 224-2353 Fax: (202) 228-0908. www.pryor.senate.gov ; <http://pryor.senate.gov/contact/>

CONGRESSMAN Boozman: Lowell office: 479-725-0400.
DC address: 1708 Longworth House Office Bldg., Washington, DC 20515; 202-225-4301.

WHAT'S BEEN GOING ON IN AFGHANISTAN? WHAT IS THE WIKILEAKS LEAK? 200,000 pages of documents previously kept secret showing how badly the war was going and the number and details of civilians killed. View Amy Goodman's DEMOCRACY NOW Monday and Tuesday July 26-27 (google Democracy Now, click on Browse Recent Shows). (D)

ARTICLE IN UK *THE GUARDIAN*

(Julian Assange of Wikileaks gave 3 newspapers access to the 92000 documents: *The Guardian, Der Spiegel, and NYT*. *The Guardian* published 300 of them.) Reader Supported News | 25 July 10 PM

Marc Ash, Founder Reader Supported News (and Truthout too)

Just click this link to go to the new RSN Facebook page:

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Reader-Supported-News/138345506195109>

“Afghanistan War Logs: Massive Leak of Secret Files”

Nick Davies and David Leigh, Guardian UK

The Guardian's intro: "A huge cache of secret US military files today provides a devastating portrait of the failing war in Afghanistan, revealing how coalition forces have killed hundreds of civilians in unreported incidents, Taliban attacks have soared and NATO commanders fear neighboring Pakistan and Iran are fueling the insurgency."

WHAT'S IT BEEN LIKE IN AFGHANISTAN? In *Huffington Post* ANN JONES REVIEWS THE FILM *THE FIXER* [Ann Jones](#)

Posted: July 16, 2009 10:59 AM “[Everything That Happens in Afghanistan Is Based on Lies or Illusions](#)” essay and review of doc. Film “The Fixer.”

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Ann Jones is the author of [Kabul in Winter: Life Without Peace in Afghanistan](#) (Metropolitan Books, 2006).

[AMY GOODMAN'S INTERVIEWS WITH JOHN CONYERS AND MATTHEW HOH](#)

CONGRESS IS STIRRING: Rep. **John Conyers** is chair of new **OUT OF**

AFGHANISTAN CAUCUS. US wars creating terrorists. Cong. **Alan Grayson**'s new bill, The War Is Making You Poor Act: limit money for wars, limit taxes for everyone making \$35,000 or less, reduce debt by \$16 billion. Let us all speak up for and with Conyers and Grayson. *Democracy Now* (July 1, 2010)(D)

AMY'S INTERVIEW OF JOHN CONYERS

<http://www.democracynow.org/2010/7/1/conyers>

REP. JOHN CONYERS: Well, it's never been clear to me that through war we can bring peace, especially when we're the invaders, we're the ones using drones. We're causing civilian deaths to many people who would otherwise be more friendly to us. We're creating the terrorists. This is not being lost on most of the people in the country now. Our constituents now want us out of both Afghanistan and Iraq, and what we're doing now is forming a way to discuss this with our president in an effort to make him more comfortable with doing what most people want him to do and what we thought he was going to do in the first place, namely, to clearly disengage from the military, increase the diplomatic activity, and bring in some help in terms of food supplies, aid, and positive build up of these countries and to make as many friends as we can over there rather than this ninth year of what has now become a debacle in every respect.

AMY GOODMAN: Congressman Conyers, what is the **War is Making Your Poor Act?**

REP: JOHN CONYERS: The War is Making You Poor is a brilliant device by Grayson, my colleague Alan Grayson, in which we're doing just three things. One, we limit the amount of funding of the wars in both countries. We eliminate the federal tax on all Americans that make less than \$35,000 a year. And as a result, and this has been confirmed by the Joint Committee on taxation, we reduce the debt by almost \$16 billion. Our debt. So it's a combination of things that are happening now, Amy, that make it clear to more and more members of Congress that you can't keep a straight face on all of this incredible indebtedness, talk about all of the money that we have shovelled out to Wall Street and credit isn't loosening up, unemployment is still at all-time highs. We're projected in Detroit to have more foreclosures on homes than last year. So we've got to turn with especially all of the shouts about being fiscally conservative, the way to climb out of this is to reduce the obligations of our government. Here we are in hundreds of billions of dollars of war debt and our President is saying we now have to have an emergency funding which is merely another way of saying we're going to specially fund the Afghanistan surge. It makes no sense and I think militarily it is not logical and of course morally, I can't remember anything like this since Korea and Vietnam, to be honest with you. For the full interview go to

<http://www.democracynow.org/2010/7/1/conyers>

CONGRESSMAN KUCINICH VERSUS AFGHAN WAR

Dennis Kucinich: Afghanistan, the Environment and Corporate Control of the Political Process 6-30-10

Dennis Kucinich to jbenet reply@kucinich.us

Dennis Kucinich: "Afghanistan, the Environment and Corporate Control of the Political Process"

Click [here](#) to view video.

Dear supporter:

Dennis Kucinich sends an important message concerning Afghanistan, the Gulf of Mexico oil spill and the influence of corporate money on federal elections.

Hi, Dennis here.

As you know, I've been leading the effort to try to stop our country from continuing its tragic mistake in Afghanistan. We need to rally, America, to say it's time to end the war once and for all: To set a date and to stick by it to end the war and it can't be in 2011, 2012. We can slow-walk the end of this war for another decade.

That's not acceptable. It's not acceptable because of the loss of lives of our troops, because of the loss of lives of innocent civilians, because of the corrupt government of Afghanistan, because there is no way to win and establish a democracy in Afghanistan, because we can't afford the war, because we have things at home that need to be taken care of: to create jobs, to save homes, to help rebuild our cities. We cannot continue to afford this war in any way, shape or form.

And so, I'm going to continue my efforts to not only create a debate, but also to build the votes so that when the war appropriation comes up again, we will have garnered an even stronger vote to get out of Afghanistan.

I'm asking for your continued support in this effort, not just your financial support - but your moral support. I'm asking you to talk to your friends and neighbors, to spread the word that we need to get out of Afghanistan. We must take a new direction in our international position.

We have to end the War in Iraq. We know that the war was based on lies. Americans now need to continue to focus on what's occurring in Afghanistan - the level of corruption that keeps rising is damaging not only our nation's credibility, but also damaging any hopes that we might have to achieve peace in the world. Clearly, a new approach is called for.....

Thank you very much. FacebookTwitterMySpaceDigg PO Box 110475 | Cleveland | OH | 44111 | 216-252-9000Re-Elect Congressman Kucinich Committee | PO Box 110475 | Cleveland | OH | 44111

AMY'S INTERVIEW OF MATTHEW HOH

http://www.democracynow.org/2010/7/1/fmr_marine_state_department_official_matthew

Last September Matthew Hoh became the first U.S. official known to resign in protest over the Afghan war. At the time of resignation he was serving as the senior U.S. civilian in Zabul province on the Pakistani border. In his resignation letter Hoh wrote: "I have lost understanding of and confidence in the strategic purposes of the United States' presence in Afghanistan. I have doubts and reservations about our current strategy and planned future strategy, but my resignation is based not upon how we are pursuing this war, but why and to what end." [includes rush transcript]

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Matthew Hoh, former Marine Corps captain in Iraq and former State Department official in Afghanistan. He is the first known U.S. official to resign in protest over the Afghan war.

Rush Transcript

This transcript is available free of charge. However, donations help us provide closed captioning for the deaf and hard of hearing on our TV broadcast. Thank you for your generous contribution.

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AMY GOODMAN: This is "Democracy Now!," democracynow.org, the war and peace report. I'm Amy Goodman with Juan Gonzalez. Our guest is the chairman of the House Judiciary Committee John Conyers. We're also joined by Matthew Hoh, a former Marine and State Department official. Last September to become the first U.S. official known to resign in protest over the Afghan war. At the time of his resignation, he was serving as a senior U.S. civilian in Zabul Province on the Pakistani border. In his resignation letter of he wrote "I have lost understanding of and confidence in the strategic purposes of the United States' presence in Afghanistan. I have doubts and reservations about our current strategy and planned future strategy, but my resignation is based not upon how we are pursuing this war, but why and to what end". We welcome you, Matthew Hoh, to "DEMOCRACY NOW!" We're speaking to you today on the last day of June, more than 100 NATO forces, U.S. and foreign troops are dead in Afghanistan, the most deadly months since the U.S. invaded in 2001, nine years ago. Its the most deadly year, 1000 deaths. Yet, General Petraeus has just been unanimously approved by the Senate, very little questioning asked about what we're doing in Afghanistan. What questions do you have?

MATTHEW HOH: Well thanks for having me on Amy. you know, I think the question that should be first and foremost in every American's mind is those 102 NATO troops, 59 I believe for Americans who were killed this month, how does that affect Al Qaeda? How did those deaths make this country safer? How did those deaths improve our national security? I think that should be the first question people ask, what are we out of this war, what are the benefits of spending \$150 billion a year and losing 50, 60 good young men and women of every month? For the full interview go to

http://www.democracynow.org/2010/7/1/fmr_marine_state_department_official_matthew

Related stories

- [Rep. John Conyers and Out of Afghanistan Caucus Oppose Obama Admin's \\$33B Escalation of Afghan War](#)
- [Michael Hastings of Rolling Stone on the Story that Brought Down Gen. McChrystal and Exposed Widening Disputes Behind the U.S. Debacle in Afghanistan](#)
- [John Pilger: There Is a War on Journalism](#)
- [Tom Engelhardt on "The American Way of War: How Bush's Wars Became Obama's"](#)
- ["Our President Is Deceiving the American Public": Pentagon Papers Whistleblower on President Obama and the Wars in Afghanistan and Iraq](#)

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CONGRESSMAN Boozman: Lowell office: 479-725-0400.
DC address: 1708 Longworth House Office Bldg., Washington, DC 20515; 202-225-4301.

Rethink Afghanistan: New Film Go to

[http://www.facebook.com/rethinkafghanistan?
akid=1150.337585.XmbphM&rd=1&t=2&v=app_10531514314#](http://www.facebook.com/rethinkafghanistan?akid=1150.337585.XmbphM&rd=1&t=2&v=app_10531514314#)

Your neighbors are meeting to rethink the Afghanistan War. Are you in?

Find or start a local Rethink the Afghanistan War Meetup

Dear Dick,

This is a pivotal moment. Thanks to your work, public opposition to the Afghanistan War has exploded.¹ People are paying attention, and they're ready to hear what you've known for a while now: *that the Afghanistan War isn't worth the cost.*

At the end of next week, [people across the country will get together with their neighbors to rethink the Afghanistan War](#). With troops deaths in Afghanistan approaching the levels of the worst moments of the Iraq War² and with costs spiraling out of control,³ it's our duty to have a public discussion about where we go from here.

Will you join us? Sign up for a Rethink the Afghanistan War Meetup, or, if there's not one near you, start your own.

What happens at local meetings is up to you. Here are three quick suggestions:

1. Plan [a screening of the Rethink Afghanistan documentary](#) in your community. (Get the DVD [here](#).)
2. Have a public discussion about the following question: "Are we losing the Afghanistan War?"
3. Plan a group visit to the district offices of your Member of Congress or Senators.

We've got to seize this moment. The first step is to get together with our neighbors for a conversation about where we go from here.

We hope you'll join us.

Sincerely,

Derrick Crowe, Robert Greenwald and
the Brave New Foundation team

Sources:

1. *Newsweek*: "[Poll: Afghanistan War Hurting Obama's Support at Home.](#)"
2. *USA TODAY*: "[Afghan war toll hits high mark.](#)"
3. *Raw Story*: "[Sad milestone: Cost of US wars 'passes \\$1 trillion'.](#)"

Rethink Afghanistan: New Film [Go to](#)

[http://www.facebook.com/rethinkafghanistan?
akid=1150.337585.XmbphM&rd=1&t=2&v=app_10531514314#](http://www.facebook.com/rethinkafghanistan?akid=1150.337585.XmbphM&rd=1&t=2&v=app_10531514314#)

GENERAL MCCHRYSTAL, THE KILLING MACHINES, OBAMA

The real story in the *Rolling Stone* article. "We're f*#!ing losing this thing."

Share the video with your friends. With your help, we can seize the moment and build momentum to end the Afghanistan War. Facebook © 2010 ·

The unknown Afghan body count

An unwillingness to track the number of Afghan civilians killed undermines attempts to gauge progress in the country



- [James Denselow guardian.co.uk](#), Sunday 4 July 2010 10.00 BST
- [Article history](#)

June was a terrible month for the war in Afghanistan. The milestone of the 300th British death was compounded by the most deadly month for the Nato-led mission since the start of the conflict. The [precise compilation](#) of western casualties contrasts with almost criminal neglect in tracking the numbers of Afghan civilians killed since 2001. If Afghanistan is the "good war" then why are we not demanding to be accurately told how many skeletons there are in the Afghan closet?

In 2005 Donald Rumsfeld famously quipped that "death has a tendency to encourage a depressing view of war". The US defence department maintains documentation on US military personnel only, while the British ministry of defence "does not maintain records that would enable a definitive number of civilian fatalities to be recorded" – although it did confirm last month that payments to relatives of Afghan civilians killed in error by British forces have [trebled over the past year](#). The Afghan government, characterised by massive levels of ineptitude and corruption, has failed to keep centralised records of civilian casualties which would enable it to issue annual estimates.

True to form, [the International Security Assistance Force](#) has also avoided releasing body counts – leaving it to an inconsistent patchwork group of NGOs and academics to [correlate the numbers](#) of dead Afghans. Although boosted by an occasional United Nations report, homemade body counts are largely unreliable, as they struggle to agree on a consistent methodology and are unable to keep up to date with the constant grind of killing. Perhaps the best statistics we have on the plight of the Afghans is the UN report on how for the past three decades Afghanistan has been the leading country of origin for refugees – with 2.9 million Afghans living across 71 countries.

How can any western official claim to have the best interests of the Afghans at heart when they don't even know how many they've killed?

To understand the western presence in Afghanistan it is of critical importance to effectively and publicly track the lives lost as a result of both military and "insurgent" action.

In 2009 the head of the army, General Sir Richard Dannatt, told the BBC Radio 4 Today programme: "A high number of deaths inevitably makes you question what we are doing, how we are doing it. The conclusion one has to reach is, going right back to basics on this, that this mission is really important." Yet Dannatt is guilty of a moral triangulation that has typified the avoidance of a real audit into Afghan deaths.

Indeed, the constant repetition of the British death toll and fiscal expenditure is part of the "blood and treasure" argument that, in a country that supports its soldiers, places a firewall in front of any real debate on the war itself, typified by the consensus during the recent election campaign.

After sacking General Stanley McChrystal, President Obama announced that the personnel had changed, not the policy. Yet in the furore over McChrystal's attacks on the US civilian leadership, people missed how the Rolling Stone article [highlighted](#) that the former general was engaged in a battle with the military to reduce civilian casualties. McChrystal spoke of how "we've shot an amazing number of people", a reality that is most viscerally described in Sebastian Junger's [account of the war](#).

Turning the US military into a more nuanced killing machine had been a struggle for McChrystal as soldiers saw their lives being placed at greater risk. While he was in charge, McChrystal attempted to avoid civilian casualties (known as Civ Cas) by reducing air and artillery strikes, the destroying of houses and dangerous US military driving styles. The recent Marjah offensive and upcoming Kandahar operations were highly publicised to allow civilians to leave the area. McChrystal explained to his men that "the Russians killed one million Afghans and that didn't work".

Our way out of Afghanistan, the McChrystal/[Petraeus](#) counterinsurgency strategy, emphasises protecting local populations, providing them with services such as schools and health clinics. Yet without proper tracking of the numbers of Afghans killed then the best Petraeus may be able to achieve, as he did in Iraq, is a narrative of success that ignores the far more complex and bloody reality.

AMY GOODMAN INTERVIEWS MICHAEL HASTINGS

Michael Hastings of Rolling Stone on the Story that Brought Down Gen. McChrystal and Exposed Widening Disputes Behind the U.S. Debacle in Afghanistan

In a rare extended interview, we speak to Michael Hastings, whose article in Rolling Stone magazine [D: here's a clip: "[The Runaway General](#)"]<http://www.rollingstone.com/politics/news/17390/119236>] led to the firing of General Stanley McChrystal. Hastings' piece quoted McChrystal and his aides making disparaging remarks about top administration officials, and exposed long-standing disagreements between civilian and military officials over the conduct of the war. The Senate confirmed General David Petraeus as McChrystal's replacement on Wednesday, one day after McChrystal announced his retirement from the military on Tuesday after a 34-year career. For the full interview go to

<http://www.democracynow.org/2010/7/1/hastings>

The main subject of the interview is the failure of the invasion and occupation and the Hasting's final comment:

MICHAEL HASTINGS: ... Petraeus' genius in Iraq was engineering this sort of face-saving withdrawal despite the fact, I still think Baghdad is more violent than Kabul. But people on the beltway have convinced themselves we've won in Iraq. What are we fighting? Two or three more years of bloody fighting and then draw down to maybe 50,000 troops and then we're going start doing counter-terrorism plus which is what Vice President Biden had been advocating all along,

GENERAL MCCHRISTAL, PRESIDENT OBAMA, AND OUR LONGEST WAR: Conclusion of Amy Goodman's interview.

In the end, however, McChrystal got almost exactly what he wanted.

On December 1st, in a speech at West Point, the president laid out all the reasons why fighting the war in Afghanistan is a bad idea:

- It's expensive;
- we're in an economic crisis;
- a decade-long commitment would sap American power;
- Al Qaeda has shifted its base of operations to Pakistan.

Then, without ever using the words "victory" or "win," Obama announced that he would send an additional 30,000 troops to Afghanistan, almost as many as McChrystal had requested. The president had thrown his weight, however hesitantly, behind the counterinsurgency crowd.

Today, as McChrystal gears up for an offensive in southern Afghanistan, the prospects for any kind of success look bleak. In June, the death toll for U.S. troops passed 1,000, and the number of IEDs has doubled. Spending hundreds of billions of dollars on the fifth-poorest country on earth has failed to win over the civilian population, whose attitude toward U.S. troops ranges from intensely wary to openly hostile. The biggest military operation of the year – a ferocious offensive that began in February to retake the southern town of Marja – continues to drag on, prompting McChrystal himself to refer to it as a "bleeding ulcer."

In June, Afghanistan officially outpaced Vietnam as the longest war in American history – and Obama has quietly begun to back away from the deadline he set for withdrawing U.S. troops in July of next year. The president finds himself stuck in something even more insane than a quagmire: a quagmire he knowingly walked into, even though it's precisely the kind of gigantic, mind-numbing, multigenerational nation-building project he explicitly said he didn't want.

MORE ABOUT HASTINGS

<http://www.commondreams.org/headline/2010/06/25-5>

When politicians misbehave. By speaking the truth.

“General McChrystal and the Wages of Hypocrisy”

<http://www.hnn.us/articles/128443.html>

By Mark A. LeVine, History News Network, posted June 28, 2010

The author teaches Middle Eastern history at the University of California, Irvine

“Endless War, a Recipe for Four-Star Arrogance”

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/06/25/AR2010062502160.html>

By Andrew Bacevich, Washington Post, posted June 27, 2010

The author teaches history and international relations at Boston University

CHRISTIANS OPPOSED TO US OCCUPATION OF AFGHANISTAN

It's Time to End This War

by [Jim Wallis](#) 07-01-2010

After his unanimous approval by the Senate Armed Services Committee as the new Afghan war commander, General David Petraeus was pictured in *The Washington Post* with a broad smile and thumbs up proclaiming, “We are all firmly united in seeking to forge unity of effort.” No, we’re not, General. No, we’re not. In fact, I believe it’s time to begin to unite the religious community against [the war in Afghanistan](#).

Following last week’s resignation of General Stanley McChrystal as commander of U.S. forces in Afghanistan, confirmation hearings began right away for Petraeus to become his replacement. But the real issue is not replacing one general with another because of inappropriate comments and insubordination — it’s the fatally flawed war policy in Afghanistan.

In February 1968, North Vietnamese and Viet Cong attacks erupted throughout South Vietnam, showing that U.S. political and military leaders’ optimistic pronouncements that the end of the war was

near were not true. By then, it was clear to many that the war was not winnable, yet more than half of U.S. casualties in Vietnam occurred from that spring until the end of the war (35,000 of the total 58,000).

I have walked the line at the Vietnam Memorial Wall many times, with tears running down my face as I read the names of my generation who were killed there. And the painful remorse over that awful war is even greater when I remember that the majority of those who died in Vietnam were killed after we knew we would ultimately have to come home without “winning” the unwinnable war. The last of the many reasons for staying in Vietnam that I recall President Nixon saying was to come home “with our heads held high.” We didn’t.

[After 9/11](#), an international police action to bring the perpetrators of that horrible crime to justice would have been one thing. But to begin a war and then an occupation of Afghanistan was the wrong policy, quickly killing more Afghan innocents than the American innocents who died on September 11. It was then further compromised by the completely mistaken and morally unjustifiable [war in Iraq](#). When will we ever learn? The failed policies are all too familiar: a counter-insurgency strategy requiring more and more troops; creating the continued presence of a large U.S. military force; increasing the resentment and hostility of the Afghan people at a foreign occupation; trying to create a central government out of an ungovernable tribal society; and depending on an incompetent and utterly corrupt political ruler and regime.

An effective anti-terrorism policy was never really tried and was replaced by a “war on terrorism” which has failed. Here’s the metric: Has our primarily military policy in Afghanistan and Iraq killed more terrorists than it has recruited? I think we know the answer to that. The math of terrorism is against us. And our military obsession has made the most important question impossible to ask and even unpatriotic to consider: How might we reduce and defeat the causes of terrorism in the first place? A new strategy in Afghanistan that focuses on humanitarian assistance and sustainable economic development, along with international policing, was also never tried. It could have been led by NGOs, both faith-based and secular, who have been in the region for years, have become quite indigenous, and are much more trusted by the people of these countries than are the U.S. military. But such assistance would have to be provided, as much as possible, by independent civilian and non-governmental organizations — both international and local — rather than using aid as a government adjunct to military operations.

Yes, after taking over the country, we do have a responsibility not to simply walk away. There are ethical and moral issues that need to be considered: legitimately protecting Americans from further terrorism; protecting the lives of U.S. servicemen and women; protecting the Afghan people from the collateral damage of war; defending women from the Taliban; genuinely supporting democracy; and of course, saving innocent lives from the collateral damage of war, to name a few.

And yes, effective development needs security. We could have focused on economic development, starting in areas that are secure and then growing to additional parts of the country, but providing only the security necessary to protect the rebuilding of the country. That kind of peacekeeping security would have been more likely to gain the international support we needed in Afghanistan, both from Europe and even from Arab and Muslim countries.

Non-military strategies should have led the way, rather than the other way around, as counter-insurgency doctrine requires. We should not have made aid and development weapons of war by tying them so closely to the military; rather, we should have only provided the security support needed for the development work to succeed — led by respected, well-established international organizations with strong local connections.

The current strategy, even with a new commander, will only lead to more casualties — U.S. and Afghan — while likely strengthening popular support for the Taliban as an anti-occupation force. It is a strategy of endless war that is ultimately doomed to failure.

Last Sunday, the photo on the front page of *The New York Times* broke my heart. It showed the family

of a military serviceman just before he was redeployed to Afghanistan. He was in his fatigues, holding his 6-month-old son with a look of deep pain on his face, with his wife resting her head against his shoulder. The article told story after story about families being separated by repeated deployments in an endless war. Soldiers who are fathers, mothers, sons, and daughters are dying for a wrong-headed, ineffective, failed, doomed, arrogant, theologically unjust, and yes, immoral war policy. And of course, the ones dying are not the young people headed for our best universities and successful professional careers, but rather they are the ones who have fewer options, or who see the military as their only option. Those with the least opportunities, and their families, are again the ones to sacrifice and suffer. It's not right and it's not fair.

The number of U.S. service members killed in June was the highest for one month since this now nine-year war began. It's time to end this war. Or should we just start building another wall?

Jim Wallis is the author of [Rediscovering Values: On Wall Street, Main Street, and Your Street — A Moral Compass for the New Economy](#), and CEO of [Sojourners](#). He blogs at www.godspolitics.com.
[+Click here to get e-mail updates from Jim Wallis](#)

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“Historical Lessons Warn Against Modern US Foreign Policy”

<http://original.antiwar.com/pfaff/2010/06/15/historical-lessons-warn-against/>

by William Pfaff, Antiwar.com, posted June 16, 2010

NEW FILM

Restrepo, 94 min., Outpost Films. Rev. *Mother Jones* (July/August 2010): “a harrowing documentary that tracks the deployment” of a platoon “from naïve bloodlust to fatigue and disillusionment.” An effective anti-war film by being “singlemindedly faithful to the experiences of the soldiers it portrays”—“teenagers into the wilderness to watch one another die.” (D)

American troops pull out of Korengal Valley as strategy shifts

By Tom Coghlan / [London Times](#)

American troops have withdrawn from a notorious valley in eastern Afghanistan that has seen some of the worst fighting of the war, with commanders citing a shift in strategy.

A low-key press release yesterday announced the “realignment” of US forces out of the Korengal Valley, where 42 American soldiers have been killed and hundreds wounded since 2005. One base established at the northern end of the six-mile-long valley will be retained to block a Taleban infiltration route.

“Repositioning forces from the Korengal Valley to more populated areas will allow us to have greater flexibility,” said Colonel Randy George, the commander of US forces in Kunar province. “The area was once very operationally important but, appropriate to the new strategy, we are focusing our efforts on population centres. We’re still able to conduct operations there, even without a base, like we do in other remote valleys.”

However, while American commanders argue that the valley — close to the Pakistan border — is a remote backwater of limited strategic value, its symbolic value is considerable and its abandonment will be claimed as a victory by the Taleban. The intense fighting in the area has been portrayed in a film, *Restrepo*, named as best documentary at the Sundance Film Festival in February, and has inspired at least one book.

Since late last year, American forces have abandoned seven bases along the eastern border — angering Pakistan, which claims that the American withdrawals have compromised their efforts to put pressure on militants. Pakistan maintains 900 border forts along the historic and porous Durand Line between itself and Afghanistan, while US and Afghan forces are reducing the 80 or 90 forts on their side.

The new American approach echoes a shift in strategy pursued by Soviet forces in the area who, after 1986, ceded remote areas to the Mujahidin and focused their efforts on the cities, main arteries and areas of dense population.

The Korengal Valley sits on an infiltration route for militants from Pakistan’s remote tribal agency of Bajaur, which Pakistani forces have recently retaken. The valley has just 4,500 inhabitants but has proved troublesome for American commanders since they entered the area in 2005. It contains a fiercely xenophobic tribe of mountain people who speak their own language — Korengali — and have resisted all outside influence. They are converts to Wahhabism, the most austere school of Islam, and the one practised by Osama bin Laden.

The commander of US forces in Afghanistan, General Stanley McChrystal, pondered last year whether.....

WHY ARE WE IN AFGHANISTAN? WILLIAM BLUM ON GERMAN PRESIDENT TRUTH TELLER

The German president, Horst Koehler, resigned last week because he said something government officials are not supposed to say. He said that Germany was fighting in Afghanistan for economic reasons. No reference to democracy. Nothing about freedom. Not a word about Good Guys fighting Bad Guys. The word "terrorism" was not mentioned at all. Neither was "God". On a trip to German

troops in Afghanistan he had declared that a country such as Germany, dependent on exports and free trade, must be prepared to use military force. The country, he said, had to act "to protect our interests, for example, free trade routes, or to prevent regional instability which might certainly have a negative effect on our trade, jobs and earnings".

"Koehler has said something openly that has been obvious from the beginning," said the head of Germany's Left Party. "German soldiers are risking life and limb in Afghanistan to defend the export interests of big economic interests." ⁸

Other opposition politicians had called for Koehler to take back the remarks and accused him of damaging public acceptance of German military missions abroad. ⁹

As T.S. Eliot famously observed: "Humankind can not bear very much reality."

By William Blum, "Anti-Empire Report," June 10, 2010

AFGHANISTAN: SEEKING A WAY OUT

A collection of essays . *Fellowship* (Spring 2010).

Editorial: "Hearts and Minds." The majority of people in Central Asia want foreign military forces to leave their country entirely.

David Wildman, "It's Time to End the War in Afghanistan." Urges a "swift military exit." Denounces the Iraq and Afghan surges. Demands end of drone strikes and targeted assassinations. Would protect the Afghan people. Etc. Wildman is Exec. Sec't. for human rights and racial justice with the United Methodist Church's General Board of Global Ministries.

Doug Mackey and Hakim. "Is this Our Afghan Moment of Peace?" About the Journey to Smile with Afghan people and the People's Journey to a Peace Beyond Dismissal www.ourjourneytosmile.com

Rabia Terri Harris, "On Islamic Nonviolence."

Samina Sundas, "The War on Peace: How U.S. Foreign Policy Puts Us All at Risk."

HISTORIANS AGAINST THE WARS: AFGHANISTAN

1. **The DVD "Why Are We in Afghanistan?", written by Mike Zweig** of U.S. Labor Against the War, mentioned in a HAW mailing this past winter, is getting some strong endorsements (e.g., from the union representing faculty and staff in the New York State public university system) as well as winning the Studs Terkel Prize for Media and Journalism from the Working Class Studies Association. Both the full 28-minute version and a condensed 11-minute version can be seen on the web site, <http://www.WhyAreWeInAfghanistan.org> which also has a link to a teacher guide and information on ordering the DVD.

[Edrene McKay's response: That DVD "Why Are We in Afghanistan?" is excellent. It clearly makes the connection between the war and pipelines, energy policy, and competition for resources among nations in the Middle East. The study guide is good too. I'm hoping to make the film the centerpiece of a teach-in on the war at NWACC in the fall. Perhaps we can have some events at OMNI too and make it a joint effort.

HAW is planning a series of teach-ins around the country in the fall and a conference in Washington, D.C. in collaboration with other peace groups early in 2011. I hope we can send a bus (or van) of young people and find them some inexpensive accommodations. It will be national in scope and an effort worth supporting.]

2. A HAW-initiated session on the "Long War" has been accepted for the January 2011 AHA convention in Boston. Staughton Lynd proposed the session, which will also include Andrew Bacevich, Herbert Bix, and Carl Mirra.

ANTI-WAR ESSAYS

The Ghosts of Gandamark"

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/05/09/opinion/09dalrymple.htm>

By William Dalrymple, New York Times, posted May 9

Lessons from the First Anglo-Afghan War (1839-42); the author is writing a book on that war

"Why Faisal Shahzad Bombed Times Square"

<http://www.zcommunications.org/why-faisal-shahzad-bombed-times-square-by-pervez-hoodbhoy>

By Pervez Hoodbhoy, Z-Net, posted May 8

"The Bomb: Howard Zinn's Last Call to Rebel Against War"

<http://www.zcommunications.org/the-bomb-howard-zinns-last-call-to-rebel-against-war-by-jonah-raskin>

By Jonah Raskin, Z-Net, posted May 8 (originally in the Rag Blog)

"The Downward Slope of Empire: Talking with Chalmers Johnson"

<http://www.counterpunch.org/kreisler05062010.html>

By Harry Kriesler, CounterPunch.org, posted May 6

"Blood or Treasure: Obama's Crucial Choice in the Middle East"

<http://www.commondreams.org/view/2010/05/07-0>

By Ira Chernus, TomDispatch.com, posted May 6

"Can the US Triumph in the Drug-Addicted War in Afghanistan?: Opium, the CIA and the Karzai Administration"

<http://www.zcommunications.org/can-the-us-triumph-in-the-drug-addicted-war-in-afghanistan-by-peter-dale-scott>

By Peter Dale Scott, Z-Net, posted May 5 (originally in the Asia-Pacific Journal)

"American Mistakes in Afghanistan and Iraq"

<http://www.hnn.us/articles/126152.html>

By Deepak Tripathi, History News Network, posted May 3

"'We're Summoning Our Forces...': May Day & SDS & SNCC Jubilee"

<http://www.counterpunch.org/linebaugh04302010.html>

By Peter Linebaugh, CounterPunch.org, posted April 30

The author teaches history at the University of Toledo

"The Pentagon Book Club"

<http://www.thenation.com/doc/20100517/turse>

By Nick Turse, The Nation, May 17 issue, posted April 29

PAKISTAN

Democracy Now 4-13-10 Pakistan killing its own people and displacing 200,000(?) from its NW Province. (D)

Amidst Clinton Visit, Pakistani Military Accused of Extrajudicial Killings (from *Democracy Now* July 19, 2010)

Secretary of State Hillary Clinton has unveiled a new round of aid projects to Pakistan. The funding will come out of the \$7.5 billion aid package for Pakistan approved by Congress last year. The US will sponsor a number of initiatives, including two new hydroelectric dams. At a meeting with Pakistan's foreign minister in Islamabad, Clinton addressed widespread Pakistani opposition to the US-backed militarization of Pakistan's conflict with Taliban and al-Qaeda-linked groups.

Secretary of State Hillary Clinton: "We know that there is some questioning, even suspicion, about what the United States is doing today, and I can only respond by saying that very clearly we have a commitment that is much broader and deeper than it has ever been, that we expect to start seeing results. It is bipartisan. It is both at the executive branch and the congressional branch in our country. And we are going to continue to work to achieve very tangible results."

Clinton's visit comes as the Pakistani army is facing allegations of committing extrajudicial killings in the restive Swat Valley. According to Human Rights Watch, the Pakistani army has killed 238 Taliban suspects since September. Some of the victims' bodies have been found with signs of torture.

AFGHAN, IRAQ, PAKISTAN WARS, IRAN AND CONTROL OF INFORMATION

--Dimaggio, Anthony. *When Media Goes to War: Hegemonic Discourse, Public Opinion, and the Limits of Dissent*. Monthly Review P, 2009. Dissects the limits of dissent in the US press, stressing the government and mass media's use of propaganda to restrict information in the "war on terror." That is, the book explains how U.S. mainstream media frame foreign policy on Iraq, Afghanistan, and Iran in accord with the views of political officials and other elite representatives. The book's central analytical method is that of Edward Herman and Noam Chomsky in their *Manufacturing Consent: The Political Economy of the Mass Media*.

--Herman, Edward and Noam Chomsky. *Manufacturing Consent: The Political Economy of the Mass Media*. Pantheon, 1988/2002. Explains the performance of mainstream US media in terms of basic institutional structures and relationships within which they operate, especially the powerful societal and financial interests that control them. Media function to inculcate and defend the agendas of privileged groups that dominate the US in many ways, including selection of topics, distribution of concerns, framing of issues, filtering of information, emphasis and tone, and by keeping the bounds of debate within acceptable premises. Especially, five media filters function to direct access and disseminate information to the

public: 1) ownership, owner wealth, profit orientation, 2) advertising the main income source, 3) reliance on government, business, and experts funded by these institutions of power, 4) "flak" to discipline media, and 5) anti-communism as national religion to silence criticism (which today includes anti-terrorism). US bipartisan foreign policy politics function within the boundaries set by these filters.

NEW BOOK

Wawro, Geoffrey. *Quicksand*. Penguin, 2010.