

# WHO NEEDS WAR?

## COURAGE!

WE NEED to take courage from each other. The media are telling lies about our strength and our intentions. But anti-war action - school student strikes, workplace strikes, dancing, drumming, shouting, marches, occupations, blockades, die-ins, property damage, group meetings, talking with friends and neighbours - are sweeping the world.

Politicians - what will they really listen to? They represent big business more than they represent us. They already know the score about the injustice and brutality of this war. Orderly regulated protest will not be enough to change their minds.

Individual police may be against the war but the force as a whole are not neutral. Their boss is the state and their job is to make our protests ineffectual; allowing the government to do what they want. They are prepared to use violence against us. Why should we have to ask permission from warmongers and their servants when we can follow our own consciences?



Edinburgh, 17 March : the day we stormed the Castle

## SOMETHING ELSE

A school student from Edinburgh writes:

TONY BLAIR can easily ignore a newsreporter saying 'people all over the world protested today' but he cannot ignore tens of thousands of children walking straight out of school past pleading teachers without permission and marching to a protest. Angry teenagers all over the UK clashing with police, smashing through barricades and blocking all of the roads cannot be ignored. For us its victory or death!!!!

Tony Blair thinks that teenagers are not interested in politics and accused Tommy Sheridan of manipulating us to miss school. Being 15 myself I would disagree with Tony Blair as it appears he has never been 15 in his life (or is most likely too old to remember).

Its funny how none of the newspapers managed to publish anything about the 'Looting' as it got called in Princes Street. Let me assure you it was not 'looting' it was 'raid-

ing' and the only items that were stolen were jeans, a hat, and a DVD disc. The incident happened when everyone had been blocked off from Princes Street by the police, when the crowd marched in the opposite direction, the authorities ran to get in front of the crowd. I began running with my friends and a crowd began to follow.

As soon as everyone was on Princes Street chaos broke loose. It doesn't matter how many old people can yell 'this is what democracy looks like' whilst having a sickeningly controlled protest, because what happened was something else altogether.

We proceeded to charge down the street placing stickers on buses and cars, as all the police were busy controlling the main protest. The word seemed to spread like wildfire - the next thing I knew everyone had piled into Levis, knocking things over, then into Dixons, then Virgin. Although the raiding may look like a bunch of trigger-happy mindless kids trying to discredit the protest this was more an action in defiance of Tony Blair & George Bush's (supposed) war against terrorism than anything else.

Gogs (15).

...SCOTLAND RESISTS THE WAR.....SCOTLAND RESISTS THE WAR.....SCOTLAND RESISTS

**Edinburgh** was rocked by 4 anti war actions in 6 days, with striking school students to the fore. "Business as usual" was well disrupted. **17th March** 300 demonstrators stormed Edinburgh Castle, shutting it down. They then took over Princes St.. **19th** An even bigger school students strike saw thousands "die-in" on Princes Street. The crowd broke through police lines on Market Street and reached the US consulate. 2 arrests. **20 March** School students led a breakthrough past police and onto Princes Street. Hundreds ran free and groups raided Next, Virgin, etc.. Later school students invaded the Castle esplanade. 3 arrests. **Sat 22nd** 5,000 marched. A pensioner sparked off an hour long sitdown. In Charlotte Square people aiding a demonstrator violently arrested by plain clothes cops were themselves arrested. Hundreds blockaded the West End to demand all 6 prisoners release. Then a 500-strong defiant march broke police lines to besiege St Leonards Police Station. As we write, actions are planned for 27th and 28th. Activity has swept Scotland, with school students striking in **Peebles, Dumfries, Cupar, Kirkcaldy** and many other places. Hundreds marched in Lerwick, and wee towns and villages like **Fraserburgh, Forres, Innerleithen, Walkerburn, Earlston** have had protests.

**Glasgow** 100,000 people marched on The Labour Party Conference on 15 February. Activists have participated in the cavalcade to Leuchars Air Base and there have been anti-war stalls in the city centre and local shopping centres each weekend. The day war broke out there were demonstrations in George Square, moving out into surrounding streets to block the traffic in order to Stop The City. Young people, in particular school students, were actively involved in organising and participating in this direct action. **Sat 22 March** 5,000 demonstrators were confronted by what seemed like an equal number of Polis as they marched and later blocked road junctions to again Stop The City. **Glasgow Southside Against War** is having a Street Party on Sun 20 April afternoon on the green by Govanhill Pool. All Welcome. Glasgow anti-war photos at [www.mwasafu.f9.co.uk](http://www.mwasafu.f9.co.uk) **Dundee** demonstrators infiltrated round police lines and blockaded the Tay Road Bridge the day after war started. School students took strike action in at least 7 schools. Next day lively protests targeted the Labour Party conference and blocked the traffic. 3 arrests. Saturday's march was more controlled, but there was a sit-down. **Aberdeen** resisters also blocked city centre traffic. At **RAF Leuchars** a heroic activist caused £25 million damage to a military plane.

# Taking action against the war, Reclaiming our world



Stopping the City....Princes Street, Edinburgh blockaded on 19 March.

## Global Terrorism

Between 1945 and 1999, the US government bombed the people of:

China 1945-46  
Korea 1950-53  
China 1950-53  
Guatemala 1954  
Indonesia 1958  
Cuba 1959-60  
Guatemala 1960  
Congo 1964  
Peru 1965  
Laos 1964-73  
Vietnam 1961-73  
Cambodia 1969-73  
El Salvador 1980s  
Nicaragua 1980s  
Panama 1989  
Iraq 1991-99  
Sudan 1998  
Afghanistan 1998  
Yugoslavia 1999

The 'War on Terrorism' is part of a long tradition of US-sponsored terror. The US government continues to create and support brutal dictatorships. Pinochet, Saddam Hussein and Osama bin Laden are examples of US foreign policy. See for example Rogue State by William Blum.

CHECK OUT...  
[www.urban75.org](http://www.urban75.org)  
[www.zmag.org](http://www.zmag.org)  
[uk.indymedia.org](http://uk.indymedia.org) (esp.Scotland bit)  
[www.medialens.org](http://www.medialens.org)  
[www.democracynow.org](http://www.democracynow.org)  
[http://counterinfo.org.uk](http://http://counterinfo.org.uk)  
[www.afed.org.uk](http://www.afed.org.uk)  
[gaia2k@hotmail.com](mailto:gaia2k@hotmail.com) (Glasgow)  
[www.iwww.clydeside.org.uk](http://www.iwww.clydeside.org.uk)  
Faslane Peace Camp 01436 820901

## PRECISION PROPAGANDA

WE ARE the targets of a military campaign. The weapons are words and pictures. Corporate and government media try to convince us that this war is necessary. We are told that "precision bombs" minimise loss of life. We are told that soldiers are heroes who we should support. But there is nothing precise or heroic about war. So-called precision bombing has not only missed particular targets, but entire countries! So far these bombs have also landed in Iran, Syria and Turkey. We are told very little about the extent of death and destruction caused by US/UK military. Lives of civilians and soldiers will be destroyed. Those who survive will never be the same.

Since 21 March the people of Basra, a city of the size of Edinburgh, have gone without clean water or electricity. Many flee to neighbouring countries. In a first-hand account from Syria, Thabit Abdallah says, 'Most [refugees] do whatever they can to survive. Many sell cigarettes, household utensils, or do various types of menial work. There is a person I pass every day near the archives who sells pirated CDs for about \$1 each. He used to curse Saddam whenever I spoke to him. Yesterday he said he would support anyone who fought against the Americans. This is going to be a real mess.'

The war against Iraq is part of a long history of imperialism. It is a war for control over oil, power, and ultimately, people. Activist and academic Noam Chomsky writes that the US government openly declares its aim "to rule the world by force, the one dimension in which US power is supreme, and to make sure that there will never be any challenge to that domination." Imperialism means not letting little things like peoples lives get in the way of profit and control. Corporations, governments and their media work on the same principles — profit and control. State-sponsored terrorism against the people of Iraq is only the latest chapter of this story.

Whether it will be the last depends on our actions. Will we continue to allow others to profit from our lives and our labour? Will we continue to accept control from those who work for their own interests? Or will we organise and resist?

**contact ACTION AGAINST THE WAR, c/o Autonomous Centre of Edinburgh, 17 West Montgomery Place, Edinburgh EH7 5HA tel 0131 557 6242. [www.autonomous.org.uk](http://www.autonomous.org.uk) With others, we hope to assist school students publish their own leaflets/news-sheets - get in touch. (26.3.03)**

## We Are NOT Alone

### Worldwide Resistance to the Attack on Iraq

On 15 February, millions protested around the world, including 2 million in London. In Newcastle people walked out of work the day the war started.

Major protests were held at Menwith Hill, the US spy and military base. School students continue strikes, from Aberystwyth to Manchester. 7 people blockaded an Anglesey military runway for 4 hours, stopping Hawk fighter jets. Striking school students organised a roadside anti-war protest in Liverpool. People in Cambridge made their own anti-war billboard, postering over corporate adverts. People of Hereford shut down an army recruitment centre for a day.

### SEOUL TO HELSINKI...

Candle-lit vigils in Seoul, air base breaches in California, eighty thousand marching in the streets of Stockholm and Helsinki, half a million taking to the streets in Barcelona, Spanish Unions calling for a general strike ... it goes on with some protestors facing intense police repression such as the million marching in Madrid, the 300,000 in Athens, 50,000 in Tokyo and Hamburg.

**Philippines: Manila:** In addition to paint bombing the US embassy, a demonstration of 10,000 people from all sectors of the community was held outside the US Embassy March 23.

**Australia: Perth:** Construction workers walked off building sites and students left their classrooms in response to the attack on Iraq. **Melbourne:** Around 30,000 attended an emergency demo. At the end of the demo 500 people continued on to the US consulate where they lit flares and threw paint bombs at the building.

**South Africa:** In Cape Town over 8000 pupils and workers took to the streets to protest and make a picket at the consulate which now has shifts of 50 people picketing 24 hours a day.

**Canada: Hamilton:** a 'peace village' has been set up by students and local community. People are there 24 hours a day taking part in discussion and organising.

**South Korea, Seoul:** Despite 7,000 riot police blocking the route 1,000 of a 20,000 strong march battled to within 100 metres of the US embassy.