

# THE U.S. IN AFGHANISTAN

## A War For Empire – Not a “Good War” Gone Bad



U.S. Marines break into homes in Garmser, Afghanistan, July 2008.

### THE WAR IN AFGHANISTAN WAS NEVER SIMPLY A RESPONSE TO 9/11.

This so-called “war on terror” is NOT to “protect Americans.” In the Middle East, the U.S. wants to overthrow states not fully under U.S. control. The U.S. wants deeper control of key resources like oil and shipping routes.

The U.S. invasion of Afghanistan grew out of over a decade of imperialist planning.

THE WAR IN AFGHANISTAN IS NOT—AS SOME WOULD SAY—A “GOOD WAR” GONE BAD. From the very start, it was—and continues to be—an unjust, imperialist war of conquest and empire.



At the grave site of some of the 45 dead, most of them women and children, victims of a U.S. air strike in Azizabad, Afghanistan, August 2008.



Black smoke billows after U.S. airstrikes hit a Red Cross warehouse in Afghanistan, October 2001.

The Taliban is a reactionary force. They bring down horror on the people. But this is not why the U.S. opposes them. The U.S. opposes the spread of Islamic Fundamentalism because it stands in the way of U.S. domination in the Middle East. And U.S. imperialism is doing the greatest harm in the world and is the greatest threat to humanity.



Revolution map



Afghan child killed by U.S. airstrike in the town of Azizabad, August 2008.

Right before the U.S. invaded Afghanistan, Donald Rumsfeld (as U.S. Secretary of Defense) said the best way to get at the terrorist networks is to “DRAIN THE SWAMP” they live in. The U.S. rulers have targeted as swamps, entire regions, home to hundreds of millions of people. They have set out to violently conquer and restructure these regions, to crush anyone and anything that stands in the way of U.S. domination.



U.S. Navy loads bombs on USS Abraham Lincoln, which is being relocated to support the war on Afghanistan, July 2008.

Obama doesn't oppose this bloody occupation. In Afghanistan, there are already 60,000 troops from 40 different countries operating under U.S. command. And Obama supports Bush's “surge” of another 15,000 troops in Afghanistan. Obama represents a new face on the U.S. war to dominate the Middle East. He said Iran is “one of the greatest threats to the United States, Israel and world peace...and we should take no option, including military action, off the table.” In reality, giving Obama “time” and support means a death sentence for thousands of people in Afghanistan, Pakistan, and the whole region.

Anyone against unjust war needs to actively resist the U.S. war in Afghanistan NOW!

*“The essence of what exists in the U.S. is not democracy, but capitalism-imperialism and political structures to enforce that capitalism-imperialism.”*  
*“What the U.S. spreads around the world is not democracy, but imperialism and political structures to enforce that imperialism.”*  
Bob Avakian  
Chairman of the RCP,USA