

**RESISTANCE**

**US/AUST  
TROOPS**



**OUT NOW**

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**SPECIAL ANTI-WAR ISSUE**



## resistance

The world is torn by war and poverty. Even in our relatively "lucky country" the jobless numbers are shooting up. Our generation appears to have been dealt a poor hand. In times like this people can either get depressed, give up, tune out or take life as horrible as it may be . . . alternatively, they can begin to ask if life really has to be like this.

In the John Lennon classic, Imagine, which the BBC has banned from the airwaves in Britain he says:

*Imagine there's no countries  
it isn't hard to do  
Nothing to kill or die for  
and no religion too,  
Imagine all the people  
living life in peace*

When the powers that be think this is subversive, perhaps we should give it a thought. They would like to convince us that change is impossible. That in this dog eat dog society you have to play the game or suffer the consequences. Don't dare step outside the boundaries of acceptance or the boundaries might close forever. And at times of war, their war, it's kill or be killed.

But why wouldn't it be possible to put an end to war. After all didn't the Vietnam generation achieve that? More than that, the anti-war movement made it harder for

the US and other countries intent on domination to roam the globe at will.

At the end of the twentieth century more people than ever know that the divisions between nations and cultures can be bridged. We are the most inter-



nationalised and globally-aware generation in human history.

The unequal relation between the industrialised powers and the Third World are there for us to see. We know to see a world of peace means more than ending wars, there must be a cooperative relationship between nations.

Our own society — a relatively advanced and educated society — is also one that thirsts for change. We're told if you think that, you're nothing but a dreamer. But if we don't dare to dream, if we don't dare to think that the world, including our own society, could be different, it suits those in power just fine and we could go on paying for their wealth and dying in their wars.

Just imagine a society where social divisions no longer exist and social differences are applauded. A society where there is a real justice between people and social peace and democratic involvement is the order of the day.

*You may say I'm a dreamer  
but I'm not the only one  
I hope someday you'll join us  
and the world will be as one*

In Resistance, we are not afraid to dream of a better world. But more than dream, we are not afraid to act. We know it is possible to bring about change. We've seen popular movements stop the Vietnam War, bring down Marcos and the Berlin Wall.

Problems exist but the fact remains that people can and do change problems and societies. So, if you want to be part of bringing our dreams to reality — join Resistance!

One hundred Cruise missiles, 18,000 tonnes of bombs, \$600 million — just some of what the United States used in the first day of the war against Iraq. The number of lives it cost is still unclear. We are told the war in the Gulf was caused by Saddam Hussein, who is "insane". But is explaining the insanity of war that simple?

By Graham Matthews

War, we are told at school and by the media, is caused by individuals. World War I was "caused" by the assassination of an Austrian Duke. World War II was "caused" because Hitler was mad. The "forces of evil" we are told, attack the values of decent civilisation and must be resisted lest the whole structure collapse into barbarism.

War, we are told, is the history of "great men" and their doings. It is somehow apart from the rest of history, and because it is usually only the "winners" whose version we see, the fact MIGHT IS RIGHT is rarely challenged.

### WHY DO WARS HAPPEN?

Wars occur not on the whim of individuals, but as a result of fundamental social contradictions: contradictions between rich countries and poor countries; between the rulers of one country and the people they rule; and contradictions between emerging nations and their previous colonial masters.

The first two world wars were caused by the conflicts among rich industrialised countries in the West over the control of their colonies in Africa, the Middle East and Asia. Since then most wars, like the Vietnam War, have been waged between powerful nations against newly-independent nations in the Third World. None of these wars have been waged in the United States of America and yet that government played a major role in each one of them.

It is no accident that the United States of America, the richest and most powerful state in the world, has been involved in

economic aid and yet we are told that these wars were waged to protect peace and justice.

If all the governments of the world reduced their military expenditure by just one fifth, world hunger could be totally abolished by the year 2000, according to the United Nations disarmament department.

A biased media gives us the impression that wars are provoked by militaristic dictators in Third World countries. Yet 70 per cent of all military spending is done by the six major powers, another 15 per cent by other industrialised countries and the remaining 15 per cent by Third World nations. Most of the arms bought by Third World nations are produced in the industrialised countries and sold for lucrative profits. Most Third World dictators are supported by major powers because this helps them keep the world's majority in poverty and exploitation.

Very few people really profit from war. These are the small minority of people who own and control the transnational corporations and the politicians and generals who do their bidding.

The link between profits and war can be seen as we watch the price of shares in arms industries soaring as large contracts for more missiles, bombs and planes roll in. Just as the Krupp corporation did well out of World War II, General Electric and McDonnell Douglas will make a fortune out of the war in the Middle East.

### PEACEFUL SETTLEMENTS

The nineteenth century German military strategist Karl von Clausewitz's famous dictum that "war is the continuation of policy by a different means", has grown

# WAR.



# WHAT FOR?

wars in every continent. Each time around, it has claimed to have justice on its side. Yet after so many wars, why is justice such a rare commodity around the world? Why do millions go hungry while a few monopolise most of the world's wealth?

Who has gained from these wars? Certainly it is not the soldiers who do the fighting and dying. Nor is it the vast majority of the people in the countries who go to war. The countries who are attacked bear the brunt of these wars in terms of death, destruction and further retardation of their economic and social development. Vietnam is still recovering from the war that ended a decade and a half ago.

The terrible cost of these wars is obvious. More than 20,000,000 people have been killed in 150 wars since World War II. The rich industrialised countries spend over 20 times more on military aid than on

hopelessly out of date. Today, all warfare, brings the threat of nuclear weapons. Despite the encouraging process of nuclear disarmament begun by the USSR which has reduced the risk of nuclear war, the threat of their use, with catastrophic social and environmental consequences still hangs over our heads.

Even if nuclear weapons are not used, a planet which is on the brink of ecological crisis cannot afford a major war, like that unfolding in the Middle East. Weapons of mass destruction reek havoc on natural ecosystems, just as they do on human targets. For these reasons war is not an acceptable solution to the conflicts between nations in the world today. Human survival itself is at stake.

A worldwide peace movement took up the urgent task of preventing the outbreak of more wars, with some success. Over the

last five years, there has been an international attempt to solve so-called regional conflicts by negotiation rather than by military means. Independence in Namibia, the peace process in Cambodia, and moves to a resolution in Afghanistan, have been some of the early successes of this new approach.

But suddenly this hope for an end to war, cherished by so many, has been squashed when a coalition of the most powerful nations began fullscale war in the Arab-Persian Gulf. While US President George Bush has continually said he is willing to "go the extra mile for peace" his actions have shown differently. In the deserts of Saudi Arabia, he gathered the biggest war contingent ever assembled for years. He flattered peace-makers as appeasers of Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein. Yet at the same time his government continues to

prop up repressive military regimes in Guatemala, Chile, El Salvador and many other countries. Bush is blocking any meaningful peace in the Middle East. As the warplanes continually pound Iraq and Kuwait and the war keeps escalating the world is being dragged closer to the abyss. The Australian government has taken the same enthusiastic pro-war stance because big business in Australia is also prepared to risk human survival in order to preserve the inequality between rich and poor nations. It is never explained that way, of course. But as the noted Australian journalist John Pilger restated in a recent article in the British Guardian, truth is the first casualty of war.

The war-makers can be stopped. An international peace movement forced an end to the war in Vietnam. Today, we can and must end the war for oil in the Middle East. If we don't, no-one will! ☆

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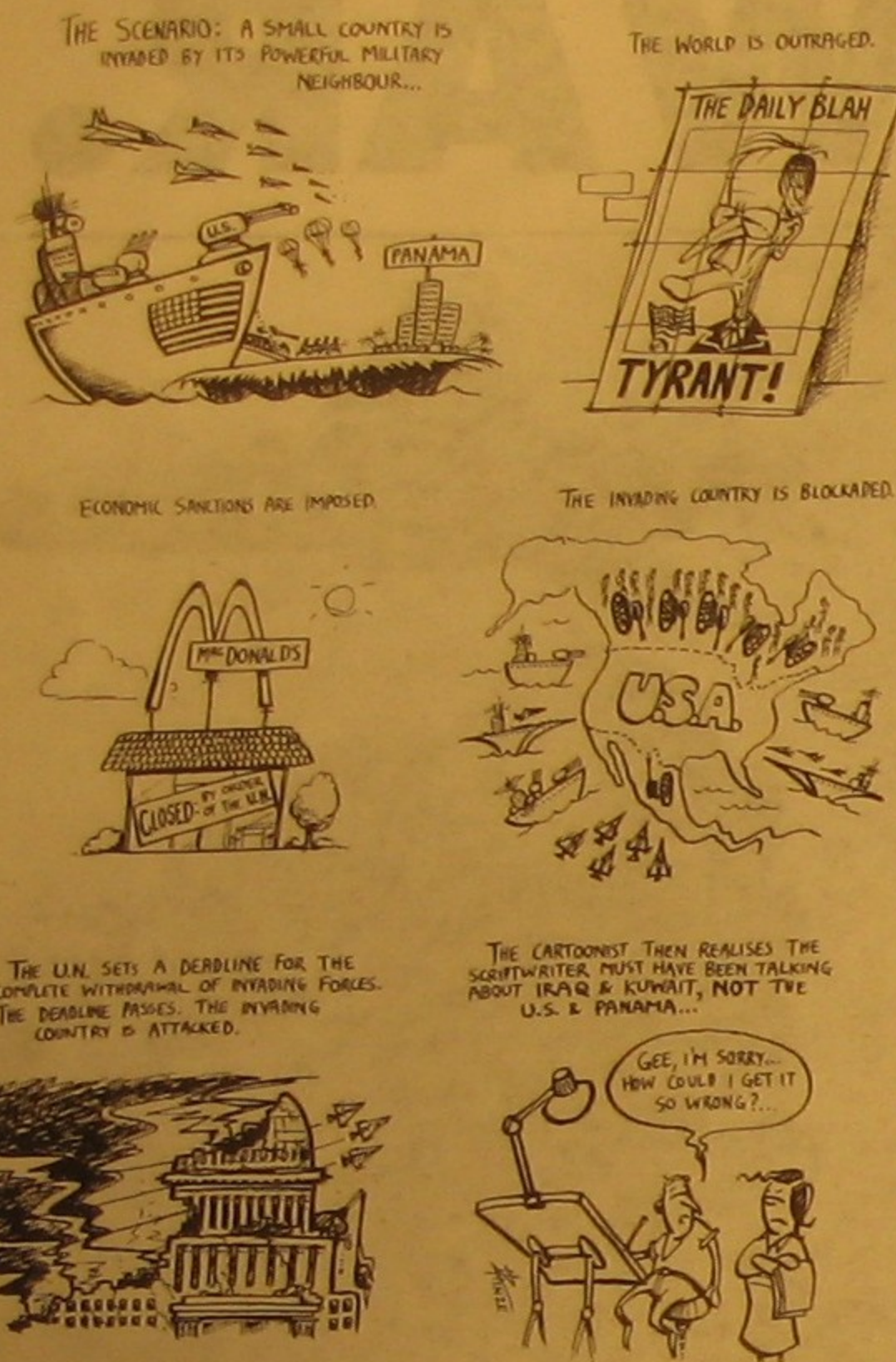
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denmed by the United Nations and, in the case of Nicaragua, the International Court found the US guilty of breaking international law.

The Hawke Labor government and the Liberal-National opposition feigned concern for Kuwait as they rushed to consign Australians to the war against Iraq, but they shut their eyes to the rights of self-determination of the people of East Timor, West Papua and Bougainville, our closest neighbours. In fact, Australian governments have armed and aided the states that are suppressing these peoples.

If the "New Order" is to be based on law-governed and peaceful relations between nations, why did the US block any negotiated settlement of the Iraq-Kuwait conflict? The Palestine Liberation Organisation and Arab countries like Jordan, Yemen and Algeria all attempted to find a peaceful solution, but all were immediately rejected by the US, and these peace-makers were quickly branded tools of Saddam Hussein.

Even attempts by the Soviet Union and several European governments to open some meaningful discussion with Iraq were immediately dismissed by the US, which refused to consider any of the grievances Iraq had against the former Kuwaiti regime.

From August last year, the US began gathering a mighty war machine in the Gulf, a machine that openly aspired to attain offensive capability. This was primarily a US machine. Other nations were urged to contribute forces or funding, but at all times military command has remained with the Pentagon. Significantly, the most enthusiastic partners of the US in this war are the governments of other rich countries.

The blockade of Iraq, only legitimised after the fact by the UN Security Council, covered a build-up of armed forces by the US and its allies in preparation for a war they were determined to wage. The January 15 deadline set by the UN Security Council, a narrow body dominated by the world's most powerful states, was designed more to allow the US and its allies enough time to build up offensive capability in the region than to allow the search for a peaceful solution.

The US did not launch war because Saddam Hussein is a dictator. On the contrary, the US and other Western powers supplied and supported him while he carried out attacks on his domestic opposition, the Kurdish minority in Iraq and while he waged an eight-year-long war against Iran. The US has supported dictators in many other countries like Chile, Argentina, Turkey and Haiti; today it is even helping to return Pol Pot's brutal Khmer Rouge to power in Cambodia.

The war against Iraq is aimed at perpetuating the very system that keeps much of the Third World under the thumb of brutal Western-backed dictators. This network of oppression is an essential part of the vast US-dominated economic empire built on the systematic exploitation of the world by the multinational corporations.

The US has always kept a

direct military presence in the Middle East because this region has the biggest oil reserves in the world. In this sense the Gulf War is a war for oil. But US access to oil through fair trade has never been challenged, as no oil producing country in the underdeveloped world can survive without selling its oil to the industrialised countries in the West.

The US wants to defend its *unfair trade* with the countries of the gulf. It wants to defend its "right" to buy gulf oil cheap and sell its manufactured goods and technical services at exorbitant prices. Hence the obscene celebrations in Wall Street at the first glorified reports of the bombing of Iraq.

This exploitative relationship between the West and the Middle East has prompted many earlier US military interventions in the region. The CIA trained the Shah of Iran's torturers and carried out numerous intrigues and assassinations; US marines have landed twice in Lebanon (1958 and 1982); US warships have shelled Lebanese villages, attacked Iranian ships in the gulf and even shot down an Iranian airliner, killing 290 people, in 1988.

Central to US strategies to maintain hegemony in the region has been a policy of keeping Israel as militarily the most powerful (and only nuclear-armed) state in the region.

However, international pressure for a settlement of the Palestinian question made the US and Israel determined to weaken the most powerful of the Arab states. The war between Iraq and Iran was expected to exhaust those two states while Syria was encouraged to become embroiled in the Lebanon. But Saddam Hussein sought to recover quickly from the war with Iran by invading oil-rich Kuwait.

Iraq's invasion of Kuwait created an opening for US military intervention. It split Arab governments and made it difficult even for the most independent of the Arab governments to move effectively to prevent the US intervention. The crisis in the Soviet Union also presented the US with the opportunity to move more aggressively into the area and to exploit the UN Security Council to legitimise its latest intervention.

Bush's "New World Order" is simply the reinforcement of the old neo-colonial order with the US as the only surviving superpower. If this order is not challenged, small and poor nations, national liberation and other progressive movements all around the world can expect the US to be even more ready to use force to impose its interests anywhere in the world. This is the real promise of the "New Order" now being fashioned with bombs in the Gulf. ☆

# NEW WORLD ORDER?

**By Peter Reid**

When the bombs began falling on Baghdad on January 16, the politicians told us we were witnessing the birth of a "New World Order". This was a "just war" that we had to have. The massive use of the most powerful and sophisticated weaponry ever to be used would bring peace and justice in its wake, they say. The way to peace is through war!

These Orwellian justifications for what could be the start of World War III are being repeated over and over again while on television we are being fed a carefully scripted tale of good guys and bad guys.

Smiling generals boast of thousands of air raids and high-tech "surgical-precision" bombing while pilots compare the war with a fireworks display. We are expected to forget that people, probably in their thousands, are being killed in this war. The generals have learnt that the public must be "protected" from the truth if they are to acquiesce in war, especially after the experience of the successful anti-Vietnam War movement.

But what is this "New World Order" that demands such an awesome blood sacrifice? Is this simply a legitimate international response to the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait, or was that invasion merely the pretext for an even bigger act of violent empire building by the United States of America, the world's richest and most powerful state?

If the war in the Arab-Persian Gulf was really launched to safeguard the rights of self-determination of small nations like Kuwait, then what explains the total inconsistency of the US and its allies in their response to numerous other invasions and occupations?

The US time and time again has vetoed any enforcement of United Nations resolutions calling for Israel to withdraw from the occupied Arab territories. The US itself has recently carried out invasions of Grenada and Panama and funded insurgencies against the elected government of Nicaragua, and in Afghanistan. Many of these acts have been con-

## "Join the march and stop the war"



THE LAUNCHING of the attack by the US in the Middle East has sparked the mobilisation of millions of people around the world. As many as 150,000 people across Australia took to the streets around the weekend of January 19 to voice their opposition to the decisions made by the all mighty powers such as George Bush and Bob Hawke.

The big business media have been reporting the demonstrations as representing a "noisy minority" but when you look realistically at the numbers of people involved, this is obviously not the case.

Tension was mounting as the deadline of January 15 approached. Already many people were participating in vigils, church services, public meetings, marches and rallies voicing their concern about the war and the presence of US and Australian troops. This cul-

minated in the huge numbers that turned out at the rallies around January 19.

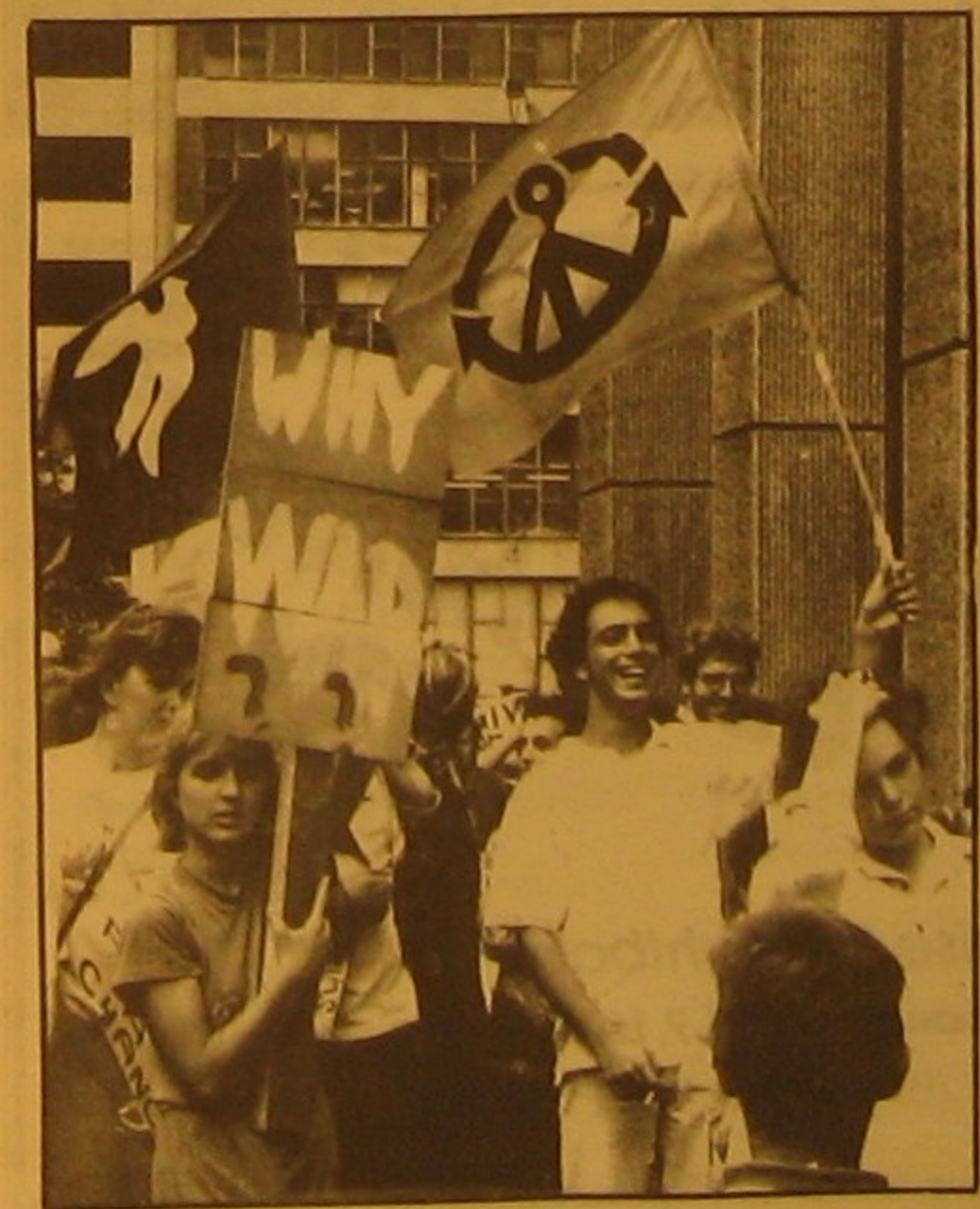
The largest gatherings were in Sydney and Melbourne where there were up to 50,000 people demonstrating; Adelaide had 15-20,000; Canberra 1,500; Brisbane 4-6,000; Perth 4,000; Hobart 3-5,000; Newcastle and Wollongong

marched with Sydney but had events in the build-up which attracted 700-1,000 people; Darwin had its first peace demonstration with 500; several hundred demonstrated outside Pine Gap; Lismore had 2,000; and there were events in Ballarat, Bendigo, Albury Wodonga, Wagga and Gosford. This is obviously not just a "noisy minority"!

The atmosphere of all the demonstrations have been very spirited and enthusiastic. "Join the march, stop the war", was chanted by the Sydney demonstrators to onlookers as they marched from the US consulate to Sydney Town Hall. "No blood for oil, No

Gulf war" was another favourite. As was "1,2,3,4, We don't want a Gulf war, 5,6,7,8, Troops out, negotiate".

As with the powerful and successful anti-war movement in the 1960's and 70's this movement shows every sign of growing until the foreign troops are out of the Gulf. ☆



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# When The War Is Over Will The Environment Survive?

Warfare in the Gulf is an environmental disaster. The smoke from the war and the burning of oil wells and refineries may change the climate of the region, so that the Indian summer monsoons may not occur. This will mean that millions of people could die of starvation. JAMES BASLE a member of South Sydney Greens, the Bring the Frigates Home Coalition, Students United Against War and Resistance looks at the environmental implications of the Gulf War.

There is no doubt that the environmental effects of the Gulf War will be devastating to the Middle East region and to the rest of the world. These effects range from oil spills, the impact of smoke from burning oil, to the effects of chemical contamination and nuclear radiation.

The environmental effects of the Gulf War could be substantially worse than the massive environmental damage which occurred in the Vietnam War which the Vietnamese people are still paying for.

There are a number of reasons why the effects of this war could be catastrophic:

- There are many environmental problems like the destruction of rainforests, the Greenhouse Effect and ozone layer depletion, which have reached a critical level and are threatening the survival of the planet. The thousands of tonnes of explosives used and the tens of thousands of sorties by war planes will add to both these problems.

- This war may involve the use of nuclear weapons. The US has about 1000 nuclear warheads in the Gulf region. Even a "small" nuclear war will devastate the planet and life as we know it.

- Much of the world's oil is in the Middle East. The burning of oil in any large amounts due to the blowing up of oil refineries or oil platforms will have disastrous consequences.

## Burning Oil

Some leading scientists have warned that oil fires and oil contamination are the most serious environmental hazards of a war in the Gulf. Oil fires can occur in two main ways. Either by the US or Iraq bombing oil targets or by the Iraqis detonating mined

oil installations in Kuwait. The US have already created an inferno with the bombing of the Dora oil refinery in Iraq, one of the biggest in the Gulf.

Smoke, soot and chemicals produced by the burning of oil wells and facilities could cause a short term regional or global cooling, similar to a "nuclear winter". Greenpeace have said that:

"A cloud of smoke so thick as to blot out the sun and reduce local temperature by up to 20 degrees centigrade. Smoke, which is an ozone scavenger, could also lead to a localised ozone hole in the Gulf region".

John Cox, a chemical engineer and president of Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament (CND), told an international conference in London that even a slight decrease in temperature in the region might change the whole climate of the region, especially affecting the summer Indian monsoon. Cox stated that:

"Even a partial failure (of the monsoons) could cause more deaths than the total population of Iraq, Kuwait and Saudi Arabia combined."

Millions of Indian people may die of starvation if the monsoons fail.

## Nuclear Legacy

The destruction of nuclear facilities or weapons, even if they are not exploded, would release an array of radioactive substances. The chances are that it will come into play in some form in this war. Greenpeace has stated that there has been a build up of US nuclear weapons in the Gulf region, from 318 before the August 2 invasion of Kuwait to 983 by January 15.

There are also a whole range of nuclear facilities in the region, from Israel's nuclear weapons plant at Dimona, to Iraq's research reactors. According to the Global Environmental Alliance for Peace in the Persian Gulf, if these facilities are attacked there would be a wide dispersion of radioactive substances.

According to the Washington Post allied bombers have "thoroughly damaged" Iraqi nuclear reactors. Although this may not necessarily release radiation into the atmosphere, there is the chance that this may occur if the reactor cores are exposed.

## Other Environmental Effects

There is a range of other environmental effects which will be products of the war. Oil spills

will inevitably flow into the Gulf. The oil spills will threaten desalination plants which are vital in making fresh water. The oil will also cause much damage to coral reefs and other marine life. The destruction of several oil wells during the Iraq-Iran War released three times the amount spilled by the Exxon Valdez — America's worse oil spill.

The deployment of more than a million troops in the Gulf desert has already disrupted their rich and delicate eco-systems. The US forces are thought to be producing 10 million gallons of sewerage a day. The North African deserts are still recovering from World War 2 tank battles.

Other things which will disturb the environment include unexploded mines and bombs, chemical weapons and the possible destruction of Iraq's dams could decimate farming in the fertile valley of Tigris and Euphrates Rivers.

## Stop The Gulf War!

The Gulf War will devastate the environment of the Gulf region and it may also influence the global environment. What we must do is stop the Gulf War as quickly as possible. The delicate ecological balance of our planet, with all the many environmental problems, can not sustain the environmental costs of such a war. ☆



## COME TO THE 20TH RESISTANCE CONFERENCE



Had enough? In this last decade of the 20th century we face the great challenge of reversing the political, economic and environmental trends which have led us to the mess we are now in. Come to the Resistance Conference and help us find solutions and plan activities that will lead to a more positive future.

# CAPITALISM FOULS THINGS UP!

Organise the fightback  
Brisbane, June 8, 9, 10.

Phone (02) 690 1230 or your local Resistance Centre for details.

It can only be called hypocrisy when the United States condemns the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait while openly supporting the Israeli occupation of Palestine. BEN REID examines the origins of the Israeli state and its war on Palestine.



# PALESTINE: Israel's apartheid

lement site for a mass immigration of Jews. They advocated the separation of Jews and Gentiles and called for the formation of a Jewish-only nation state.

From 1907 onward, new attacks on the Palestinian people began. In the decades before World War Two, Zionist colonisation created Jewish-only enclaves. In these areas Palestinians were dispossessed of their farms and their goods boycotted.

After this was done the Zionists manoeuvred with Western powers to obtain approval for an exclusively Jewish state. This was granted in 1947 despite extensive opposition from Arab peoples in the region.

A United Nations plan called for a partition in which 45 percent of the region would be granted to Arabs and 54 percent to the Jews. This plan deprived Palestinians of most of the fertile lands and 40 percent of Arab industry would be transferred to Jewish ownership.

After the withdrawal of British troops, following the ending of Palestine's status

many as possible.

As a result, more than 250,000 Palestinians had been driven from their homes by the time war was actually declared in 1948. In the first Arab-Israeli war, Arab troops were invited by local Palestinians to defend them.

The goals of the war from the Zionist perspective were clear. At the end of the war Israel had expanded its territory by over 4000 square kilometres and driven over 1 million Palestinians from their homes.

Since this time Israel has continued to exist in a permanent state of war. In the 1967 war, Israel extended its borders even further, occupying the West Bank of the Jordan River and Gaza Strip. These were areas in which Palestinian refugees were situated.

Without a homeland, Palestinians are denied all basic human rights. Without a country, they have no right to vote, and have little control over any aspect of their

lives, be it employment, housing or freedom of speech. In many ways, Palestinians can be compared to the blacks living under apartheid in South Africa.

After negotiating peace with Egypt at Camp David, Israel expanded its aggression even further by invading Lebanon.

It was here that the Israelis organised the infamous massacre of Palestinians (and Lebanese), in the refugee camps of Sabra and Shatila.

In the space of 42 hours, 3,500 people were massacred. Using bulldozers, soldiers of the Lebanese 'Falangist fighters' organised by the Israelis, demolished huts and houses, and buried the dead. Those who weren't killed immediately were taken away from the camp and physically abused.

The reason for this was to destroy the Palestinian Liberation Organisation — the major political group which represents the Palestinians.

The PLO is now recognised as the legitimate representative of the Palestinian

people by more governments than recognise Israel. A 120 to 1 vote in the United Nations condemned Israel's invasion of Lebanon.

Since 1987, the Palestinians in the occupied territories have continued an uprising against Israel known as the Intifada. The Israeli army has used brutal tactics to suppress this uprising. The United Nations and governments throughout the world have condemned Israel for this.

Yet most Western governments have turned a blind eye as more than 1000 Palestinians have been killed by the Israeli military and thousands more injured.

Throughout all this, the United States has continued to act as a major support for Israel. Unlike Kuwait, with its oil, it seems the Palestinians' right to self-determination is not worth defending.

Meanwhile the Palestinians will continue to struggle for peace and the recognition of their right to their own independent state. ☆



British Mandate 1922-1948

1922  
668,000 Arabs owning 98% of the land.  
84,000 Jews owning 2% of the land.

1946  
1,237,000 Arabs owning 92% of the land.  
608,000 Jews (two-thirds immigrants) owning less than 8% of the land.



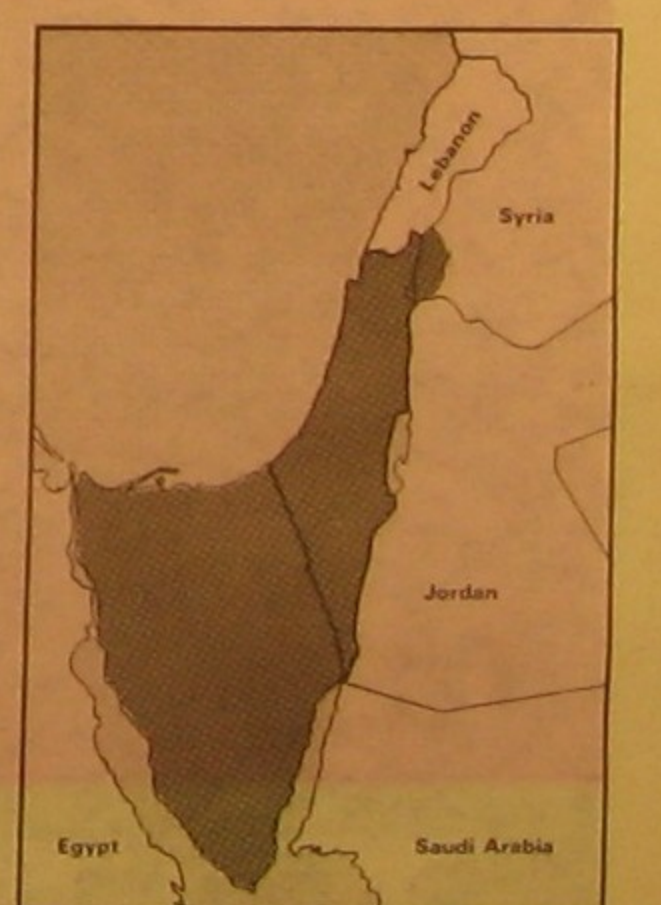
UN Partition Plan 1947

Jewish State ■ 498,000 Jews  
497,000 Arabs  
57% of the total area of Palestine including the most fertile lands.  
Arab State ■ ■ ■ 10,000 Jews  
725,000 Arabs  
42% of the total area of Palestine, mostly hilly and unproductive.  
Jerusalem ■ 100,000 Jews  
(International zone) 105,000 Arabs



1948 War

760,000 Jews now in control of three-quarters of Palestine. 1,350,000 Palestinian Arabs dispersed:  
□ 120,000 under alien rule in Israel  
□ 450,000 in their own homes under Arab rule  
□ 380,000 refugees in Gaza and the West Bank  
□ 400,000 refugees in exile outside Palestine.



1967 War

2,365,000 Jews now in control of the whole of Palestine (as well as parts of Egypt and Syria). 2,525,000 Palestinian Arabs dispersed:  
□ 313,000 under alien rule in Israel  
□ 640,000 in their homes under Israeli occupation  
□ 540,000 refugees under Israeli occupation  
□ 1,032,000 refugees in exile.



If you blow out the candles in my eyes,  
If you freeze all the kisses on my lips,  
If you fill my native air with hissing curses,  
Or silence my anguish,  
Forge my coin,  
Uproot the smile from my children's faces.  
If you raise a thousand walls,  
And nail my eyes to humiliation,  
Enemy of man,  
I shall not compromise  
And to the end  
I shall fight.

Report of a Bankrupt, Samir Al-Qassem

"We are fighting today to create the new Palestine of tomorrow; a progressive, democratic and non-sectarian Palestine in which Christian, Moslem and Jew will worship, work, live peacefully and enjoy equal rights. Our Palestinian revolution still stretches its welcoming hand to all human beings who want to fight for and live in a democratic, tolerant Palestine irrespective of race, colour or religion."

Al-Fateh, Cairo, 28 January 1969



*Resistance* ★

**FREE PALESTINE**  
FOR PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST



# here we go again . . .



By Jonathan Strauss

Why has Australia gone to war in the Middle East? The answers provided by politicians and the media range from the more honest — oil — to flagrant lies — “opposing aggression”. Australia has a consistent record of going to war for aggressive, not defensive, purposes. Only one of the nine wars Australians have been directly involved in (excluding the war of the European settlers against the Aboriginal people) has involved any combat in Australia. Australia has never entered a war for its own self-defence.

The importance of war in this society is indicated by the way in which it has become part of our culture (the Gulf War dominated our television screens for days on end). The most important part of our culture of war is the Anzac myth.

According to this myth: Australians are skilful fighters. They are resourceful and stick together. All too often, however, they

are led by incompetent foreign generals. But even if this brings defeat, their actions have made Australia a nation.

Such ideas are not just the product of Gallipoli, but have emerged in wars from the Boer War to Vietnam.

No doubt parts of this myth are true. A myth reflects reality. But it also clouds it.

For if Australians have sometimes fought under foreign generals on the battlefield, they were always ordered to do so, from the Sudan War to the Gulf War, by Australian politicians and their backers. Governments acted in this way in order to ensure that Australia participated in the exploitation of the colonial and neo-colonial countries of the Third World.

In a November 10 speech on the current crisis, John Pilger, the noted Australian journalist, spoke of the drive for economic dominance. This factor lies at the heart of all Australia's wars just as much as it does for the US:

“It's important to understand the link between the extraordinary military build-up in the Middle East and the current recession in the United States. The link isn't just a local factor like oil, but the crisis of an entire global system. This system is still best described with a word which many thought, and hoped, had been consigned to the Scrabble board of history — imperialism.”

“Is the end of the 20th century becoming a New Age of Imperialism?”

“In the 1890s version, Britain led the other Great Powers in what became known as ‘the scramble for Africa’. In 1990, the US heads the military scramble to influence events in the Middle East. The ultimate objective, I believe, is US dominance over much of West Asia.”

By participating in the British empire's conquests of Sudan and the Boer republics of South Africa, Australia began to take part in the imperialist scramble. At the start of the First World War, the ALP leader Andrew Fisher (soon to be prime minister) promised “the last man and the last shilling” for the British empire, and meanwhile proceeded to expand Australia's own by seizing New Guinea and several Pacific islands.

Thus the Anzac legend is, in a sense, correct. The exploits of Australia's First World War soldiers did make a Australia a nation.

But that nation was an imperialist one, a junior partner of Britain on the world scene and the “Great Power” of the South Pacific region, dominating its resources, trade and investment. The Australian government still maintains influence in the region by military means: the PNG army was provided with training and arms to try to defend the Australian-owned mine on Bougainville.

Later Australian governments changed partners and tunes. Australia became the junior partner of the US and joined in the campaign against “Communist expansionism” — that is, against the struggles of the Koreans and the Vietnamese to win national liberation, the right to determine their own lives free of US (and Australian) influence.

Can we believe that there has now been a change of heart, that the Australian government only seeks the “liberation of Kuwait” (returning its undemocratic emir?). Surely it is more likely that in the Gulf war the Australian government, with its two warships, has again joined the scramble to influence events. And for taking on a piece of the action, it expects a slice of the cake. ☆



## Australia at war — a brief history.

**Pre-Federation** — Sudan. NSW colonial troops joined the British expeditionary force. The Sudanese, rebelling against British colonial rule, are crushed.

**1899-1902** — Boer war. Government and private contingents form part of the British army that conquered the Boer republics. Guerilla opposition is defeated by internment, leading to at least 20,000 dead.

**1914-1918** — First World War. Australians fight in Turkey, France, Palestine and Iraq. The German colony of New Guinea is seized.

**1918-1919** — Russian Civil War. 14 foreign nations invade Russia to destroy the revolutionary Soviet republic. Australian troops form part of the British contingent.

**1939-1945** — Second World War. A global war touches Australia. But if white Australia is attacked for the first time by a foreign power, most of the fighting is still overseas, in the Middle East and the Mediterranean, in South-East Asia and the Pacific and in Europe.

**1950-1953** — The Korean War. The North Korean “invasion” was greeted by mass demonstrations in the cities and popular support for land reforms in the countryside. But Australian forces join a US-dominated UN force, established while the Soviet Union boycotted the Security Council, which propped up the US puppet regime in South Korea.

**Early 1960s** — Borneo. Australian soldiers defend the oil interests of British companies against Indonesian President Sukarno's *konfrontasi*. In 1965 the Sukarno government is overthrown by a military coup backed by the CIA, after which at least one million communists and supposed sympathisers are killed.

**1962-1972** — Vietnam. “Advisers” and then troops are “invited” to South Vietnam, a nation artificially constructed by the US. A massive protest movement forces the US and Australian troops to withdraw, and the Vietnamese struggle for national liberation succeeds.

**1990** — The Gulf War. Again Australians are fighting overseas. As part of a US-dominated alliance, Australian ships shot at and boarded merchant ships carrying such supposedly vital war supplies as tea, and then joined the attacking forces when the full-blown war began.

# Green Consumerism: Looking past the supermarket shelves.

THERE seems to be no limit to the number of individuals, organisations, cities, companies or politicians who call themselves “green”. Many of these individuals or groups believe that if we recycle, use less, or buy “environmentally friendly” products, the planet will be saved. Although recycling is important and it sometimes may be useful for some groups in our society to use less, these factors alone cannot be seen as the most important solutions to our environmental problems.

Problems like the destruction of forests (in the last 25 years more than 12% of the world's forests have been destroyed), the greenhouse effect, ozone depletion, pollution and the Third World environment, require much more urgent and fundamental changes to our society. The United Nations has called the decade of the '90s the decade of earth repair. If we do not succeed in fixing up our planet, then we may not have much of a planet left.

Green consumerism — the purchase of

“environmentally-friendly” products — rather than being a significant step forward for the environment movement, has meant a windfall for companies which are promoting such products. The truth is that many of the products are virtually watered down versions of the original. Many “environmentally friendly” products are packaged and marketed in a similar way to other products.

WHILE everyone can support the idea of products that are genuinely environmentally safe, the whole notion that green consumerism is the central necessity for a safe environment is false. The fault lies not with the individual consumer but with the companies which use environmentally unsafe production processes.

In general companies are not willing to employ environmentally safe techniques or pollution control technology because it costs them money and so restricts the profit which they would otherwise reap. Companies will not change their practices unless

they are forced to.

For example, in the US in 1970 it became law that 1977 would be the deadline for a 90% reduction in urban carbon monoxide. In 1977 this deadline was moved to 1982. Since this time the three most polluted cities — Los Angeles, New York and Houston — have been given twenty more years to comply — a delay of 32 years from the original deadline. Because none of these cities enforced the anti-pollution laws, big business was allowed to keep on polluting. Politicians and the law makers must be willing to take on the companies which try to get around weak environment legislation.

Pollution in the end can't be prevented by an increasing number of people in the industrialised countries already consume too little!

For example, in the US 40 million people live in poverty and 20 million people suffer malnutrition. How can these people be asked to consume less? These consumers have little choice in what and how much they consume.

While consumption does play a part, environmental destruction is principally due to two factors:

- The way consumers are forced to meet their needs.
- The way products are produced.

THE main problem is that our society is based on profit. Most economic and political decisions are based on this principle. If a product makes money, it will be produced whether it harms the environment or not.

Big businesses compete with each other to get a larger slice of the market and to make more profit. They must therefore wastefully package and advertise their products. Often multinational corporations throw out huge stockpiles of their products, so as not to lower the price of their product and lower their profits.

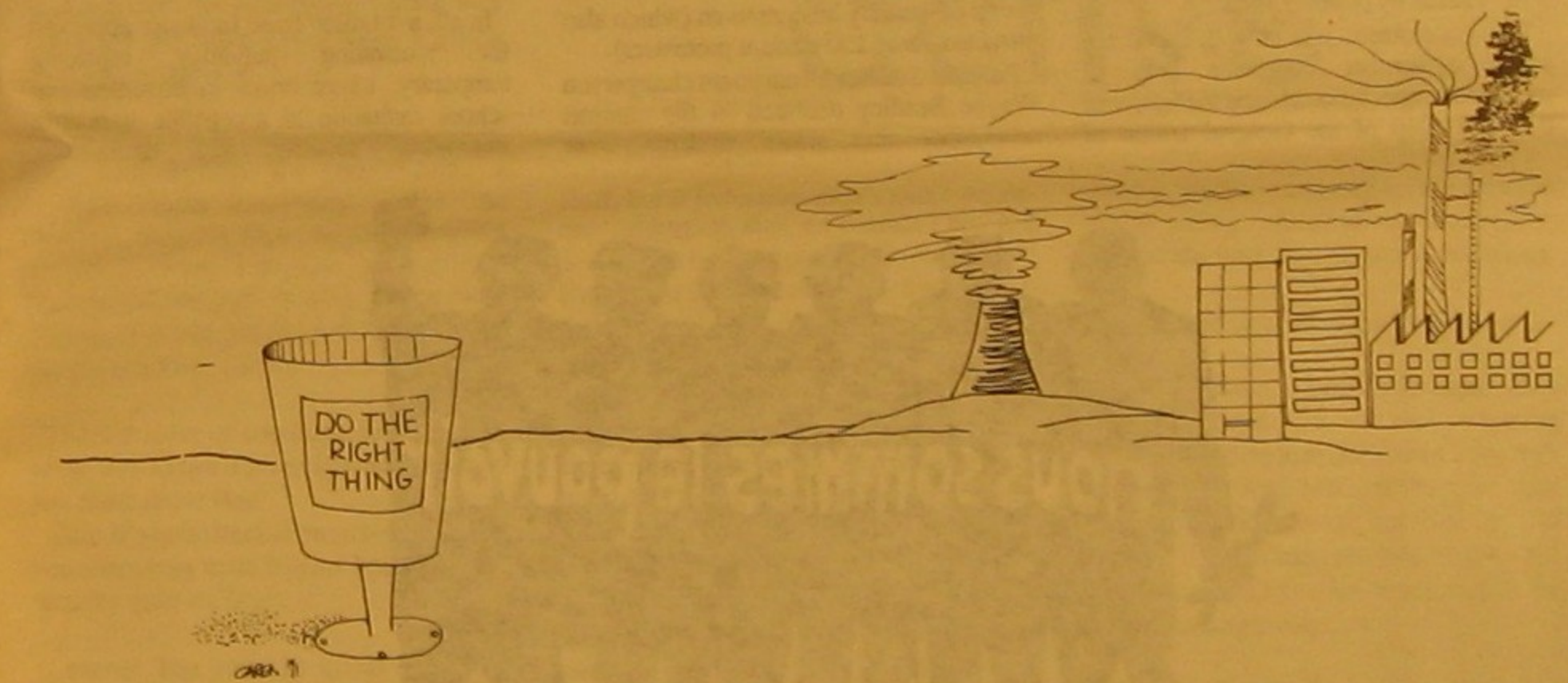
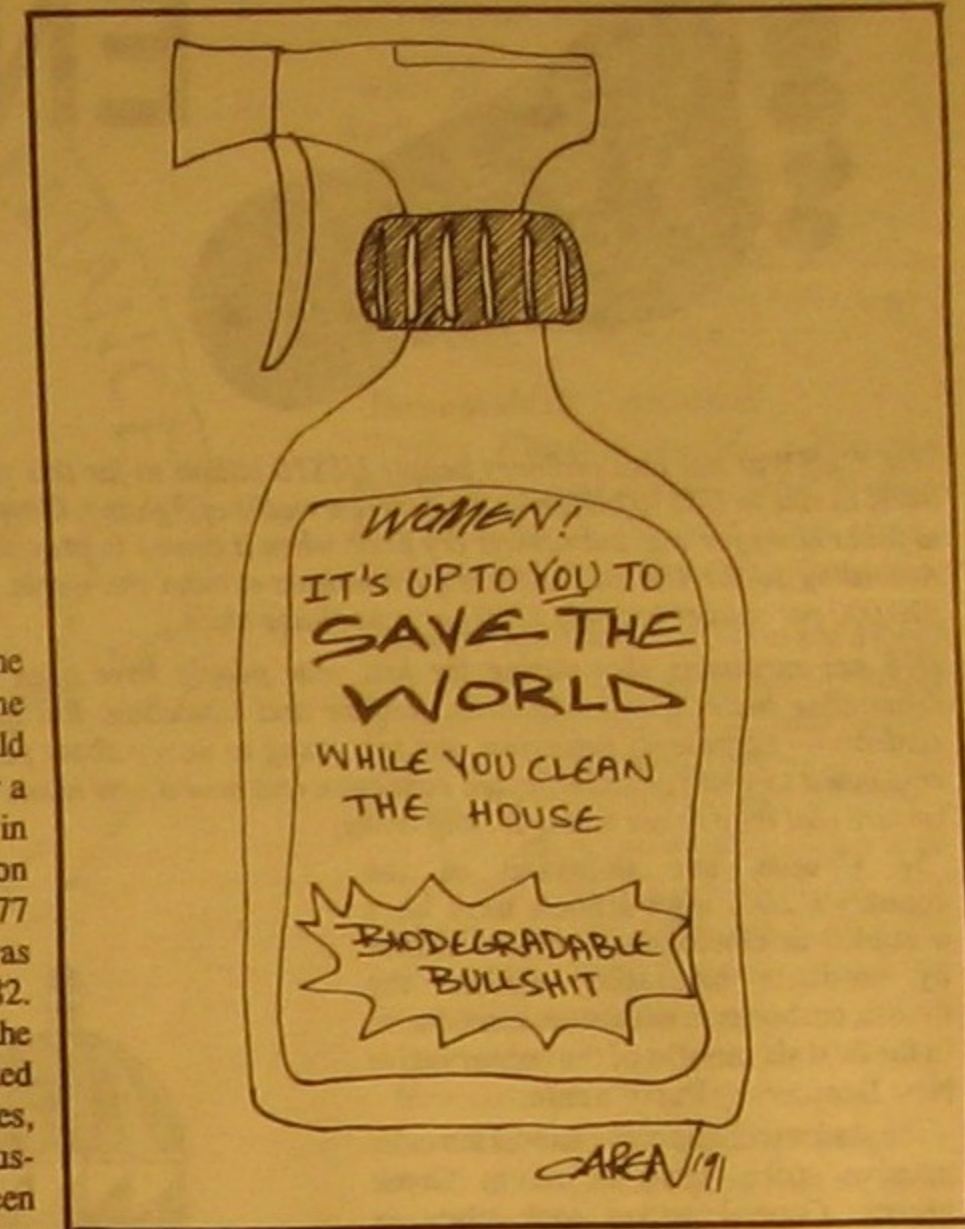
Our capitalist system, with its drive for competition and profit, also explains why there are so many Third World countries and why many people in these countries are starving. Multinational corporations and the governments which support them exploit poor countries through the market. Third World countries are not allowed to develop because this would threaten the big business monopolies.

IN our society, almost everything becomes a commodity — that is, is bought or sold on the market. This includes food, our work and services. In this irrational system, profits come before real human needs.

Transport is a key example. The use of motor cars is promoted rather than public transport. Automobiles are prime polluters of the environment. It is obvious that the car manufacturers are the ones who profit from reliance on the private motor car.

In the end, green consumerism provides no solution for the overwhelming and immense environmental problems that we face. As Barry Commoner, a leading US scientist, has stated, the environment crisis “calls for the establishment of a new, social form of governance over decisions that are exclusively in private, corporate hands.” ☆

By Karl Miller



## TIM ANDERSON

The campaign to expose the second judicial frame-up of political activist Tim Anderson continues to gather strength around Australia.

On November 12, 1990 — the day Tim was sentenced to 14 years' jail for “masterminding” the 1978 Hilton bombing — one of the surviving victims of the bombing, former senior constable Terry Griffiths, described the trial as “a complete and utter farce”.

This and many other statements condemning Tim's conviction have followed what many see as the second frame-up of an innocent man.

Around the country large

public meetings have heard a breadth of speakers from legal, academic and political backgrounds detailing the glaring inconsistencies and contradictions that riddled the evidence used against Tim in his 12-week trial.

Tim was found guilty in a trial by media; his conviction was sealed in the headlines that for years had labelled him the “Hilton bomber”. Tim was an embarrassment and a thorn in the side for a police force facing growing outrage at its corruption, ineptitude and violence.

For his many thousands of supporters, though, only Tim's acquittal and compensation, with a full enquiry to expose his false arrest and frame-up, will end this case.

The Campaign Exposing the Frame-Up of Tim Anderson (CEFTA), with over a thousand members, is building a campaign to achieve these goals. With growing support, the committee is working towards Tim's appeal hearing with a variety of actions. If you want to get involved, ring for more information and contacts in your area.

Phone (02) 281 5100. Or if in Sydney, come to the meetings every Monday, 6.30pm, 391 Sussex St., Sydney. ☆

## POLITICAL PRISONER

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# ENOUGH IS ENOUGH!

THE Gulf War has cost ordinary people US\$10 billion so far this year, and this figure is likely to rise to US\$30 billion in the next few weeks of fighting. Governments always seem to find money for war but always cry poor when it comes to providing public education! According to the United Nations, governments around the world spend an average of \$20,000 per soldier but only \$380 per school-age child.

IT'S not surprising that during the last year people have been taking to the streets demanding better living standards, welfare and education. But how have high school students — supposedly powerless and too young to worry about politics or even vote — responded to years of underfunded education and now a new round of cutbacks? We can be sure that they're not taking it lying down.

In Greece, one thousand of the country's 2500 high schools have been occupied or closed since mid-December by students protesting against the drastic cutbacks to education introduced in the first six months of the conservative New Democracy Party's rule.

The student actions come amidst the most massive strike wave in recent Greek history. General strikes took place in Greece on September 12, 19-20 and 26-27 after three earlier general strikes last year in response to massive attacks launched by the government on workers (already the poorest in the European Economic Community). In a six-month period the prices of everyday goods and services, including electricity and water rose 330 per cent, and rents and housing prices doubled.

Private universities have been introduced, while spending on education has been reduced to 7.7 per cent of the budget, its lowest level for 40 years.

Post-secondary colleges for non-university studies have been abolished at one stroke, and there have been increases of around 30 per cent in prices of pharmaceutical products and school items.

Prime Minister Mitsotakis, under instructions from the EEC and the International Monetary Fund, is aiming to make working people and students pay for Greece's horrendous economic crisis through these and other "reforms". Greece's public debt is now US\$100 billion (higher than the gross national product). Servicing the debt costs 20 per cent of the budget, whilst the budget deficit is being held at US\$16 billion in an attempt to improve Greek capital's competitive position within the projected united Europe of 1992.

Teachers' unions struck for 48 hours in support of the students and closed all schools in the country. Other unions stopped work in sympathy with the teachers and students. The government deployed all its resources against the strikers, with riot police viciously attacking picket lines.

One teacher, Nikos Temponeras, 38, was killed during clashes in the western port of Patras when a group of 25 people with iron bars tried to evict students occupying a school. This sparked a protest march of 60,000 workers and students. His death also led to the resignation of the education minister on January 9.

Another demonstration on January 11 left 9 students injured and 40 hospitalised with breathing problems due to thousands of

REFORMES



CHLOROFORME

Reforms - Chloroform



People's University YES

rounds of tear gas fired during violent clashes with over 500 riot police. More recently, three students have been killed in a fire started by petrol bombs.

The government has now defeated the strike movement with the help of pro-government unionists and the failure of the leadership of the General Union of

provide a dangerous example for other universities in the state system.

This is the only university in the state to have an autonomous School of Ethnic Studies, which the students won in 1968 after police violence failed to defeat a year-long strike.

In an address given at this university in 1984, feminist, black civil rights activist and radical academic Angela Davis spoke about the global meanings of Ethnic Studies. "The concept of Ethnic studies, with its focus on the cultural demands of racially oppressed people in the United States, has always involved, along with its challenge to racism in our own educational system, a bridge-building process inviting us to identify with the struggles and accomplishments of oppressed people of colour around the world... The struggle for Ethnic Studies in the United States revealed a characteristic centrality of the demand for education within the larger movement for justice and equality."

Ethnic Studies is of no interest to University president Robert Corrigan, who would rather spend the funds on lavish affairs such as his US\$25,000 dinner for a group of wealthy businessmen (which also attracted some 150 student protesters).

Political Science Department chairperson Wayne Bradley declared in the campus newspaper that white students were

France's traditional parties or well-educated university students. This time it was the voice of thousands of young high school students demanding a decent education.

The movement, beginning in one small high school in the poor migrant suburb of St. Denis snowballed in a matter of three days to include other schools in an organised and coordinated struggle. Within three weeks, schools from other regions and country areas also joined in.

The students occupied schools nationwide, and their actions were supported by most unions, parents and teachers. The Mitterrand government, fearing such a broad coalition of forces, came to the negotiating table after the usual tactics of police violence, media lies and propaganda failed to split the movement.

On November 14, the students entered into negotiations with the Ministry of National Education, and so far the students have had many of their demands met.

They won the much-needed renovation of school buildings and improved teaching facilities.

In all, a 4 billion franc fund was approved for renovating buildings, replacing temporary classrooms, improvement of school sanitation to acceptable standards, improving security and establishing



We are the power

Greek Workers to draw in the broadest layers of workers and to launch a coordinated struggle. Feeling now fully in control, Mitsotakis has announced new cuts to education, health and public transport, mass privatisation of government services and an initial sacking of 40,000 workers to make way for this.

In the US, the San Francisco State University administration has recently pushed through large budget cuts to the schools of Ethnic Studies, Labor Studies, Women's Studies and Humanities.

In all, 240 classes have been cancelled and 50 instructors have been laid off. US\$7.8 million in instruction, minority funding programmes, and other student services have been eliminated from the budget.

Large rallies have been held in protest. Classes have been turned into teach-ins. But so far, the administration and the State Board of Regents refuse to listen.

For them, San Francisco State University has long been the "problem child" of the California university system — a haven for militants and free-thinkers — that can only

intimidated by "a sea of Black faces" in the classes of the Ethnic Studies School.

Such a school is, however, one isolated instance of a place of learning serving the needs of a minority group. Certainly, the demonstrations, marches and strikes of the late '60s and the mid '70s were responsible for achieving a rate of college attendance about the same for black students as for white students. But, by 1982 — only five years later — white youth were about 45 per cent more likely to attend college than their black counterparts.

As one student from the campus group La Raza said: "The stakes are high. If we don't take whatever means are necessary right now, our children will come here as janitors sweeping hallways — not as students."

In France, after months of sporadic protests and a nationwide demonstration on November 12, high school students have forced the government to concede to many of their demands.

Unlike France's enormous student movements of 1968 and 1986, this latest round of protests was not led by any of

documentation units and school common rooms. A further 100 million francs has been allocated to replacing obsolete equipment.

Students have also won extended democratic rights such as the right to form associations and issue publications and the right to meet and put up notices on school playgrounds.☆

By Susan Mackie



Factory, University, Union

Graphics from Atelier Populaire, Paris, May 1968

Environmental Youth Alliance is a group of concerned young people who want to stop the destruction of the planet. Resistance magazine's Louisa Foley interviewed three members of EYA.

Why did you join EYA and why should other young people join?

Tim: There are major environmental mishaps happening all over the world, and Greenpeace have said that within ten years, if we don't get our act together, then we're past the point of no return. So it's about time people started getting active. That has to become a reality to most people. The reason I joined was to make people believe that they have to do something.

Yvette: I felt that I had to actively do something. Also it's important for a young people's organisation to come about. I think everyone who cares should be active. The more people that are involved, the more powerful we can be. So anyone who cares should join because that's a way of doing something.

Leanne: Young people should get together and join environment groups because you can learn a lot more things, you can learn about problems you may not have been aware of, you can go on protests and stuff, and you can meet other people who share the same interests.

What can EYA do?

Yvette: We can show the public that young people are concerned. I think they listen and take more notice when it's their own kids protesting.

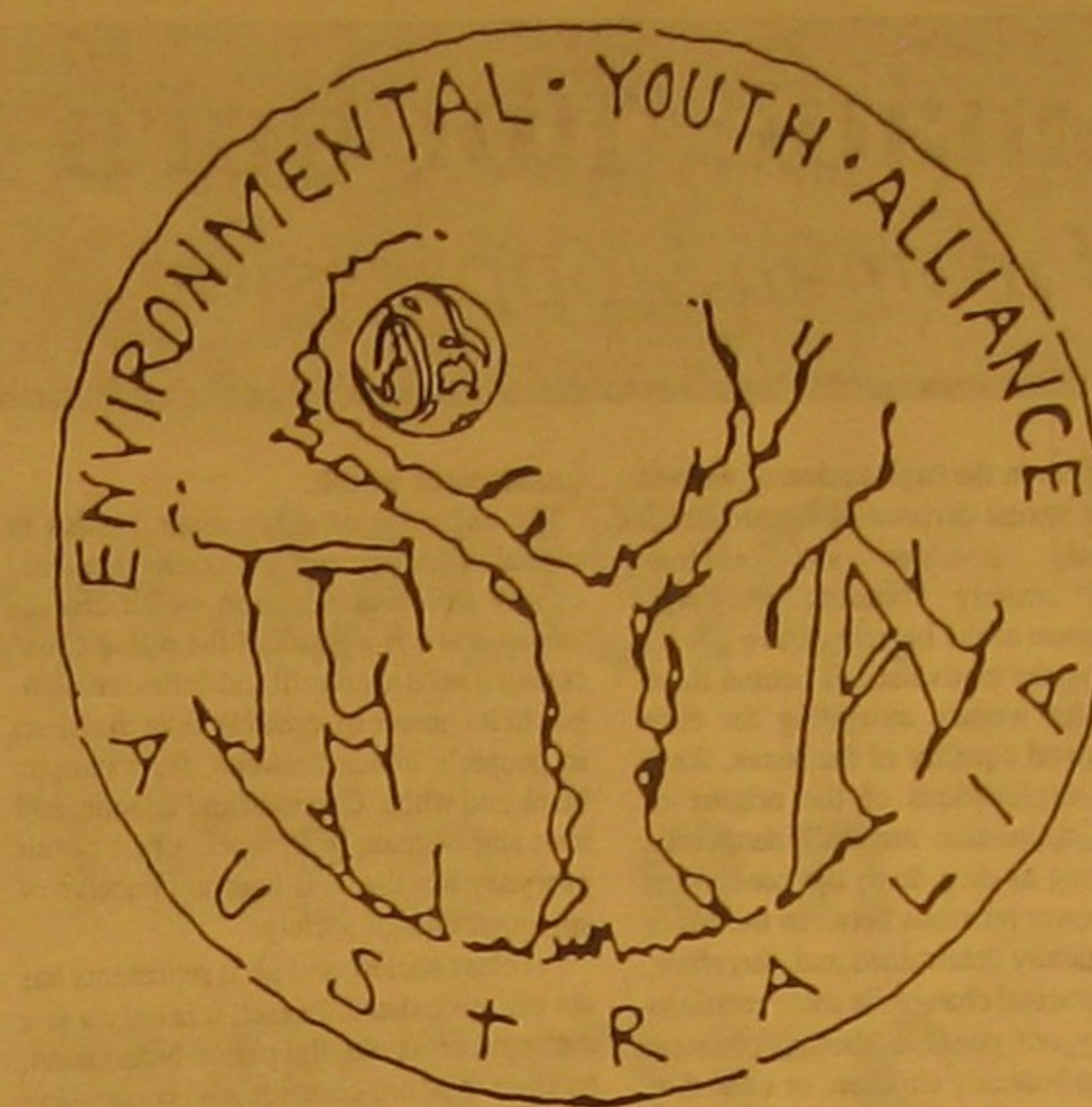
Tim: We have to change people's awareness. I think once the people make a decision, once everybody makes the decision that it's time to do something about this, then it'll get done! If everybody in Australia decided to save all the rainforests, it would get done. Fifteen million people is a lot of people.

There's a lot of emphasis in the media about how to live a green lifestyle. What do you think about that?

Tim: It's quite hard to recycle everything you use; we try to do it in my house, but it's actually quite difficult.

Leanne: The councils could do things which make it a lot easier for households.

Yvette: Well, it's fair enough to say don't throw your plastic away and all that kind of



## ... getting active

stuff, but if industries didn't make the excess packaging, then we wouldn't buy it. I don't think our dumping oil down the sink is as bad as what the industries are doing to rivers.

You can't say it's the consumers' fault, because industries are the worst, but there are little things we can do as well. Sometimes there aren't any alternatives; sure we'd like to get things refilled and so on, but they don't offer us that service. People do try to do the right thing by buying environmentally friendly products, but then we find out the companies are lying to us and the products aren't any better.

So does "Reduce, Reuse, Recycle" say it all?

Tim: No, there are a lot of other things we

need to do. Look at the Third World: while we're eating ourselves to death here, they're starving there. It seems ridiculous.

What kind of issues should EYA get involved in?

Tim: Uranium mining in Kakadu. It's a World Heritage park, and they're mining uranium in there to make bombs. It doesn't make sense. And McDonalds graze their cattle on rainforest areas that have been cut down. They've destroyed massive amounts of the Amazon forest just to graze cows for their hamburger meat.

Leanne: There's the uranium mining at Roxby Downs in South Australia. If we had hundreds or thousands of people there, we could stop the trucks [which transport the

yellowcake to the wharves for shipment — Ed.]; we could make such a statement.

What about other issues like the Gulf War?

Leanne: A lot of us in the green movement do care about peace. I think the green movement should tackle peace problems like the Gulf war because it all boils down to how much we respect life.

How should EYA campaign?

Yvette: Wherever possible, I think we should be publicly visible. I think as often as we can we should make a big, bright, bold statement; by rallies and anything else.

Leanne: A mixture. I'd like to see a lot of EYA people going to things like the Roxby protests, where you can actually see for yourself. We should also still write letters and support things like this new wilderness bill [S.A. Legislation to protect wilderness — Ed.] that's come through. But with some issues it's not enough to just sit back and write letters. You've got to go out and demonstrate, protest.

How should EYA organise itself?

Leanne: I think we should get people involved. With EYA at the moment we're not having a president and we're against having people at the top.

Tim: We've got small working groups that tackle different aspects of EYA work, and they get back to the big group to decide.

Leanne: It'd be good if EYA could get in contact with all the different groups everywhere and make them part of a big alliance. We don't see each other all the time, but we're linked and we're united.

What about the idea of rotating all the jobs in EYA so that everyone develops skills?

Leanne: That's really good. Since I've been involved I've learnt so many new skills: writing articles, chairing meetings, doing minutes, writing letters to so-called important people.

What plans do you see for EYA for this year?

Tim: I think we should save the world by the end of the year!

Leanne: I think we should really aim at changing people's attitudes, and by the end of the year reaching out to as many people as possible, setting up lots of EYAs on schools and being involved in other rallies, and just becoming a really active group with lots of people in the community knowing about us.☆

### WHERE TO CONTACT EYA

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Woodleigh Gardens NT 0812, Ph (089) 27 9735

Queensland C/o The Wilderness Society,  
97 Albert Street, Brisbane Ph (07) 229 4533

South Australia 8 Lakeview Crescent,  
Westlakes 5021 Ph (08) 47 1345, 79 7767

Tasmania C/o The Wilderness Society,  
130 Davenport St, Hobart Ph (002) 349 7366

Victoria PO Box 1504, Collingwood 3066  
Ph (03) 416 1455

Western Australia C/o ACF, Lotteries House  
79 Stirling St, Perth Ph (09) 220 0669

Canberra Ph (06) 249 7931 for more details

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# Woman is made, not born

## The origins of women's oppression

By Lisa MacDonald

"You've come a long way baby!". This line was a popular one in the mass media during the 1970s and 80s. It reflected the attitude that women had advanced from the Dark Ages and had found liberation. Quite apart from being patronising, this portrayal of women's lives in our society today is both inaccurate and misleading.

It is true that some women are now employed in some traditionally male-dominated jobs. Yet it is also true that the majority of Australian women still work in unskilled or semi-skilled jobs, very often on a casual or part-time basis and still, on average, for only 66 per cent of men's wages.

And yes, it is true that women now have access to some child care services freeing them to participate more fully in society. But often women are confronted with waiting lists of one to two years, very limited hours of service and fees which are often prohibitively expensive. Furthermore, while remaining responsible for children after they are born, women still can not choose freely to terminate unwanted pregnancies, abortions being illegal in all but one state in Australia.

Numerous examples of women's persistent disadvantage in relation to men can be found in all spheres of life from education to sexuality, from economics to mental health. All indicate that we have not, in fact, come very far at all.

During the late 1960s and the 1970s, the development of a strong women's liberation movement which questioned women's lot and fought for improvements in many areas of women's lives led to a lot of questions being asked about how the oppression of women began — have women always been and will we always be the 'second sex'?

The answers to these questions are very important because an accurate understanding of the causes of the problem will give us a framework for finding lasting solutions.

Many of the explanations put forward, ranging from the most conservative to certain strands of radical feminist theory, basically argue that women's position and role in society today is a consequence of her biologically given role as child bearer.

From the point of view of the right, represented in much Christian ideology and the mass media, for example, women's primary role in life is to bear and rear children — to guarantee the physical and moral health, indeed the very future of human existence.

From an entirely different perspective, the theory of patriarchy, it is argued that all societies to date have vested power in men,

uniting them in the exploitation of women through a sexual division of labour which consistently devalues and exploits women's innately nurturing and non-violent nature as the bearers of new life.

Whatever the motivations behind these theories, for women struggling for their liberation and equality of the sexes, these so-called explanations of the origins of women's oppression are very dangerous ones leading as they do to the conclusion that the power relations between the sexes are biologically determined and, therefore, that fundamental changes in these relations are simply not possible short of women refusing to bear any children, or choosing

producers of wealth.

The existence of antagonistic classes in capitalist society and the consequent inequality and discrimination which characterises it and is a result of the ruling class' constant need to control and defuse challenges to its power by creating fake divisions in people's minds between, for example, black and white, Christian and Islamic, and men and women, is so much a part of our everyday life that it is hard to conceive of any other type of society.

Yet class society and all it represents has not always existed. In fact, it is only a few thousand years old, the period beforehand, referred to as pre-class society, comprising

this social structure began to break down, first into clans and then into individual family units.

The gradual development of a system of private property, the consequent creation of marriage as a means of guaranteeing that accumulated wealth was passed on to offspring, and therefore the establishment of the family, resulted in the isolation of women into individual households in which, for the first time, they were solely responsible for the care of their children and husbands, responsibilities which increasingly precluded them from full participation in economic and social life alongside men.

The family and the exploitative sexual division of labour within it was an integral and necessary feature of the advent of class society.

Not only was the development of a new wealthy minority consolidated via the institution of monogamous marriage which ensured that private property was kept in the hands of legitimate heirs, but with the development of waged labour, women, like cattle, became a source of wealth being the producers of new labourers (children) as well as unpaid domestic workers.

This family form remains as the basic economic unit of class society today. It also remains as the institution which most determines and maintains the specific character of the oppression of women today. For it is through this mechanism that the ruling class can dodge any social responsibility for the well-being of the mass of humanity.

Instead, women as wives, mothers and daughters are deemed responsible for the care of children, the aged and the sick, tasks which are required to be done unpaid and in addition to the waged work most women must do as well.

It is also through this mechanism that the dominant ideologies necessary for the maintenance of class society and, therefore, women's oppression are sustained and reproduced. For example, it fosters individualism, possession, and obedience to authority; it represses sexuality forcing it into acceptable male/female relationships for the purposes of having children; and it reproduces the social division of labour teaching 'proper' sex roles to boys and girls from the day they are born.

Of course the family also fulfils many human needs, in particular emotional needs. In this sense the modern family is a contradictory institution and one which can only be effectively challenged when alternatives to it are created.

Nevertheless, as the bastion of women's oppression under capitalism, this family form must be challenged if we are to lay a basis for women's liberation. This means that we must work towards a society which puts people and social justice first — which will create the necessary preconditions for alternative social relations. Only a socialist system, a system not founded on the accumulation of private property and the exploitation of one class by another, can even begin this task of the liberation of women. ☆

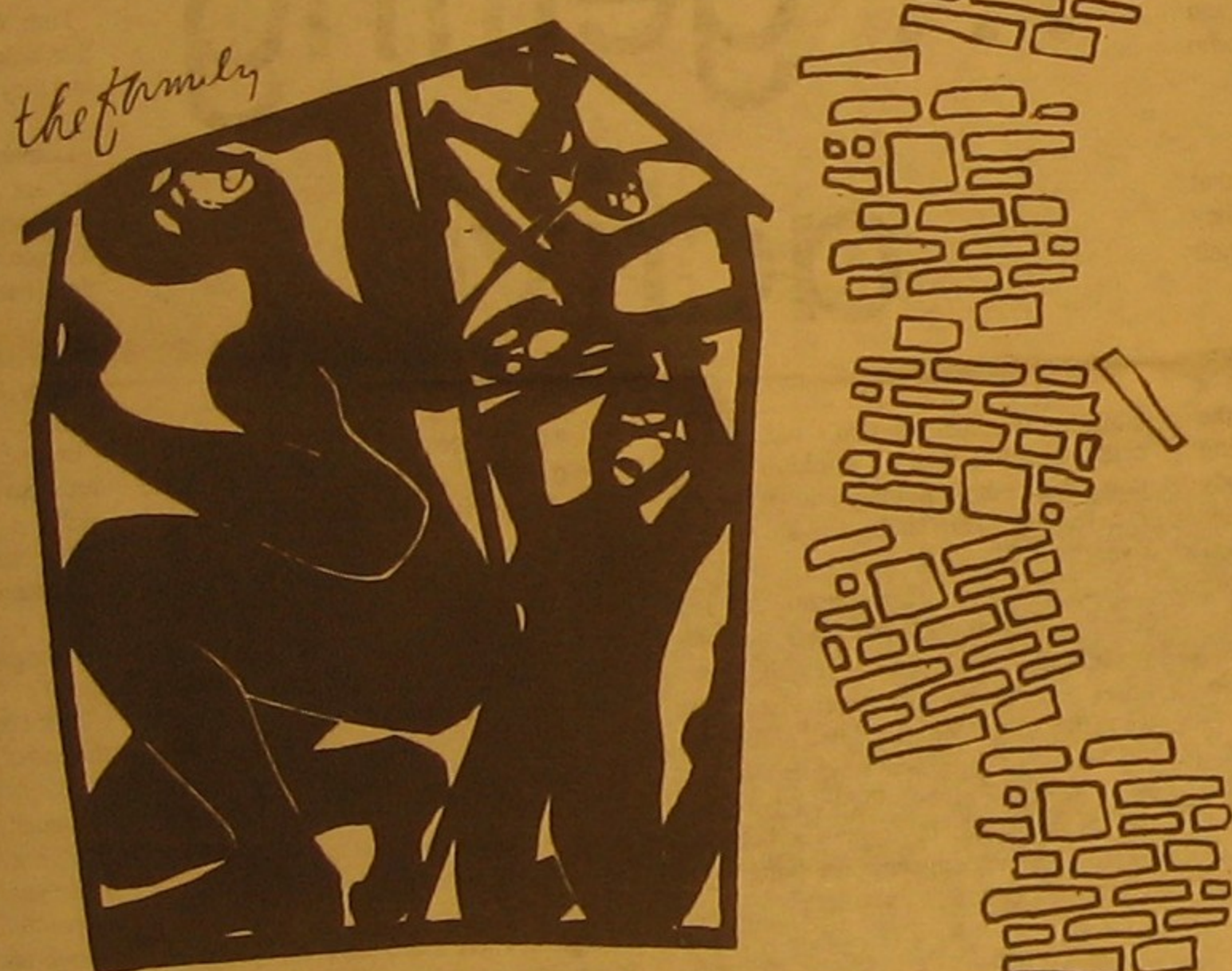
more than 99 per cent of human existence.

An examination of the work of a number of early anthropologists as undertaken by Frederick Engels in his book *The Origins of the Family, Private Property and the State* reveal that women were not, in fact, systematically exploited and oppressed in pre-class society.

In this society, founded on tribal communes, the resources necessary to sustain life were communally owned, social relations and responsibilities were organised cooperatively and all members of society were provided for equally.

The family as we know it did not exist and the sexual division of labour in which men were the hunters and women the gatherers resulted in women playing a leading role in the development of most of the basic tools, skills and techniques which laid the foundations for social advancement.

It was not until the discovery of technologies which enabled the production of surplus food and goods, and therefore the accumulation and trading of these surpluses by some communities and individuals, that



In a world full of many different cultures, not only national cultures, but even different cultural groupings within societies, minorities often get overlooked or scorned. LIAM MITCHELL takes a look at one such culture in our own society.

# THRASH MUSIC: a culture on THE FRINGES

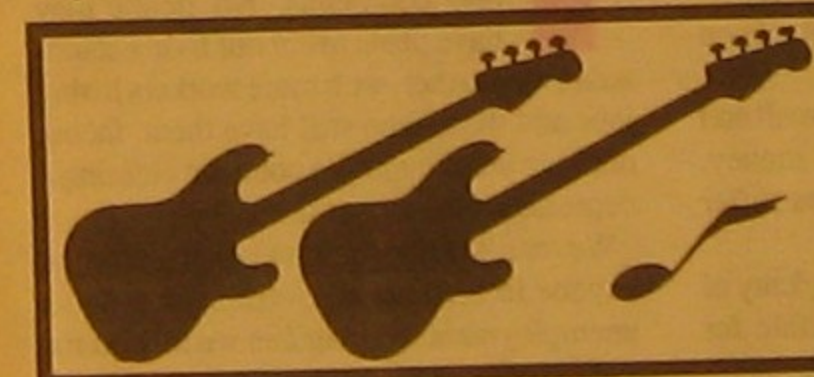


One thing that can be said about much of the music we listen to today is that the music itself is only an expression of a certain culture existing in society. Different styles of music reflect differing and indeed quite diverse cultural tendencies.

While it is true that there is a certain mainstreaming of the majority of music — that music on the commercial radio stations' playlists — there are also a number of different cultural groupings which find expression in styles that are quite different to the popular music of the day.

Thrash music (and indeed punk music as a whole) is an example of a culture different to the mainstream popular culture. Very much a minority culture in this society, it is ignored by these same commercial stations.

An examination of this culture would have to start with a look at its roots. Popular perception doesn't distinguish this form of music from other forms of hard rock (principally heavy metal). However, for followers of thrash music, it is very much its own culture.



Punk music arose in the late sixties out of a rejection of much of the standard norms of the musical and social culture of the day. Thrash, originating from a process of diversity between strands of the punk movement, is only one branch of this culture.

As the culture grew, punk began to integrate other forms of music into its own. Today punk ranges from the punk folk of Billy Bragg or the Pogues through gothic music and culture and more middle-of-the-road punk to hard rock/thrash music.

Even thrash itself isn't homogeneous. Tendencies exist from hard rock punk, like the Ramones, to hard core thrash with bands like Sydney's Mass Appeal.

The punk culture was overwhelmingly a reaction by poorer working-class youth to an alienation from the popular music of the day — perceived as a distancing of culture from the people. Punk brought music back to within the reach of the ordinary person in their garage or pub, instead of being the preserve of the stars.



The growth of large numbers of bands starting up and playing for themselves and their friends — and aiming to have a good time in the process — meant that this was a culture accessible to youth. The reaction to the culture of stardom meant that anyone who picked up a guitar could, and was encouraged, to play.



Although not an overtly political movement, punk (and thrash to an even greater extent) was a reflection of social divisions.

Moreover, the very fact of a culture arising in rebellion was a social movement in itself, and many bands took on a very political character in their music and lyrics.

It is also interesting to note that there seems to be a tendency for thrash — as well as other forms of more hard core music such as heavy metal — to increase in popularity in times of an economic downturn, when life for the poorer sections of society becomes tougher and people start looking for an outlet for their feelings.

Due to its rebellious nature, the thrash scene has taken on a semi-independence from the rest of society. There is no reliance on appealing to or appeasing certain sections of society or the record companies. However, of course, the culture is not totally immune to social problems and from time to time these do surface.

One such problem is that of the position of women in society. The mainstream popular culture reflects this sexism in an, at times, un-

### THE BBC BANS ABBA

The British Broadcasting Corporation has issued a list of 67 songs recommending that they not be played during the Gulf war.

The list includes John Lennon's "Give Peace A Chance" and "Imagine", Phil Collins' "In the Air Tonight", Elton John's "Saturday Night's Alright for Fighting", Cher's "Bang Bang", Eric Clapton's "I Shot the Sheriff", Abba's "Waterloo", Lulu's "Boom Bang-A-Bang", the Doors' "Light My Fire", Status Quo's "In the Army Now" and Blondie's "Atomic".

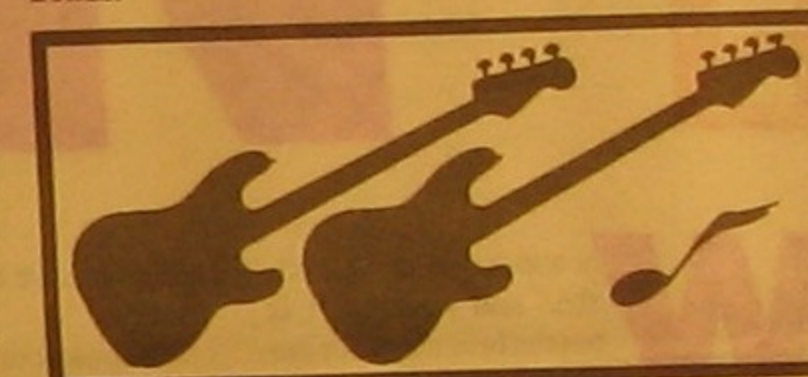
bearable sense, existing in music from blues to pop and heavy metal and, of course, punk music is certainly not immune from it.

However, it is also true that punk does not have this problem to the extent of many other musical styles. The number of women in thrash bands — and indeed all-women bands such as Adelaide's Luminous Green Snow — is certainly very high. There is a very large proportion of women among followers of the culture.

Punk was a movement away from the images of women and fast cars. There is certainly not the misogynistic cult around thrash that exists around much of the heavy metal scene.

Much of the basis for this attitude comes from the rejection of popular culture by the punk movement. While other cultures such as metal have sought to become an extremity of the prevailing social views, punk has sought to turn many of these on their head.

Thrash has certainly been receptive to an alternative brand of politics, much of it taking on anti-capitalist or anarchistic trends.



The thrash scene in the US, Canada and Europe has taken on a very political edge. Anti-racism and anti-war are themes that constantly surface in their music. Although this poses itself less sharply in Australian thrash music, these issues are still widely sung about by Australian bands.

There have also been festivals held in these countries to raise money for Third World liberation struggles — another recurring theme amongst political bands being the state of the world and the role of the US — such as a recent event in Holland to support the El Salvadoran FMLN.

As well as this, there are a number of thrash magazines produced — the culture having been totally ignored by the mainstream media — which hold political discussions in their pages. A recently produced magazine in Australia, *God's Own Music*, has articles about anti-racism and East Timor.

The future of the music is unpredictable. The entire history of the punk movement has been one of diversification and incorporation of new ideas or other forms of music. As a whole, it will certainly resist the pressure of popular culture toward mainstreaming music and politics, while remaining open to alternative points of view. ☆

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# MONEY FOR JOBS NOT WAR!

**W**ar and recession. Bloodshed and poverty. It is not the best way to begin a year. Yet this is how many Australians will remember the early days of 1991.

At a time when a lot of media attention is given to the crisis of socialism, we shouldn't forget that the system we live under, capitalism, has many problems of its own. Recession and war are only two of them.

It was as late as November 29 last year that the government and media finally acknowledged Australia was in recession. For almost a year they argued over technical definitions, yet did nothing to stop the downward trend.

When the September National Accounts figures were released, they confirmed that the economy had slumped dramatically. In fact it was the worst slump in output for 20 years.

Unemployment is currently 8.4 per cent of the workforce, with young people between the ages of 15-19, as high as 23.4 per cent. This translates into 523,798 individuals who are out of work.

**Y**et these official figures don't give a complete picture of the real total. Married women who are looking for work aren't included in these figures, neither are those who have been cut off the dole, or those who are ineligible for unemployment benefits because they are under 16 or are among the young homeless who don't have a permanent, fixed address. Considering all this, those out of work could be closer to one million.

All Treasurer Paul Keating had to say was that it was a "recession Australia had to have". He said we had to learn that "not all

recessions are bad". But who is he trying to fool?

For those out of work and their dependents, the recession is not bad, it is devastating. The dole barely covers food and housing costs, let alone clothing, transport, fuel, car registration, phone, electricity and educational expenses.

And before you can receive your first dole payment, you have to have used up any cash or savings you may have accumulated over the years or acquired with retrenchment payments and unpaid annual leave. It seems only the rich are allowed to have savings while the unemployed are condemned to poverty.

**T**he causes of unemployment are tied to the way our economy is organised. It isn't organised to employ everyone because a pool of unemployed helps the owners of the economy keep wages down and workers in line.

We are taught at school and through the media that this is the best and most natural structure for an economy, but consider the implications: an unelected and therefore unaccountable small minority of the population make decisions on the basis of whether they can make a profit. Not on whether it will benefit the majority of the population. People's needs and wants, and consideration for the environment come last in their list of priorities.

This irrationality and lack of planning produces the familiar business cycle of capitalism: boom and bust, good times and crises.

In pre-capitalist times, economic crises were caused by shortages of food, resources and labour or floods, droughts, and

wars. Today economic crises are caused by over-production. This shouldn't be confused with producing more than is needed, but more than can be sold at a profit.

This is at the heart of the crisis today. Australia's economy is particularly vulnerable to crises of over production. Because our domestic markets are small, companies must often compete on the world market, facing strong competition from producers of the same commodities.

**W**hen companies can't sell the same amount of goods or services at a profit, they cut back production and get rid of workers. This is happening in the car, wool, wheat, manufacturing, and construction industries today. And of course their slump has repercussions for all other industries that rely on them for business.

Unemployment is a solution for small and big business. It saves them money. Whether workers and their families suffer is irrelevant.

But the tragic irony is that there is plenty of work to do. It may not be profitable for entrepreneurs to build schools and hospitals and clean up our environment, but the work still exists and the utter waste of one of the world's most important resources — people — is one of capitalism's biggest crimes.

It is just so irrational. People unemployed while there are not enough houses, hospitals and schools. When public transport needs expanding. A damaged environment needs cleaning. And what about a shorter working week?! It isn't a matter of "not enough resources" rather it is a matter of prioritising resources. Money should be spent on creating jobs for society's needs.

In eight years of Labor government, the ALP has assisted big business with its aims of putting profits before people's needs. Wage earners have lost 20 per cent in real wages since Hawke came to power, while business has made significant increases in their share of the country's wealth.

Government policy on the economy is geared to suit big business. Bob Hawke even brags about his business links with Kerry Packer and Alan Bond. And when Hawke unilaterally decides to send frigates to the Gulf — at the cost of \$50 million — when Australia is entering a recession, his priorities are clear: money for war and profits, not jobs.

**T**he Labor government will continue along this path so long as no one complains. No doubt they have plans to cut our living standards even further, with more workers losing jobs and those who still have them, facing massive wage cuts. We could be entering a depression like that of the '30s.

We can't rely on Hawke, Keating or anyone in the Labor government to solve unemployment. Neither can we rely on the system of capitalism to create jobs at a time when it is least profitable.

The problem is the system itself, with its narrow interests and its love of money. The long-term solution is a new system, one that is planned, owned and controlled by all the people. A system that is based on people's needs, not profits.

With war and recession on the agenda for a while to come, there is no better time than now to organise and stop the continuing tragedy. It is a matter of urgency that we organise and protest now.

**MONEY FOR JOBS NOT WAR! ☆**

# RESISTANCE