

*" He who lays his hands upon me to govern me is a tyrant . I declare him my enemy. "*

The Anarchist stance is one of opposition to any military aggression directed against any peoples by any government. There is no possible justification for aggression that supports *any* aim of *any* government . Thus anarchists condemn both the Gulf War as and the occupation of Lithuania as crimes against humanity in which all sides are guilty.

This belief arises from the Anarchist principle that it is fundamental to the nature of government that it resorts to military force against its own or other peoples , to reinforce its statist aims. These aims have always been and will always be the self perpetuation of unequal authority , the imposition of the will of the minority over the majority. Thus Iraq oppresses Kuwait , whilst the Soviet Union crushes Lithuania. In one case an attack on other peoples, in the other an attack on their own.

In order to camouflage the anti-people project of the Gulf War and Lithuania, many issues are paid lip service to, in the war of words. Saddam Hussein claims he is waging a Holy War, whilst Bush claims he is protecting the rights of small nations to autonomy; eventhough it is a "socialist" Iraq that covets oil, a bankrupt America plumping for higher oil prices, and Kuwait a feudal monarchy that oppresses women.

But what is really at issue is the New World Order. This pathetic philosophy states that there is no room for the upstart Iraq in a world shared between the cooperative tyrannies of the USA and USSR. So too there is no room for an independent Lithuania that leads towards dismantling the superpower monopoly. Imperialism does not discriminate, it is a disease that attacks those greedy for power; Kuwait and Lithuania are the symptoms of this sickness. Both crises highlight the contradictions of nationalism.

Living in Australia we are in a privileged position as our Multicultural society has the potential to eliminate prejudice and accept the individual for the person within. Surely it is from this basis that we can value the sacredness of all human life and condemn violence.

It is from this perspective that we demand peace.

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